

# Britain's Electricity Explained: March 2020



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Head of National Control

The world is in a very different place from when we shared our last electricity report. Coronavirus is having a significant impact on society. People are staying at home, and shops, businesses and industry are closed.

We're seeing an effect on electricity demand across the country, with demand lower than usual owing to a decrease in energy use from industry. It's just as important for us to manage lower demand for electricity as it is to manage the peaks, and we're drawing on our extensive expertise and experience to do just that. While we anticipate reduced demand being reflected to a degree in the generation mix – with lower levels of carbon intensity (the amount of carbon produced for every kilowatt) more likely – the UK's lockdown measures were introduced too late in March to significantly influence the data below. What we do see in the data is a slight decrease in the share of renewables and drop in coal use, a likely result of a less windy March, milder temperatures and lower demand. We're keeping a close eye on any changes in the months ahead, and rest assured our control room engineers are continuing to work around the clock to operate the system securely and keep our nation's electricity flowing.

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Gas	35.49%	Coal	2.02%
Wind	23.25%	Solar	4.77%
Nuclear	14.20%	Imports	11.02%
Biomass	6.66%	Hydro	2.07%



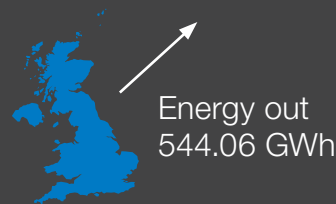
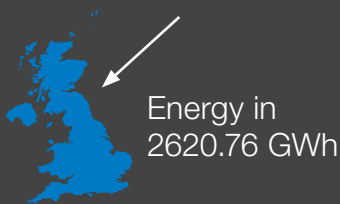
## Renewables

**30%** of electricity came from renewable sources

Peak share of renewables was **57.1%**



## Imports & exports



## Carbon intensity

**218** gCO<sub>2</sub>/kWh average



Greenest time of the month  
8am on 8th March



## Coal

2.02% use this month  
269 hours of zero use

This time 5 years ago  
coal usage was 34.45%



## Demand

21966 GWh run through network  
(that's 22 billion washing machines all on at once)

Peak demand was  
7pm on 5th March



## View in real-time

To view our data in real-time, please download the ESO app for Apple or Android. Or visit [carbonintensity.org.uk](http://carbonintensity.org.uk)

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