

Renewable Energy Focus

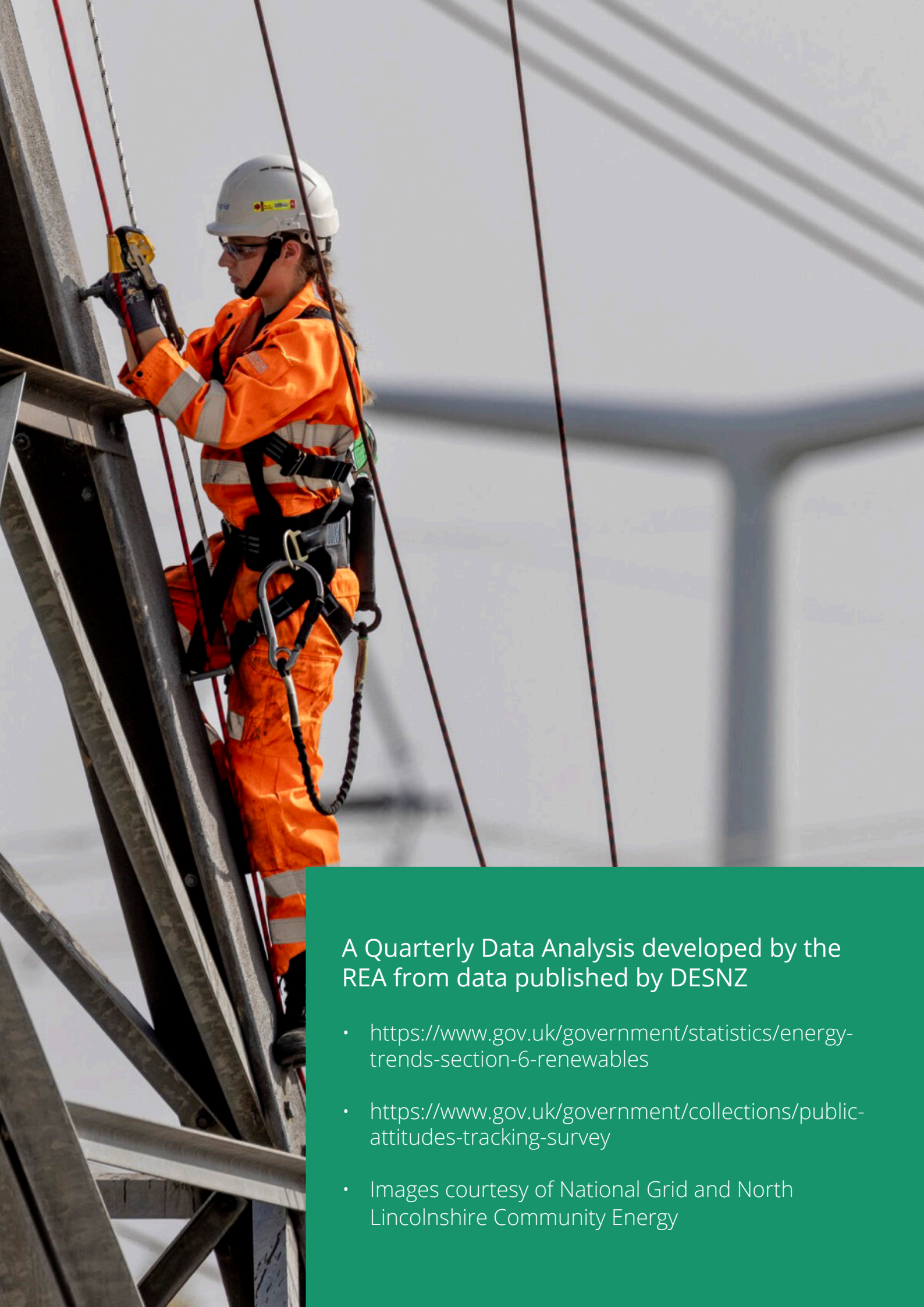
A Quarterly Data Analysis
by the Renewable Energy Association

July 2026

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POWER
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A Quarterly Data Analysis developed by the
REA from data published by DESNZ

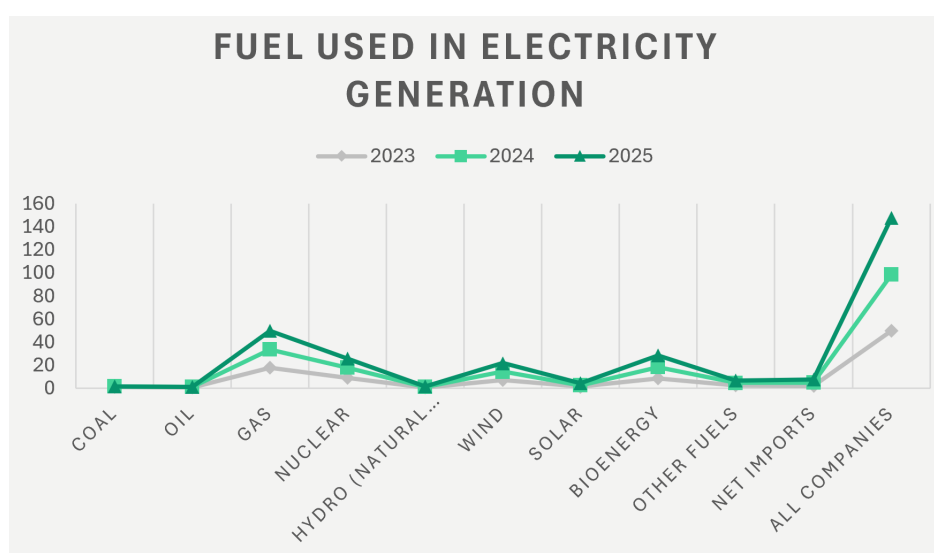
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-trends-section-6-renewables>
- <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-attitudes-tracking-survey>
- Images courtesy of National Grid and North Lincolnshire Community Energy

1. UK Electricity

In Q1 2026 total primary energy production was 4.0 per cent lower than in Q1 2025. Bioenergy and waste output fell by 2.9 per cent. Wind, solar and hydro output rose by 25 per cent due to increased capacity and more favourable weather conditions particularly for wind generation.

Renewable electricity generation hit a new record of 43.7 TWh, an increase of 18 per cent on last year, and a share of 53.1 per cent of generation in the first quarter of 2026.

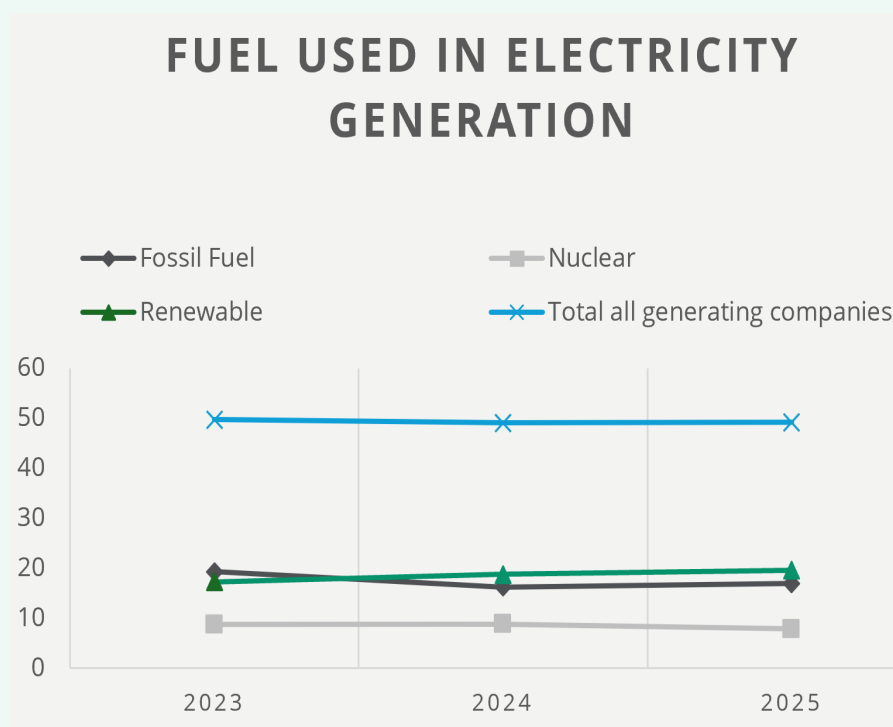
Q1 of 2026 saw generation rise by 1.3 per cent to 82.3 TWh, despite lower demand for electricity. Demand decreased 0.6 per cent to 88.7 TWh.



Domestic consumption rose by 1.6 per cent despite average temperatures being warmer compared to last year. Transport consumption rose by 2.9 per cent, whilst consumption by other final users fell by 2.3 per cent. Industrial consumption continued to decrease, falling by 4.4 per cent.

Overall, the data highlights the growing contribution of wind energy to the UK's renewable electricity mix, underpinning the increase in total renewable generation despite mixed performance across other technologies.

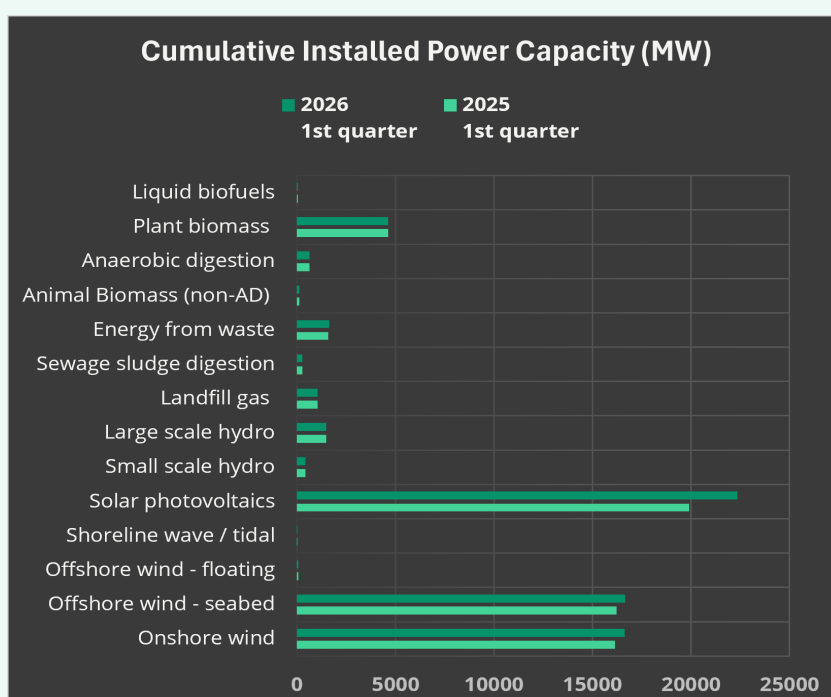
The UK's electricity generation mix remained broadly stable between 2023 and 2025, with renewable generation continuing to increase its share of the overall fuel mix. Renewable sources rose from 17.3% in 2023 to 19.62% in 2025, reflecting the continued expansion of low-carbon generation.



Over the same period, the contribution from fossil fuels declined overall, despite a slight increase between 2024 and 2025, while nuclear generation fell modestly in 2025.

Total electricity generation remained relatively consistent across the three years, indicating that growth in renewables has increasingly displaced conventional generation rather than meeting significant increases in overall electricity demand.

2. Cumulative Installed Power



Installed renewable energy capacity continued to increase rapidly between Q1 2025 and Q1 2026.

This is driven primarily by growth in solar photovoltaics and wind energy. Solar PV experienced the most significant increase, reflecting continued deployment of both domestic and utility-scale installations. With capacity up 12% on 2025, there are now more than 2 million solar installations in the UK including the UK's largest operational solar and battery storage facility at Cleve Hill, with a 373 megawatt (MW) capacity.

Onshore and offshore wind also recorded steady growth, demonstrating ongoing investment in established wind technologies.

Capacity for energy-from-waste saw a modest increase over the period, while the majority of other renewable technologies highlighted above remained unchanged.

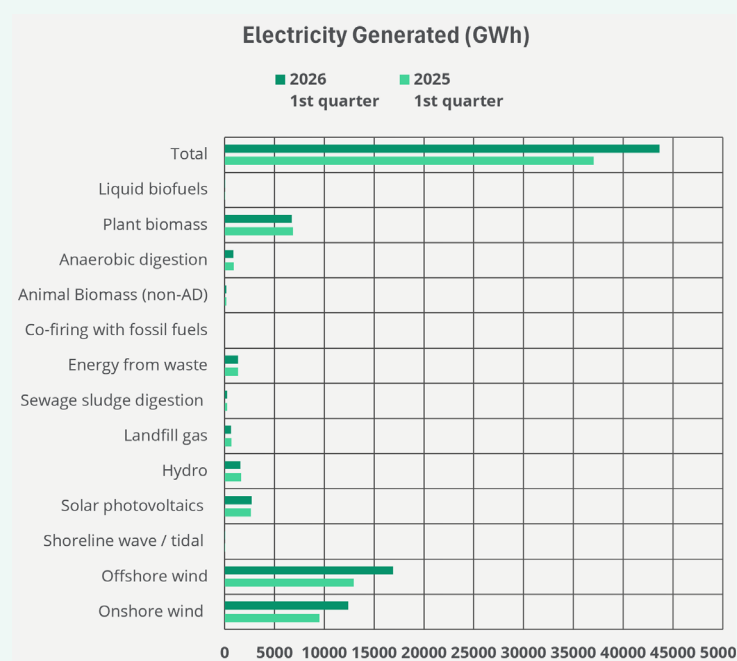
3. Electricity Generation

Renewable electricity generation increased substantially between Q1 2025 and Q1 2026, with total output rising by almost 18%.

The increase was driven by strong growth in both offshore and onshore wind generation to a quarterly record of 29.3 TWh in Q1 26, reinforcing wind's role as the UK's largest source of renewable electricity.

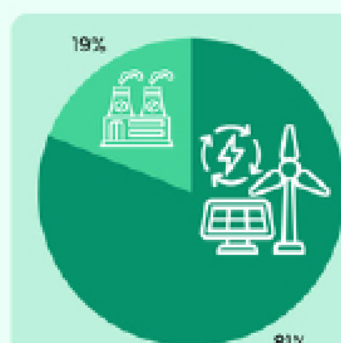
Solar PV generation also recorded a modest increase, up 1.8 per cent to 2.7 TWh, while energy from waste and animal biomass saw small gains.

In contrast, generation from hydro, landfill gas, sewage sludge digestion, anaerobic digestion and plant biomass declined slightly over the period.



The latest DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker highlights the UK's continued support for renewable energy. The results offer valuable insight into public sentiment and underline the sector's strong position as the transition to a cleaner energy system progresses.

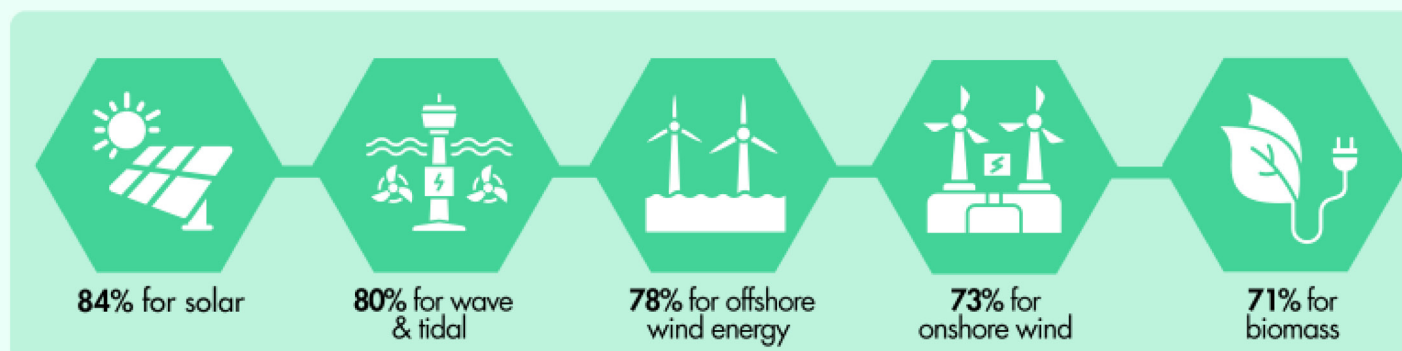
4. Public attitudes towards renewable energy



81% of people support using renewable energy such as wind, solar, & biomass for electricity, fuel and heat (up from 78% in 2025)

70% of respondents agreed that renewable energy industries and developments provide economic benefits to the UK

5. Support is high across specific types of renewables



**Q1
2026**

Public support for renewable energy remains strong across the UK. The latest findings demonstrate continued confidence in the role of renewable energy in the UK's future energy mix, with broad public backing providing a strong foundation for future investment, policy development and sector growth.

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Bibliography

- Power data shown focuses on renewable electricity capacity and generation, and is sourced from Energy Trends (ET), chapter 6, subsection 1 - Statistical Release 30th June 2026. ET is a quarterly report on the supply and demand of all major energy sources in the UK. The data is a quarter in arrears and is published by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/energy-trends-section-6-renewables>
- The DESNZ Public Attitudes Tracker is a nationally representative triannual survey of adults (aged 16+) in the UK that tracks public awareness, attitudes and behaviours relating to the policies of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), such as energy and climate change, different types of energy infrastructure, energy use in the home and energy bills. The survey waves are currently conducted every spring, summer and winter. Findings published 2nd July 2026 relating to renewable energy from the Spring 2026 wave of the Tracker, which ran from 16th March to 21st April 2026. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/public-attitudes-tracking-survey>



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