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The UK has hit a major milestone as we pass the one trillionth kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity generated from renewable energy sources, the equivalent of everyone in the UK watching every James Bond movie 13 times a day, every day for a year.

The data from National Grid analytics reveals that it has taken 50 years to reach the milestone, and based on current projections, will take just over five years to reach the next trillionth kWh.

Records began in 1970 when renewables represented 1.9 per cent of total generation, with hydro being the main source at the time (4.5 TWh). The data indicates that offshore and onshore wind and solar entered the generation mix in 2010, in line with the emergence of key pieces of legislation including the Energy Review in 2006 and the renewable energy directive in 2009.

Last month, April 2023, 46 per cent of Britain's electricity came from zero carbon sources.¹ The month also saw a new low carbon intensity record of 33g/kWh on 10 April, with just 0.1 per cent of generation from coal.

Ben Wilson, interim president for National Grid Ventures said: "This major milestone re-affirms the UK's position as world leaders in renewable energy and highlights the vital role renewables play in our transition to a cleaner energy future.

"Accelerating the delivery of renewable energy must continue to be a priority for a cleaner, more secure and more affordable energy future for everyone, but it requires the right framework to make it happen. We are committed to working with government and our partners to make it a reality."

The new National Energy System Operator (NESO) will help connect new generation projects with the electricity grid, working alongside Great British Energy to deploy renewable energy, so bill payers can reap the benefits of clean, secure, homegrown power.

Today marks a milestone for Britain's energy system as we bring the system operator into public ownership to provide impartial, whole-system expertise on building a network that is fit for the future.

We need to move Britain off expensive, insecure fossil fuel markets, and onto clean, cheap homegrown power that we control. This is how we reduce bills in the long term, strengthen our energy independence and support skilled jobs across the country.

NESO will fill this gap - breaking down the siloes which currently exist between the planning of electricity and gas systems, with independent oversight for the design of all Great Britain's energy networks.



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The government's Mission Control - headed up by Chris Stark - has already given NESO one of its first tasks - commissioning it to provide advice on how the UK will hit its goal to deliver clean power by 2030.

This is a pivotal moment as we head closer to the launch of the National Energy System Operator on 1 October. NESO will support a more integrated and coordinated strategy to meet the unprecedented challenges of climate change, ensuring security of energy supply and keeping bills as low as possible.

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