

Britain's Electricity Explained:

MAY 2020



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Great Britain's incredible coal-free run has continued throughout May, giving us the first full calendar month – 744 straight hours – of electricity generation without coal since the industrial revolution. And while April was a month of record highs for solar generation, May brought us some equally exciting record lows for carbon.

Low demand on the electricity system continues to present our control rooms engineers with a unique challenge – particularly with two May bank holiday weekends within two weeks relaxing already low demand even further. On the afternoon of Sunday 24 May we saw the grid at its all-time greenest, with a new record low carbon intensity of 46 gCO₂/kWh (the amount of carbon produced for every kilowatt-hour of electricity used) helping May to become the greenest month we've ever seen on the electricity system. The weather (and to a lesser extent the lower demand) is the leading factor in these records and trends, and although May's sunshine didn't power us to a record high, overall solar share was up from last month – with periods where solar was comfortably our top power source, sometimes making up a third of the country's electricity generation mix.

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Gas	30.06%	Coal	0.0%
Wind	15.87%	Solar	11.45%
Nuclear	22.96%	Imports	10.22%
Biomass	8.75%	Hydro	0.69%



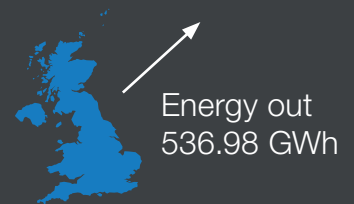
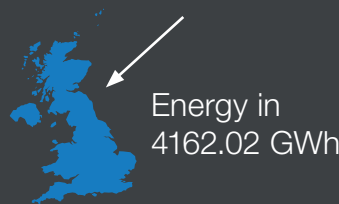
Renewables

28% of electricity came from renewable sources

Peak share of renewables was **67.47%**



Imports & exports



Carbon intensity

NEW RECORD **143**
gCO₂/kWh average



Greenest time of the month
12.30pm on 24th May



Coal

ZERO%
#coalfreemonth

This time 5 years ago coal usage was 5.04%



Demand

27284.74 GWh run through network (that's 27 billion washing machines or 45 billion irons all on at once)

Peak demand was 5pm on 3rd May



View in real-time

To view our data in real-time, please download the ESO app for Apple or Android. Or visit carbonintensity.org.uk

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