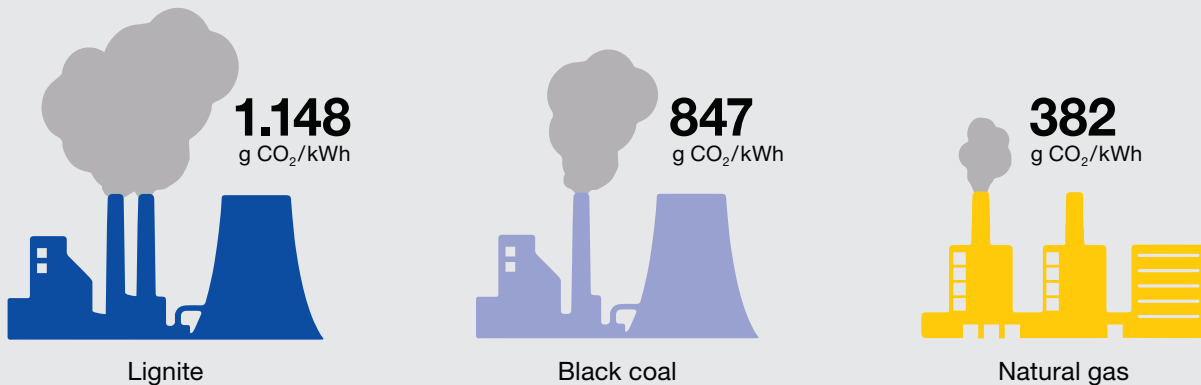


Natural gas will play a crucial role in the electricity market of the future. The flexible energy source is **storable** and gas-fired power plants can react quickly to compensate for the **fluctuations resulting from renewable energy production**. This also benefits the climate, the environment and health: gas-fired power plants **produce virtually no particulate matter and significantly fewer CO<sub>2</sub> emissions than coal-fired power plants**.

## Natural gas power plants reduce emissions\*



## Natural gas: CO<sub>2</sub> emission savings potential\*\*

Switching from **coal** to **gas**

**110 million tons of CO<sub>2</sub>/year** can be saved by switching from coal to natural gas. This corresponds to the annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of all German households combined.

Source: \* BNetzA, UBA, Aurora Energy Research; \*\* Öko-Institut/Prognos

“**We need more natural gas for a better climate. Currently, about 40 percent of the electricity in Germany is generated from coal. By contrast, natural gas power plants only have a 13 percent share. This is grotesque in terms of climate policy. We need to return to the original idea of the energy transition: replacing nuclear and coal with renewables and natural gas.**”

Mario Mehren, CEO Wintershall



Practical example:  
**Phasing out coal  
in the UK**

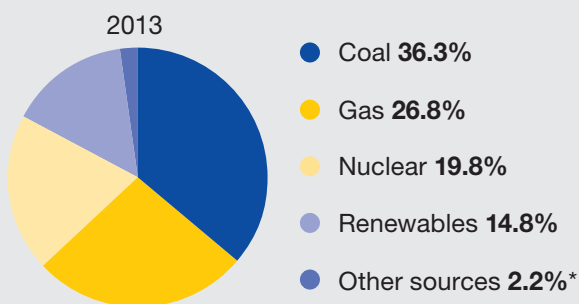


Since 1990, the UK has reduced its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the energy sector by 57 percent. By the end of 2017, the share of coal-generated power in the British electricity mix had fallen to a historic low of seven percent.

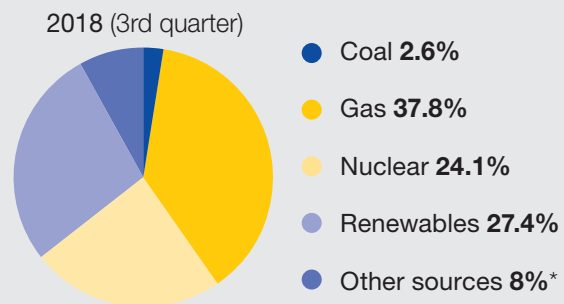
On 21 April 2017, no electricity was produced in the UK from burning coal for the first time in 125 years. How was that achieved? The United Kingdom introduced a system called the carbon price floor in 2013, which has dramatically increased the price of coal-generated electricity.

The result: The demand for natural gas, which had been comparatively more expensive until then, and the utilisation of gas-fired power plants has risen sharply. By contrast, coal-fired power generation in the United Kingdom is about to be phased out in the medium term. More than twenty coal-fired power plants have already been closed. The last ones are earmarked for closure in 2025.

**UK power generation:**



\*including oil, hydropower, electricity imports



Source: Imperial College London/DECC

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