

http://www.climatechangenews.com/2017/04/21/uk-set-first-coal-free-work-day-since-pre-industrial-times/

UK set for first coal-free work day since pre-industrial times

Published on 21/04/2017, 10:01am

Britain is expected to be coal-free on Friday, reports National Grid, as the power sector shifts to cleaner sources of supply



Drax, the UK's biggest coal power station, has converted to partly run on biomass (Flickr/Jonathan Brennan)

By Megan Darby

Friday is set to be Britain's first working day without coal power generation since the industrial revolution, according to the grid operator.

It follows coal-free periods in 2016 and reflects a rapid shift away from the polluting fuel.

A spokesperson for National Grid confirmed a tweet from the control room to that effect, adding that it was also expected to be the first 24-hour period without coal.

It looks likely that today will be the first ever working day in Britain without #coal since the industrial revolution!

— NG Control Room (@NGControlRoom) April 21, 2017

Three old coal plants closed last year, while surging renewables, cheap gas and a carbon price make the remaining power stations less viable.

A halving of coal use in 2016 was the main driver of a 5.8% fall in UK carbon dioxide emissions, according to Carbon Brief analysis of official data.

The government has pledged to end coal burning by 2025, subject to consultation.

Hannah Martin, head of energy at Greenpeace UK, said the day should be noted by politicians fighting over who will lead the UK through the next stage of its energy transition.

“A decade ago, a day without coal would have been unimaginable, and in ten years’ time our energy system will have radically transformed again,” she said.

“It is a clear message to any new government that they should prioritise making the UK a world leader in clean, green, technology. They will need to get on with the coal phase-out plan and recognise the economic potential of renewable energy and energy efficiency. We can meet the UK’s needs for skilled jobs and fair bills, whilst also meeting our climate targets.”

Britain is phasing out coal faster than some European neighbours like Germany, helped by a surcharge of £18 a tonne of CO2 (\$23) on top of the €5 (\$5) EU market price.

Related Posts:

- 1. RWE decision signals death knell for UK's coal-fired power
- 2. UK emissions have fallen 38% since 1990 on coal closures
- 3. UN climate chief praises UK pledge to axe coal by 2025
- 4. Renewables overtake coal in UK power generation

2.2k Shares



Read more on: EU | Fossil Fuels | Coal | UK

Sponsors



Sponsored content



Six ways the Green Climate Fund is investing in adaptation



Where ambition meets reality: renovate buildings to save the climate



Our global commons: safeguarding the planet



Planet detox: Welcome to the frontline of the war on waste



LED lighting could replace 88 billion litres of kerosene a year

Latest News



Groundwater recharge offers hope to drought-hit Indian farmers



Dryland expansion to hit food crops as planet warms



Brazilian government fires top anti-deforestation official



Vulnerable nations call on G20 to end fossil fuel subsidies by 2020



Fund considering Adani coal mine loan ‘obsessed with secrecy’

Most popular

1

Fund considering Adani coal mine loan ‘obsessed with secrecy’

2

Vulnerable nations call on G20 to end fossil fuel subsidies by 2020

3

Energy efficiency becomes breakthrough issue in French election

4

UK set for first coal-free work day since pre-industrial times

5

China’s plan to cut shipping emissions