

2017 was UK's greenest energy year ever

30th December, 2017



The United Kingdom is doing a lot to increase its use of renewable energy. It is moving away from fossil fuels and making more use of green energies, such as wind power, nuclear power and solar energy. New figures from the UK's electricity provider

show that the UK had its greenest year ever in 2017 for electricity production. It even had its first coal-free day for over 150 years. The UK broke 13 clean energy records in 2017. In June, wind, nuclear and solar power produced more electricity than gas and coal combined. It was the first time this has ever happened. The UK's power system is now the fourth cleanest in Europe and the seventh cleanest in the world.

The United Kingdom has been trying to reduce the amount of coal it uses. Coal now supplies less than 7 per cent of the UK's electricity. A spokesman said it must now try to use less gas to make sure it meets its target for greenhouse gas emissions. The UK currently uses too much gas. The conservation charity World Wildlife Fund said it was pleased that the UK is moving towards greener energy. It said: "We have never been cleaner or greener, and we are on [target] for an even better year in 2018." It added: "Climate change is wreaking havoc on our nature and wildlife, but we are at last facing up to the challenge. We are turning our backs on polluting fossil fuels and embracing a new, clean future."

Sources: bbc.com / independent.co.uk / telegraph.co.uk

Writing

Fossil fuels are very bad for Earth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

increase / renewable / energy / fossil fuels / solar energy / coal / electricity / power / reduce / greenhouse gas / conservation / target / havoc / nature / wildlife / challenge

True / False

- a) The article said the UK is having problems moving away from fossil fuels. T / F
- b) The UK is making less use of wind power. T / F
- c) In 2017, the UK had its first coal-free day for over 150 years. T / F
- d) The UK has the fourth cleanest energy system in the world. T / F
- e) Less than 7% of the UK's electricity comes from coal. T / F
- f) The article says the UK doesn't use enough gas. T / F
- g) A wildlife charity wasn't happy about the UK's efforts to be greener. T / F
- h) The charity said the UK was turning its back on greener energy. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1. increase | a. numbers |
| 2. green energies | b. joined |
| 3. figures | c. destruction |
| 4. combined | d. cut |
| 5. happened | e. renewables |
| 6. reduce | f. welcoming |
| 7. supplies | g. occurred |
| 8. pleased | h. raise |
| 9. havoc | i. happy |
| 10. embracing | j. provides |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What renewables does your country use?
- b) Why do we need to use more renewable energy?
- c) How green is your lifestyle?
- d) What do you know about solar power?
- e) What do you think about nuclear power?
- f) How important is electricity?
- g) How much do you worry about pollution?
- h) What things are adding to climate change?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. increase its use of | a. cleanest in the world |
| 2. It is moving away | b. coal combined |
| 3. solar | c. havoc on our nature |
| 4. more electricity than gas and | d. from fossil fuels |
| 5. the seventh | e. its target |
| 6. trying to reduce the amount | f. renewable energy |
| 7. make sure it meets | g. to the challenge |
| 8. greenhouse gas | h. of coal it uses |
| 9. Climate change is wreaking | i. emissions |
| 10. facing up | j. energy |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What is wrong with fossil fuels?
- What do you know about wind power?
- What do you know about the World Wildlife Fund?
- What do you do to conserve energy and water?
- What is climate change doing to our nature and wildlife?
- When will we be using only renewable energy?
- What questions would you like to ask the WWF?

Spelling

- resnaice its use of renewable energy
- moving away from isfsol fuels
- lurance power
- eirtyticlce production
- lroas power
- The UK's power sytsme
- reduce the atmnuo of coal it uses
- greenhouse gas nseosmisi
- The conservation htircay World Wildlife Fund
- wreaking vcoah on our nature
- facing up to the clalenghe
- embracing a new, clean rfueut

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Buying From Charity Shops

You think buying from charity shops is the best way to conserve energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): taking shorter showers, becoming a vegetarian or cycling more often.

Role B – Taking Shorter Showers

You think taking shorter showers is the best way to conserve energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): buying from charity shops, becoming a vegetarian or cycling more often.

Role C – Becoming A Vegetarian

You think becoming a vegetarian is the best way to conserve energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): taking shorter showers, buying from charity shops or cycling more often.

Role D – Cycling More Often

You think cycling more often is the best way to conserve energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): taking shorter showers, becoming a vegetarian or buying from charity shops.

Speaking – Conservation

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

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| • be a vegetarian | • use stairs, not elevators |
| • cycle more | • buy from charity shops |
| • buy solar panels | • take shorter showers |
| • recycle paper | • wash clothes less often |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.