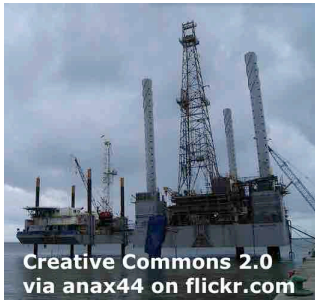


Shell says it is past peak oil production

15th February, 2021



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The energy giant Royal Dutch Shell has announced it has passed its peak production of oil. The days of increasing oil production are over and the decline in output has started. Shell said in a press release that, "oil production peaked in 2019". The "high

point" of Shell's oil production reached around 1.7 million barrels per day. It now expects an annual drop of up to two per cent per year. The fall comes a year ahead of Shell's initial forecasts. In 2015, the company predicted the peak of global oil demand would be in 2020. The announcement included news that Shell would reduce the number of its oil refineries from 14 sites to six. This means the loss of around 9,000 jobs, or more than 10 per cent of its workforce.

Shell said it is shifting its focus onto renewables and reducing its carbon footprint. It pledged to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The company said it wants to diversify into becoming an energy provider rather than relying on fossil fuels. It has been actively exploring new, green technologies such as carbon capture. It has also been buying companies that provide electric vehicle charging stations. Shell CEO Ben van Beurden vowed to create half a million EV charging points by 2025. He said: "We must give our customers the products and services they want - products that have the lowest environmental impact. We will...grow in markets where demand for cleaner products and services is strongest."

Sources: [greencarreports.com](https://www.greencarreports.com) / [thisismoney.co.uk](https://www.thisismoney.co.uk) / [reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com)

Writing

The world should try and end the use of oil this decade. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

energy / giant / peak / production / oil / decline / forecast / demand / oil refineries / focus / renewables / net-zero / carbon emissions / fossil fuels / charging points

True / False

- a) The article says the decline in oil production has started. T / F
- b) Shell said oil production peaked in 2019. T / F
- c) Shell forecast that oil production would drop by 2 per cent a year. T / F
- d) Shell will close 14 of its oil refineries. T / F
- e) Shell said it would change its focus to renewables. T / F
- f) Shell said it wants to have net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. T / F
- g) Shell wants to install over a million EV charging points by 2025. T / F
- h) Shell said it would focus on clearer, stronger products. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 1. peak | a. promised |
| 2. decline | b. yearly |
| 3. expects | c. changing |
| 4. annual | d. decrease |
| 5. workforce | e. supply |
| 6. shifting | f. height |
| 7. relying | g. collision |
| 8. provide | h. personnel |
| 9. vowed | i. supposes |
| 10. impact | j. depending |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you know about renewables?
- c) What are you doing to reduce your carbon footprint?
- d) What is your country doing to reduce its carbon footprint?
- e) How can we achieve net-zero carbon emissions?
- f) What do you think of electric cars?
- g) What clean energies are best?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the Shell CEO?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. it has passed its peak | a. on fossil fuels |
| 2. The days of increasing oil production | b. its workforce |
| 3. a press | c. stations |
| 4. the company predicted the peak | d. onto renewables |
| 5. more than 10 per cent of | e. are over |
| 6. it is shifting its focus | f. energy provider |
| 7. diversify into becoming an | g. of global oil demand |
| 8. rather than relying | h. production of oil |
| 9. provide electric vehicle charging | i. environmental impact |
| 10. products that have the lowest | j. release |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the company Shell?
- How important do you think oil is?
- What do you think of oil production being past its peak.
- What do we need oil for?
- How would the world change if we didn't use oil?
- What damage has oil done to the world?
- What can Shell's workforce do once they lose their jobs?
- What do you know about the uses of oil?

Spelling

- udnoacnen it has passed its peak
- the iceednl in output has started
- It now expects an ulnnaa drop
- a year ahead of Shell's initial tesrscfoa
- the company rpdtcedi the peak
- reduce the number of its oil reineiesrf
- shifting its focus onto leseberwan
- achieve net-zero carbon niismsseo
- it wants to vfdiisyre
- relying on fsolsi fuels
- carbon raptecu
- electric veieclh charging stations

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Soap

You think soap is the most important oil product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tyres, golf balls or shower curtains.

Role B – Tyres

You think tyres are the most important oil product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): soap, golf balls or shower curtains.

Role C – Golf Balls

You think golf balls are the most important oil product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tyres, soap or shower curtains.

Role D – Shower Curtains

You think shower curtains are the most important oil product. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their products aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tyres, golf balls or soap.

Speaking – Oil Products

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

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| • Combs | • Soap |
| • Golf balls | • Tyres |
| • Shower curtains | • Dyes |
| • Water pipes | • Plastic bottles |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	T	f	F	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.