# Trump urges UK to drop wind energy and boost North Sea drilling despite Labour's green ambitions



U.S. President Donald Trump's recent remarks urging the UK to abandon its wind energy focus in favor of increased North Sea drilling have sparked significant debate on this side of the Atlantic. Trump has derided the UK's investment in wind farms as "costly and unsightly," instead advocating for a shift towards oil drilling that he claims could drastically reduce energy costs for British consumers. He asserted on Truth Social, “Our negotiated deal with the United Kingdom is working out well for all... I strongly recommend to them, however, that in order to get their energy costs down... incentivize modernized drilling in the North Sea.”

This assertion follows a new trade agreement between the U.S. and the UK, which eliminated tariffs on British automobiles, steel, and aluminium in exchange for greater access for American products. While this deal signifies a strengthening economic bond, it starkly opposes the energy strategy pursued by the newly minted Labour government under Prime Minister Keir Starmer, who aims to double onshore and quadruple offshore wind capacity by 2030 in an effort to push for a net-zero energy system. Ironically, Starmer's approach seems to disregard immediate economic pressures faced by the British public.

Trump's call to expand oil drilling reignites vital discussions about the UK's energy future, particularly regarding the North Sea, a region that has seen declining output since the early 2000s despite being one of the largest oil and gas producers globally. Proponents of fossil fuels, including certain factions within the UK, argue that the current regulatory landscape stifles investment in oil extraction, pointing to the planned exit of companies like APA Corporation from North Sea operations by 2029 due to soaring operational costs. A reevaluation of policies around oil drilling could be crucial for revenue generation and energy independence.

In stark contrast, the Labour government's commitment to ending new oil and gas extraction licenses reflects a definitive pivot towards green energy, which is steeped in idealism but arguably lacks practical grounding. While Labour touts a just transition to renewables as key to environmental sustainability and economic regeneration, critics from conservative factions and within the fossil fuel industry warn against jeopardizing domestic energy production, echoing sentiments that could resonate with many voters still concerned about rising energy costs.

U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright's recent comments reveal a widening rift between the two nations. During a London conference, he characterized Britain’s ambitious net-zero targets as "sinister," asserting that such policies adversely affect living standards while failing to deliver anticipated benefits. This critique taps into a broader sentiment that growing government regulations may hinder economic recovery, further complicating the UK’s aspirations for sustainability amidst ballooning energy prices.

As the UK seeks to strengthen its renewable energy infrastructure, Trump's fossil fuel advocacy offers a stark contrast to ambitious climate initiatives. It highlights an essential dialogue about the tension between immediate economic needs and long-term environmental commitments, a discussion that will likely escalate as both countries confront their energy dilemmas. Ultimately, this moment signals a critical juncture that could shape future energy policies and public sentiment, especially as many citizens appear to be prioritizing reliability and affordability over lofty green targets that may threaten their financial well-being.

As these two nations embark upon contrasting energy strategies, the varying leadership visions will undoubtedly mold the narrative around energy production in the years ahead, influencing economic dynamics and environmental realities alike.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.energylivenews.com/2025/05/27/drill-kier-drill/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://apnews.com/article/c65686e9602136722990e4a5da22ae47> - On May 23, 2025, U.S. Ambassador Warren Stephens met with British Prime Minister Keir Starmer to discuss the priorities of the Trump administration, which include 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. This proposal contrasts sharply with the Starmer government’s commitment to deriving all British energy from renewable sources by 2030. While the U.K. increases its investment in green energy, the Trump administration is prioritizing fossil fuels, rolling back support for clean energy initiatives, and attacking the wind industry. Additionally, Trump threatened a 50% tariff on all EU imports, criticizing stalled trade negotiations with the European Union.
3. <https://www.reuters.com/business/energy/trump-calls-open-up-north-sea-get-rid-windmills-2025-01-03/> - President-elect Donald Trump criticized the UK's energy policy, demanding the opening up of the aging North Sea oil and gas fields and the removal of wind farms. The North Sea has been one of the world's largest producers of oil and gas, though its output has declined since the early 2000s. Simultaneously, it has become one of the largest regions for offshore wind energy. The British government, under Prime Minister Keir Starmer, has pledged to expand offshore wind capacity to reduce carbon emissions. The oil and gas industry has argued that increased taxes could deter investment in the North Sea. A government spokesperson noted that the priority remains a fair transition to clean energy to protect consumers and strengthen energy independence. The Conservative opposition disagrees, warning against shutting down domestic oil and gas production.
4. <https://www.ft.com/content/db14493f-ad54-4139-bf79-0c6d4db59d2f> - Donald Trump has criticized the UK’s plan to reduce North Sea oil and gas production, calling it a 'very big mistake' and urging the UK to increase drilling and eliminate wind energy projects. His comments, posted on his Truth Social social media site, referenced APA Corporation's decision to cease North Sea operations by 2029 due to high taxes and stringent environmental regulations. This criticism puts Trump at odds with the UK’s Labour government, led by Sir Keir Starmer, which emphasizes shifting away from fossil fuels to tackle climate change. The Labour government plans to cease issuing new North Sea licenses, increase taxes on oil and gas producers, and promote renewable energy to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050. Trump's stance indicates a potential strain on US-UK relations as his administration prepares for his second term and follows previous criticisms by Elon Musk. The UK’s Conservative party also shows support for Trump’s fossil fuel policies, further complicating the political landscape.
5. <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-energy-secretary-attacks-sinister-net-zero-goals-singling-out-britain-2025-02-17/> - U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright criticized the pledge to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050, labeling it a 'sinister goal' during a London conference. He claimed the aggressive pursuit of these targets, notably by Britain, has incurred significant costs without delivering benefits. Wright argued for the government to facilitate oil, gas, and coal production, citing the recent approval of the Commonwealth LNG export terminal. He expressed concern that Britain's decarbonisation strategy, aimed for 2030, has damaged living standards and exported emissions. Wright described the UK's energy transition as impoverishing and ineffective. Contrarily, UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer supports clean energy, focusing on offshore wind resources for job creation and economic growth. In January, before his presidential inauguration, Donald Trump criticized the UK's energy policy, favoring the reopening of the North Sea oil and gas basin and the removal of wind farms.
6. <https://apnews.com/article/d309a4b859361a5215b89c8242ffe0c4> - President-elect Donald Trump has asked Rep. Jeff Van Drew from New Jersey to draft an executive order to halt offshore wind energy projects. Trump, a critic of offshore wind, aims to boost fossil fuel production for low-cost energy, despite the power sector's significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Van Drew's draft order proposes a six-month moratorium on offshore wind development from Rhode Island to Virginia for review by the incoming Interior secretary, Doug Burgum. Burgum discussed wind power benefits and challenges during his confirmation hearing, highlighting concerns about the reliability and tax incentives. Critics argue that restricting offshore wind development would harm job growth and national security. The Biden administration had advanced the offshore wind industry to combat climate change, setting ambitious deployment targets and initiating multiple projects across the U.S.
7. <https://www.theguardian.com/business/2025/jan/03/donald-trump-accused-attacking-uk-energy-policies-fossil-fuel-industry> - The UK plans to double its onshore wind generation and quadruple its offshore wind capacity by the end of the decade, aiming to run a clean power system by 2030 and hit legally binding climate targets. At the same time, it has ruled out granting any new oil and gas licences. 'The UK is making a very big mistake,' Trump said in a post on his social media platform Truth Social. 'Open up the North Sea. Get rid of Windmills!' Greenpeace UK’s chief scientist, Doug Parr, said: 'The US president-elect is speaking not on behalf of people in the UK, but his own 'drill baby drill' agenda and the Big Oil bosses who poured millions into his campaign.' Tessa Khan, the executive director at Uplift, a group that campaigns for a swift but fair transition away from oil and gas production in the UK, said Trump was 'clearly looking after the interests of US oil and gas firms'. 'His team is shot through with oil and gas interests that want the rest of the world, the UK included, to slow its transition to clean energy and remain hooked on oil and gas for years to come just so they can keep profiting,' Khan said.