# Trump criticises UK energy policies and renewables at UN, calls for North Sea development



During his address to the United Nations General Assembly in New York in September 2025, US President Donald Trump launched a broad critique of the UK government’s energy policies, particularly focusing on North Sea oil and gas. Trump accused the UK, and Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer by name, of stifling development in the North Sea through what he characterised as excessively high taxation that deterred investment by oil companies. He declared that the UK possessed vast untapped oil reserves, calling on the government to "open up the North Sea" and capitalise on this valuable asset. This call aligns with earlier criticisms he made in January 2025, when he warned that the UK was making a "very big mistake" by raising the windfall tax on North Sea energy producers, a decision that had reportedly influenced companies like Apache Corp. to announce their planned exit from North Sea operations by 2029.

Trump's remarks extended beyond fossil fuels to criticise the UK’s climate policies. He condemned the widespread use of windmills and solar panels, claiming these renewable energy projects spoiled the natural landscapes of Scotland and England, describing them as sprawling developments that displaced farmland. This anti-renewables stance starkly contrasts with the global consensus on climate action, which regards renewables as essential to combating climate change. His dismissive attitude was evident in characterising climate change as a "con job" earlier in late 2025, prompting backlash from international delegates and environmental figures.

UK officials have pushed back against Trump’s rhetoric. Energy Minister Ed Miliband, speaking during Climate Week in New York, emphasised a more optimistic outlook on global climate commitments, highlighting record-breaking investments exceeding $2 trillion in renewable technologies in 2024, which doubled funding for fossil fuels. This demonstrates continued strong momentum toward clean energy despite pressure from proponents of fossil fuel industries.

In addition to his energy-focused attacks, Trump broadened his criticism to UK domestic policy and social issues. He reignited his long-standing feud with London Mayor Sir Sadiq Khan, whom he labelled a "terrible, terrible mayor," accusing London of moving toward "sharia law." These claims were met with swift rebuttal from Khan’s office, which dismissed the statements as "appalling and bigoted," emphasising London’s status as a safe, diverse, and welcoming global city that attracts a record number of US citizens. Trump also criticised the UN’s role in asylum policies, claiming it was facilitating an unregulated influx of "illegal aliens" into Europe and undermining Western borders—a position that echoes his wider anti-immigration rhetoric.

These comments form part of a broader pattern where Trump links immigration and security concerns with cultural and political anxieties in Europe, while simultaneously pushing for policies favouring fossil fuel industries over renewable energy investments. His address, marked by stark warnings and cultural critiques, has drawn attention both for its contentious content and its implications for US-UK relations amid ongoing debates over energy policy and climate change.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/trump-attacks-uk-over-climate-policies-and-high-taxes-on-north-sea-oil-and-gas-5330905), [[2]](https://www.cnbc.com/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-is-making-a-very-big-mistake-with-north-sea-windfall-tax.html), [[3]](https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/), [[4]](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/trump-attacks-uk-over-climate-policies-and-high-taxes-on-north-sea-oil-and-gas-5330905), [[5]](https://www.apnews.com/article/5c033a24ec523a56f8244d85f3672eda), [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/dont-believe-doomsters-climate-action-says-uks-miliband-2025-09-23/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/trump-attacks-uk-over-climate-policies-and-high-taxes-on-north-sea-oil-and-gas-5330905), [[7]](https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/london-mayor-sadiq-khan-trump-sharia-law/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/trump-attacks-uk-over-climate-policies-and-high-taxes-on-north-sea-oil-and-gas-5330905), [[5]](https://www.apnews.com/article/5c033a24ec523a56f8244d85f3672eda), [[7]](https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/london-mayor-sadiq-khan-trump-sharia-law/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/trump-attacks-uk-over-climate-policies-and-high-taxes-on-north-sea-oil-and-gas-5330905> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/01/03/trump-says-uk-is-making-a-very-big-mistake-with-north-sea-windfall-tax.html> - In January 2025, President-elect Donald Trump criticised the UK's decision to increase the windfall tax on North Sea oil and gas producers, stating it was a 'very big mistake'. He urged the UK to 'open up the North Sea' and eliminate wind farms, highlighting the impact of the tax on companies like Apache Corp., which planned to cease operations in the North Sea by 2029 due to the tax burden. This move underscored the tension between the UK's climate policies and the interests of fossil fuel companies.
3. <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, calling for the opening up of the North Sea oil and gas fields and the removal of wind farms. He argued that the UK's decision to raise taxes on oil and gas producers was a 'very big mistake' and urged the government to 'get rid of windmills'. This statement came in response to Apache Corp.'s announcement to exit the North Sea by 2029, citing the impact of the windfall tax on its operations.
4. <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 was accused of attacking the UK's energy policies on behalf of the fossil fuel industry. He criticised the UK's decision to raise taxes on North Sea oil and gas producers, urging the government to 'open up the North Sea' and eliminate wind farms. This criticism followed Apache Corp.'s announcement to cease operations in the North Sea by 2029, citing the impact of the windfall tax on its profitability.
5. <https://www.apnews.com/article/5c033a24ec523a56f8244d85f3672eda> - In September 2025, during his address to the United Nations General Assembly, President Donald Trump dismissed climate change as a 'con job', clashing with the global consensus and the lived experiences of many nations facing climate disasters. He criticised renewable energy sources like wind and solar as ineffective and expensive, despite evidence from the UN and energy agencies showing these are now the cheapest and fastest-growing energy options globally. Trump's remarks sparked criticism from international delegates, scientists, and environmental leaders.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/sustainability/cop/dont-believe-doomsters-climate-action-says-uks-miliband-2025-09-23/> - In September 2025, UK Energy Minister Ed Miliband emphasised optimism about global climate efforts during an interview at Climate Week in New York, countering narratives of international backsliding on environmental commitments. He argued that despite the U.S. under President Trump reducing climate efforts and promoting fossil fuels, the global momentum toward clean energy remains strong. Miliband highlighted record investments in renewable technologies, exceeding $2 trillion in 2024—double that of fossil fuels.
7. <https://www.cbsnews.com/amp/news/london-mayor-sadiq-khan-trump-sharia-law/> - In September 2025, during his address to the United Nations General Assembly, President Donald Trump claimed that London wanted to 'go to sharia law', renewing his criticism of London Mayor Sadiq Khan. Trump's comments were met with a response from Khan's spokesperson, who described them as 'appalling and bigoted', stating that London is 'the greatest city in the world, safer than major US cities, and we're delighted to welcome the record number of US citizens moving here'.