

The Story of Energy

Energy is fundamental to modern life. But what's the story behind our use of energy for an everyday object like a mobile phone?

1 Your mobile phone

92% of people in the UK own a mobile phone. Together with all the other gadgets we use, it means a typical house uses around 3,330 kWh of electricity per year, costing about £480!

2 Your house

Since 1970 the number of electronic goods in the average UK household has trebled – contributing to a 600% increase in energy consumption.

3 Pylons

Pylons carry electricity from the power station to your plug. But transporting the electricity actually requires some of its own power, so a lot of electricity is lost before anyone's had the chance to use it!

4 Power station

46% of UK power is supplied by gas. While gas produces up to 45% less CO₂ than coal, it still accounts for a whopping 5.3 billion tons a year of CO₂ emissions.

6 Gas field

Fossil fuels are formed underground over thousands of years, and we're using them much quicker than they can be renewed. As oil, coal and gas fields start to run out, energy companies have to use more expensive and riskier methods to get their energy.

5 Transportation

In the UK we are dependent on gas shipments from other countries for much of our supply. But these shipments are in such high demand that they may not always reach the UK.