

2022 'second greenest year on record' for Britain's electricity grid

The electricity produced in Britain was close to the greenest it has ever been last year, second only to the pandemic, when demand was lower than usual.

New data from the grid operator showed that in 2022 Britain had the greenest day and month on record, and wind power hit new highs.

For every unit of electricity produced in [Great Britain](#) last year, 182 grams of carbon equivalent was released into the atmosphere, just one gram more than in 2020.

It has been a tough year for the energy sector with prices for gas and oil soaring, and helping to push up the price of electricity in turn.

It has led to the [Government](#) signing a deal which would keep two coal power plants as backup in case they were needed because the country could not get enough gas.

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However, this did not stop zero-carbon energy sources, which include nuclear power, from making up a much larger portion of the country's electricity mix than fossil fuels.

The use of coal in our day-to-day energy mix has continued to decline, with coal responsible for only 1.5% of generation in 2022, illustrating the significant reduction that has taken place over the last ten years, when coal represented 43% of electricity produced in 2012.

Over the 12 months zero-carbon electricity accounted for 48.5% of the total, compared to 40% from gas and coal power.

The lion's share of the green electricity was from wind turbines, both onshore and off the coast. In total 26.8% of Britain's electricity came from wind, second only to gas, which produced 38.5% of the total.

Nuclear power was responsible for 15.5% of the production, biomass – which includes burning wood pellets in power plants – contributed 5.2%, solar produced 4.4%, while coal power plants produced 1.5% of Britain's electricity.

The rest came from electricity that was imported from [Europe](#) (5.5%) hydropower (1.8%) and storage (0.9%), National Grid Electricity System Operator said on Friday.

It added: "The use of coal in our day-to-day energy mix has continued to decline, with coal responsible for only 1.5% of generation in 2022, illustrating the significant reduction that has taken place over the last ten years, when coal represented 43% of electricity produced in 2012."

February was the greenest month since records began, with just 126 grams of carbon per unit of electricity. The greenest day on record was on December 28, at 52 grams of carbon, and in November more than 20 gigawatts of electricity came from wind for the first time, a record beaten again in December.