# Donald Trump urges UK to scrap windmills and boost North Sea oil drilling amid new trade deal



In a recent statement on the social media platform Truth Social, former U.S. President Donald Trump has made headlines by urging the UK government to dismantle what he describes as “unsightly windmills” and pivot towards increased oil drilling in the North Sea. His comments arrive in the context of a new trade agreement with the UK, negotiated with the Labour government under Sir Keir Starmer, which is aimed at easing tariffs on British automobiles and steel in exchange for enhanced access for U.S. agricultural products.

Trump's call for a shift in energy policy highlights a stark contrast to the UK's current trajectory towards embracing renewable energy sources. He claimed that the UK could significantly lower its energy costs by favouring oil extraction in the North Sea rather than investing in wind energy. “I strongly recommend... that in order to get their energy costs down, they stop with the costly and unsightly windmills,” Trump stated, suggesting that modernised drilling could provide a fruitful hub in Aberdeen. His insistence on exploiting fossil fuels is underscored by his commentary on outdated tax systems that supposedly disincentivise drilling.

However, Trump's proposals are met with considerable resistance from environmental advocates and politicians within the UK, particularly from the Scottish Green Party. Co-leader Patrick Harvie responded emphatically, calling for the rejection of Trump's advice, which he termed “dangerous.” Harvie highlighted the urgent need to cut fossil fuel consumption, emphasising that Scotland’s renewable energy sector is capable of providing cheap, clean electricity to households. He argued that reliance on fossil fuels has exacerbated energy bill volatility, costing the average Scottish household over £3,000 annually due to the impacts of climate change.

In light of Trump's remarks, a broader context emerges regarding the UK's renewable energy strategy. While he urges a return to fossil fuel extraction, the UK government, especially under Starmer's leadership, has committed to halting new licenses for North Sea oil and gas production as part of its aim to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. This plan has gained additional urgency with the recent announcement by the energy regulator, Ofgem, that the energy price cap will decrease, albeit reflecting the complex interplay of market forces influenced by both global energy prices and domestic policy.

The environmental stakes are high, with experts warning that a renewed focus on fossil fuels could compromise the UK’s climate goals and reverse progress made in transitioning toward sustainable energy sources. Such a shift could also slow foreign investment in the burgeoning Scottish renewable sector and undermine the country’s stance as a leader in climate action within the UK.

The contrast between Trump’s alignment with fossil fuel interests and the UK’s renewable energy ambitions exemplifies the diverging paths taken by the two countries. As the political landscape evolves, the ramifications of these differing strategies will likely resonate beyond local borders, influencing international energy markets and climate commitments.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282), [[7]](https://apnews.com/article/c65686e9602136722990e4a5da22ae47)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/db14493f-ad54-4139-bf79-0c6d4db59d2f), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry)
* Paragraph 3 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/ae0dcd2c-a266-4d1a-9d8c-051b3f217dd8)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282), [[6]](https://apnews.com/article/f8054a8199cfae813a6afdf3b2e4cc73)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282), [[3]](https://www.ft.com/content/db14493f-ad54-4139-bf79-0c6d4db59d2f)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.insider.co.uk/news/uk-should-rid-unsightly-windmills-35278282> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump criticized the UK's energy policy, urging the government to 'open up the North Sea' and eliminate wind energy projects. This statement came after Apache Corporation announced plans to cease North Sea operations by 2029, citing the impact of the UK's windfall tax on oil and gas producers. Trump's comments highlight a divergence between his administration's support for fossil fuels and the UK's commitment to renewable energy sources.
3. <https://www.ft.com/content/db14493f-ad54-4139-bf79-0c6d4db59d2f> - In January 2025, Donald Trump criticized the UK's plan to reduce North Sea oil and gas production, calling it a 'very big mistake.' He urged the UK to increase drilling and eliminate wind energy projects. This criticism contrasts with the UK's Labour government's emphasis on shifting away from fossil fuels to tackle climate change, including plans to cease issuing new North Sea licenses and promote renewable energy to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.
4. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry> - In January 2025, Donald Trump criticized the UK's energy policy, urging the government to 'open up the North Sea' and eliminate wind energy projects. This statement followed Apache Corporation's announcement to exit the North Sea by 2029, citing the impact of the UK's windfall tax on oil and gas producers. Trump's comments have been accused of serving the interests of the fossil fuel industry, potentially undermining the UK's transition to renewable energy sources.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/ae0dcd2c-a266-4d1a-9d8c-051b3f217dd8> - In April 2025, Scotland's Secretary Ian Murray noted that Scotland could benefit from increased foreign investment in its renewable energy sector due to the rollback of clean energy support in the U.S. under President Donald Trump. Investors, seeking stability after U.S. policy changes, are considering the UK as an alternative, attracted by its political stability and technological expertise. Scotland, a leader in the UK's net-zero ambitions, stands out due to its expanding renewable capacity aimed at replacing declining North Sea oil and gas output.
6. <https://apnews.com/article/f8054a8199cfae813a6afdf3b2e4cc73> - In April 2025, the Trump administration lifted a pause on the Empire Wind offshore project near New York, allowing construction to resume. Norwegian energy company Equinor, the project's developer, announced the move after the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management informed them the stop-work order had been revoked. The pause was initially imposed for a permit review, citing concerns over how approvals were processed under the previous administration. Equinor emphasized the importance of restarting work to protect approximately 1,500 jobs and maintain momentum toward clean energy goals.
7. <https://apnews.com/article/c65686e9602136722990e4a5da22ae47> - In May 2025, U.S. Ambassador Warren Stephens met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to discuss the priorities of the Trump administration, including strengthening the U.S.-U.K. partnership through a new trade deal and security cooperation. The recent trade agreement removes U.S. tariffs on British autos, steel, and aluminum in exchange for increased U.K. access for American products like beef and ethanol. President Trump praised the deal but urged the U.K. to abandon wind energy projects in favor of oil drilling in the North Sea, claiming this would significantly lower British energy costs.