

A Brief History of UK Power Generation

1882

The UK's first coal-fired power station, Holborn Viaduct, starts to produce power



1933

The UK National Grid is completed, connecting regional power stations and increasing the reliability of power supplies across Britain



1956

The world's first full-scale nuclear power plant, Calder Hall, opens in Cumbria. The station ran for nearly 50 years



1973

OPEC's oil embargo - and rocketing energy prices - helped to kick-start major research and innovation in renewable power generation



2003

The first major offshore wind farm, North Hoyle, was completed off the coast of Prestatyn, Wales



2008

The UK passed the Climate Change Act, setting legally binding targets to reduce carbon emissions. This was a major milestone in the move towards cleaner energy production



2024

The last coal-fired power plant, Ratcliffe-on-Soar in Nottinghamshire, stopped generating electricity



2050

The UK is committed to reaching Net Zero by 2050. The aim is to balance the country's greenhouse gas emissions with the amount removed from the atmosphere by this date



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