

UK could get free electricity on sunny weekends

16th April 2026



People in the UK could get discounted or even free electricity this summer. This is because energy companies may have too much energy. They do not want to waste it. In summer, people use less electricity because they turn

on lights less. There is also more energy coming from solar panels. Power companies say that on sunny days, "weather conditions result in excess supply". This means electricity companies could allow houses and businesses to use electricity for free on sunny weekends. Energy suppliers say households could use appliances like washing machines or dishwashers and charge electric vehicles at no cost during periods of excess supply.

The idea for cut-price or free power came from the National Energy System Operator (NESO). Its website says it is "responsible for planning and delivering the energy of today and the future". The operator also says it will "deliver what is needed to reach a zero-carbon future". A NESO spokeswoman explained the benefits of the new idea. She said it would "not only reward consumers and businesses for flexible electricity use," but also make Great Britain's electricity network stronger and more efficient. A spokesman from National Gas believes there could be free summer power even with the war in the Middle East. He said: "The market has the capacity to deliver sufficient supply."

Sources: atmos.earth.com / independent.co.uk / yahoo.com

Writing

We should stop using fossil fuels (oil, coal, and gas). Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the UK / electricity / summer / energy companies / lights / weather / sunny weekends / discounted / free power / planning / the future / zero-carbon / the Middle East

True / False

- 1) Electricity in the UK will be free all summer. T / F
- 2) People in the UK use electricity more in the summer. T / F
- 3) The article says all the UK's power is from solar panels in the summer. T / F
- 4) People in the UK could use their dishwasher for free in the summer. T / F
- 5) The group NESO wants a zero-carbon future. T / F
- 6) NESO said people will be rewarded for flexible electricity use. T / F
- 7) A spokesman said war in the Middle East would stop free electricity. T / F
- 8) The spokesman said the UK's energy market has enough capacity. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. discounted | a. lead to |
| 2. energy | b. conflict |
| 3. result in | c. in charge of |
| 4. excess | d. provide |
| 5. appliances | e. too much |
| 6. responsible for | f. reduced |
| 7. deliver | g. well organized |
| 8. efficient | h. power |
| 9. war | i. enough |
| 10. sufficient | j. machines |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What kinds of energy will we use in the future?
- c) What is your country doing to reach carbon-zero?
- d) How is the war in the Middle East affecting you?
- e) What do you think of gas prices rising?
- f) How much of your country's energy comes from renewables?
- g) What will happen in the Middle East in the next 10 years?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the electricity companies?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. People in the UK could get discounted or even | a. washing machines |
| 2. They do not want to | b. efficient |
| 3. weather conditions result | c. no cost |
| 4. use appliances like | d. in excess supply |
| 5. charge electric vehicles at | e. zero-carbon future |
| 6. cut-price or | f. free electricity |
| 7. deliver what is needed to reach a | g. capacity |
| 8. stronger and more | h. in the Middle East |
| 9. free summer power even with the war | i. waste it |
| 10. The market has the | j. free power |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you do on sunny weekends?
- What do you do on rainy weekends?
- What can we do to use less electricity?
- What do you think of the UK giving people electricity for free?
- What do you think of solar panels?
- How much do we need dishwashers and other appliances?
- What do you think of electric vehicles?
- Should we stop using fossil fuels?

Spelling

- get ucdisdtnoe or even free electricity
- They do not want to twesa it
- energy coming from olras panels
- result in excess pslypu
- houses and nusesbsies
- electric civlhees
- slbesipeorn for planning
- lrvgeiedin the energy
- reach a zero- nborca future
- beileflx electricity use
- stronger and more icetfenfi
- The market has the picaatcy

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. a	4. e	5. j
6. c	7. d	8. g	9. b	10. i

Comprehension Questions

Listen to / read the news article. Answer these questions. (Answers are on p. 27 of the 27-page PDF.)

1.	Why might people in the UK get discounted or free electricity?
2.	What do people in the UK not turn on so often in summer?
3.	What does the UK get more energy from in the summer?
4.	What did power companies say sunny days result in?
5.	What appliance was mentioned besides washing machines?
6.	What idea did the National Energy System Operator (NESO) have?
7.	What does NESO want to deliver the necessary things for?
8.	Who did NESO say the free electricity plan would reward?
9.	What will flexible electricity use make Great Britain's electricity network?
10.	What did a National Gas spokesman say would not affect free electricity?

Speaking – Appliances

Rank these with your partner. Put the most useful appliances at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| • Washing machine | • Kettle |
| • Microwave oven | • Hair dryer |
| • Vacuum cleaner | • Rice cooker |
| • Air conditioner | • Dishwasher |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	F	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.