



London renewable electricity

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Renewable energy comes from sources that are not depleted when used but are replenished naturally. In the UK the main renewable energy sources used are wind power, plant biomass and solar power.

The Government published its Net Zero Strategy in 2021, which sets out how it will meet the target legislated in 2019 of reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Strategy includes the ambition for the UK to be powered entirely by 'clean electricity' (which includes from nuclear power as well as renewables), subject to security of supply, by 2035.

Another key policy for the power sector has been the Renewables Obligation (RO) scheme, which operated between 2002 and 2017, and required licensed electricity suppliers to source a specified proportion of electricity from eligible renewable sources.

On transport, the Net Zero Strategy includes a commitment to end the sale of new petrol and diesel cars by 2030, and a commitment for all cars to be fully zero emissions capable by 2035. Meeting these targets requires more widespread charging infrastructure and support for battery production. There are government-backed plans for Nissan and Envision AESC to produce batteries in North East England, though another firm, Britishvolt, which was to build a 'gigafactory' in Blyth, Northumberland, with government support, went into administration in January 2023.

Decarbonisation of transport is also supported by the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO), under which suppliers of transport fuel – of at least 450,000 litres a year – must show that a certain percentage comes from renewable and sustainable sources.

The Government published its first Hydrogen Strategy in 2022, which sets out ambitions for increasing the use of low-carbon hydrogen (not all hydrogen is low-carbon) across different economic sectors, including delivering a 5GW production ambition by 2030.



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