



## Greenhouse gas emissions

# UK carbon emissions fell by 4% in 2024, official figures show

Less use of gas and coal in electricity supply and industry sectors drove reduction, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero says

**Damien Gayle**

Thu 27 Mar 2025 15.51 CET

The UK's carbon emissions fell by 4% last year, according to official figures.

Provisional statistics published on Thursday by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) show UK territorial greenhouse gas emissions were 371m tonnes carbon equivalent (MtCO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2024, down from 385 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e in 2023.

Emissions were 54% lower than they were in 1990, DESNZ said.

Greenpeace UK's policy director, Doug Parr, gave a guarded welcome to the announcement. "This good news is the latest demonstration that the UK's efforts to tackle climate change are working, despite what some politicians on the right might try and make you believe," he said.

He noted though that while emissions were falling, the UK was still dependent on "expensive and polluting gas" for energy.

"This is driving up the cost of household energy bills, controlling the price of electricity and leaving us beholden to gas-exporting countries who may not have our best interests at heart," he said.

"The government must put a stop to the great gas rip-off, and rapidly make renewables the backbone of our energy system to lower our bills for good."

DESNZ said "decreased gas and coal use in the electricity supply and industry sectors" had driven the fall in emissions, with electricity supply emissions down 15% and industrial emissions down 9%.

The closure of the UK's last coal-fired power station in September and an expansion in renewable energy played a significant role, officials said, as did higher electricity imports and the winding down of blast furnaces for the steel industry.

The largest source of emissions continued to be the transport sector, which accounted for 30% of the total, but a fall in the use of diesel-powered cars on the UK's roads led to a 2% fall, according to the statistics.



How countries cheat their carbon targets - video

Emissions from the buildings and product use sector - the second most significant, accounting for 21% of the total - rose by 2% “due to higher gas use likely driven by an easing of energy and other cost pressures”, according to officials.

Ironically, climate change may also have contributed to the fall. “Above average temperatures and fewer heating degree days since 2022 has kept residential buildings emissions down relative to earlier years,” the statistical release said. “If weather conditions for both 2023 and 2024 had followed long-term trends, there would have been a 4% increase in residential buildings emissions estimates.”

The estimates cover seven gases which contribute to a “greenhouse effect” in the earth’s atmosphere - carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride. CO<sub>2</sub> made up about 78% of the 2024 total.

DESNZ has been contacted for comment.

Article count [on](#)

You've read **5 articles** in the last year

### We know, we know, we know ...

Seeing these messages is annoying. We know that. (Imagine what it's like writing them ... )

But it's also extremely important. One of the Guardian's greatest assets is its reader-funded model.

**1. Reader funding means we can cover what we like.** We're not beholden to the political whims of a billionaire owner. No-one can tell us what not to say or what not to report.

**2. Reader funding means we don't have to chase clicks and traffic.** We're not desperately seeking your attention for its own sake: we pursue the stories that our editorial team deems important, and believe are worthy of your time.

**3. Reader funding means we can keep our website open,** allowing as many people as possible to read quality journalism from around the world - especially people who live in places where the free press is in peril.

**At the moment, the Guardian's work is funded by just 2.4% of our regular readers.** If you're in the other 97.6%, appreciate our work and believe that good journalism is important to protecting democracy in an age of misinformation, please consider joining the readers in Turkey supporting the Guardian today.

**We value whatever you can spare, but supporting on a monthly basis makes the most impact, enabling greater investment in our most crucial, fearless journalism. As our thanks to you, we can offer you some great benefits. (Including making these messages go away.) We've made it very quick to set up, so we hope you'll consider it. Thank you.**

Continue →

Remind me in May

VISA

Mastercard

AMERICAN EXPRESS

PayPal

More on this story

Government ‘absolutely up for the fight’ over net zero, Ed Miliband says

21 Mar 2025



Defra asks England's biggest landowners to come up with plans to restore nature

20 Mar 2025



Labour facing defeat in vote to ban green energy investments tied to Uyghur exploitation

4 Feb 2025



UK climate and nature bill dropped after deal with Labour backbenchers

24 Jan 2025



Labour MPs landmark climate environment

23 Jan 2025



Most viewed