# Trump urges UK to pivot from wind power to North Sea oil amid renewable energy setbacks



US President Donald Trump's recent pronouncements on energy policy have ignited a significant debate within the UK, advocating for a substantial pivot from renewable sources towards fossil fuels. On a platform known for his unfiltered opinions, Trump has been vocal about his views on wind energy, referring to it as “costly and unsightly.” He urged the UK to prioritise North Sea drilling, asserting that large quantities of oil await extraction. According to Trump, proper incentives could lead to a dramatic reduction in energy costs, stating, “A century of drilling left, with Aberdeen as the hub.”

These comments emerged shortly after the US and UK formalised a fresh trade deal that opened up American exports to British markets, underscoring an evolving transatlantic relationship. Trump's advocacy for fossil fuel development marks a continuation of his broader agenda since regaining the presidency, wherein he has sought to dismantle many green initiatives introduced during the former Biden administration.

In stark contrast stands UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who has committed to advancing renewable energy. He has pledged to double onshore wind and quadruple offshore wind capacity by 2030, reinforcing the nation’s movement towards a net-zero energy system. Starmer's government recently escalated the windfall tax on energy producers, aiming to generate revenue for renewable projects, which includes a budget of £1.56 billion allocated annually to bolster new renewable energy ventures.

This divergence of policies is accentuated by challenges facing the UK’s renewable ambitions. Recent analyses suggest the country may fall short of its goal to achieve at least 43 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind power by 2030, with predictions indicating that only around 33GW will be operational. Factors contributing to this setback include escalating construction costs and supply chain limitations, compelling several key developers to delay or even cancel projects. Ørsted’s decision to pause work on the Hornsea 4 wind farm and SSE’s slowdown in investments for projects such as Berwick Bank highlight the tightening grip of economic concerns on the sector.

Trump’s critical remarks echo previous sentiments when he characterised the UK's shift away from fossil fuels as a “very big mistake.” This critique resonates particularly as companies like Apache Corp. announce their exit from the North Sea, prompted by the increased tax burden affecting profitability. Meanwhile, the ongoing trade discussions between Trump’s administration and Starmer's government convey a complex landscape where energy policy could significantly influence bilateral relations.

The contrasting approaches to energy policy reflect broader ideological divides over how nations should tackle sustainable development while ensuring economic stability and energy security. With Trump's emphasis on fossil fuels at odds with Starmer's green vision, the outcomes of this debate will be pivotal in shaping the UK's energy future as it navigates toward a lower-carbon economy. The choices made in the coming years may either solidify the UK’s position as a leader in renewable energy or divert it down a path of renewed fossil fuel dependence, contingent on the international influences at play.

While the dialogue around energy continues to evolve, it will be crucial for both nations to find a balanced approach that aligns with environmental goals and economic viability amid global pressures and commitments toward sustainability.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.energylivenews.com/2025/05/27/drill-kier-drill/), [[7]](https://apnews.com/article/c65686e9602136722990e4a5da22ae47)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.energylivenews.com/2025/05/27/drill-kier-drill/), [[5]](https://www.ft.com/content/d7b8b53e-3a52-44d0-84d2-c714b3dc5fa2)
* Paragraph 3 – [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/482d1405-7e73-4c4c-b44c-30079a8bfab7), [[3]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry)
* Paragraph 4 – [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/), [[4]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uk/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-must-open-up-north-sea-oil-and-move-away-from-wind-power/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[6]](https://www.ft.com/content/482d1405-7e73-4c4c-b44c-30079a8bfab7), [[2]](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.energylivenews.com/2025/05/27/drill-kier-drill/), [[4]](https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uk/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-must-open-up-north-sea-oil-and-move-away-from-wind-power/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.energylivenews.com/2025/05/27/drill-kier-drill/> - 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 criticised the UK's energy policy, urging the government to open up the North Sea for oil and gas exploration and remove wind farms. He argued that the UK's move away from fossil fuels was a 'very big mistake'. This statement came after Apache Corp. announced plans to exit the North Sea by 2029, citing the impact of the UK's windfall tax on energy producers. The UK government, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, had increased the windfall tax to 38% to fund renewable energy projects. Trump's comments sparked debate over the UK's energy strategy and its commitment to renewable energy. ([reuters.com](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/?utm_source=openai))
3. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump criticised the UK's energy policy, urging the government to 'open up the North Sea' and 'get rid of windmills'. He claimed that the UK's move away from fossil fuels was a 'very big mistake'. This statement followed Apache Corp.'s announcement to exit the North Sea by 2029, citing the impact of the UK's windfall tax on energy producers. The UK government, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, had increased the windfall tax to 38% to fund renewable energy projects. Trump's comments were seen as supporting the interests of the fossil fuel industry. ([theguardian.com](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry?utm_source=openai))
4. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uk/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-must-open-up-north-sea-oil-and-move-away-from-wind-power/> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump urged the UK to 'open up' the North Sea for oil and gas exploration and move away from wind power. He criticised the UK's energy policy, stating that the country was 'making a very big mistake'. This statement came after Apache Corp. announced plans to exit the North Sea by 2029, citing the impact of the UK's windfall tax on energy producers. The UK government, led by Prime Minister Keir Starmer, had increased the windfall tax to 38% to fund renewable energy projects. Trump's comments highlighted the differing approaches to energy policy between the US and the UK. ([thenationalnews.com](https://www.thenationalnews.com/news/uk/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-must-open-up-north-sea-oil-and-move-away-from-wind-power/?utm_source=openai))
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/d7b8b53e-3a52-44d0-84d2-c714b3dc5fa2> - In July 2024, the UK government, under Prime Minister Keir Starmer, increased financial support for new renewable power projects to a historic £1.56 billion annually. This decision aimed to support the country's ambitious goals to quadruple offshore wind capacity, double onshore wind capacity, and triple solar power capacity, aiming for net-zero emissions from electricity by 2030. The increased budget was influenced by lobbying from the clean energy industry and allocated a significant portion to offshore wind projects to recover from previous disappointing auction results. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/d7b8b53e-3a52-44d0-84d2-c714b3dc5fa2?utm_source=openai))
6. <https://www.ft.com/content/482d1405-7e73-4c4c-b44c-30079a8bfab7> - In May 2025, an analysis by BNEF warned that the UK is likely to fall short of its target to build at least 43 gigawatts (GW) of offshore wind power by 2030, predicting only 33GW will likely be operational by then. The sector faces significant challenges, including rising construction costs, constrained supply chains, and concerns about long-term energy price returns, leading developers to delay or cancel projects. Notably, Ørsted halted work on the Hornsea 4 wind farm, and SSE slowed investments in its Berwick Bank and Arklow Bank projects, citing planning bottlenecks and economic viability concerns. ([ft.com](https://www.ft.com/content/482d1405-7e73-4c4c-b44c-30079a8bfab7?utm_source=openai))
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. ([apnews.com](https://apnews.com/article/c65686e9602136722990e4a5da22ae47?utm_source=openai))