

UK greenhouse gas emissions fell 5.4% in 2023: data

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UK net emissions fell largely due to reduced gas use.

UK greenhouse gas emissions fell by 5.4 percent in 2023, largely due to a reduction in the amount of gas used in power stations, according to official data published on Thursday.

Net emissions of all [greenhouse](#) gases were estimated to have been 384.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2023, compared to 406.2 million tonnes in 2022, the government's provisional figures showed.

Carbon dioxide emissions decreased by 6.6 percent annually to 302.8 million tonnes, part of a 52.7-percent decrease in total greenhouse gas emissions since 1990.

The UK government said the figures showed that the country was halfway to reaching net-zero emissions.

"This latest drop in our emissions follows the UK's achievement in becoming the first major economy to halve its polluting carbon emissions," said Energy Security Secretary Claire Coutinho.

The UK government's target is to reach net zero by 2050.

Gas use for electricity generation fell 21.1 percent in 2023, "primarily due to higher electricity imports from France, as well as UK electricity demand continuing to decline", said the report.

The reduced demand is mainly due to "greater efficiency resulting from improvements in technology and a decline in the relative importance of energy-intensive industries", it added.

High energy prices are also likely to have been a factor, with less fuel being used to heat buildings and by industry, said the report.

Nuclear and renewables accounted for 56.7 percent of fuel used for [electricity generation](#) in 2023, up from 22.2 percent in 1990.

Domestic transport remained the largest source of UK emissions, accounting for 29.1 percent in 2023, almost all of which are from carbon

dioxide, the main source being the use of petrol and diesel in road vehicles.

However, the sector's emissions decreased by 1.4 percent in 2023, the first fall since 2020 when travel was heavily restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Germany in January reported a 9.8 percent fall in [carbon dioxide emissions](#) in 2023 due to the sharp decline in coal consumption and crisis in its [industrial sector](#).

And France last week said its domestic greenhouse gas emissions had fallen by 4.8 percent over the same period.

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