# Global Fossil Fuel Consumption Reaches Record Highs Despite Growing Renewable Energy Use



**Global Fossil Fuel Consumption Hits New Highs Despite Increase in Renewable Energy**

Last year, worldwide fossil fuel consumption reached unprecedented levels. According to the Energy Institute’s Statistical Review of World Energy, the use of coal, gas, and oil drove emissions to surpass 40 gigatonnes of CO₂ for the first time. Despite a 13% increase in renewable energy generation, overall fossil fuel consumption rose by 1.5%, reaching 505 exajoules.

The report highlighted that developing economies, particularly India and China, continue to see significant increases in fossil fuel use. India's fossil fuel consumption surged by 8%, with coal usage outstripping the combined total of Europe and North America for the first time. China's fossil fuel consumption also grew by 6%, despite rapid growth in renewable energy.

In contrast, Europe and North America showed signs of peaking fossil fuel demand. Europe's energy mix from fossil fuels fell below 70% for the first time since the Industrial Revolution, influenced by declining gas imports following Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine. The U.S. also saw a 17% drop in coal consumption, reducing overall fossil fuel use by 2 percentage points.

Overall, global primary energy demand increased by 2% in 2023 to a record 620 exajoules, with fossil fuels making up 81.5% of the energy mix, a slight drop from 82% the previous year. Despite advancing renewable capacities, the world’s energy consumption growth continues to drive the use of traditional energy sources.