

Report issued: 6th May 2026

Net Cost of Electricity and Gas for a 1st April Contract renewal



Electricity: base load cost - excludes distribution, taxation and supplier margin and costs

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
42.05	51.30	55.25	38.93	61.40	196.60	139.00	75.83	74.10	86.20

Gas: core gas cost - excludes distribution, taxation and supplier margin and costs

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
42.55	51.74	51.18	29.98	51.29	211.90	142.38	86.04	80.91	100.99

Week commencing 27th April 2026

	Oil (bbl)	Gas (ppt)	Power (MWh)	Coal (MT)
Start	\$105.68	110.01	£95.42	\$104.00
End	\$114.50	111.81	£95.88	\$110.00

Across the week, UK gas and power prices strengthened steadily, with baseload power generally following gas. The UK system remained long at the start of the week before tightening towards balance by Friday, while gas-for-power demand fluctuated—initially easing due to stronger wind output, then rising later as renewable generation weakened and nuclear availability dropped. Weather forecasts pointed to above-normal temperatures early on, followed by a cooler shift into the weekend. Norwegian supply was broadly stable at first but declined later due to planned and unplanned maintenance, reducing flows to the UK, while LNG send-out remained relatively steady with limited cargo arrivals. Meanwhile, oil prices trended higher throughout the week, supported by ongoing geopolitical tensions and stalled negotiations involving Iran, alongside concerns over disruptions to key shipping routes.

Week commencing 20th April 2026

	Oil (bbl)	Gas (ppt)	Power (MWh)	Coal (MT)
Start	\$88.91	95.79	£86.96	\$100.15
End	\$105.68	110.01	£95.42	\$104.00

European gas markets began the week with strong gains, recovering most of the previous losses driven by renewed geopolitical tensions after Iran again closed the Strait of Hormuz in response to a US naval blockade, alongside escalating incidents involving commercial vessels and disputes over ceasefire violations, while uncertainty persisted around peace talks and Iran's potential participation; by midweek, markets opened weaker following an extension of the ceasefire by the US, though fundamentals remained mixed with easing maintenance constraints, improving temperatures, declining wind generation, and softer LNG send-out contributing to concerns over longer-term supply tightness; toward the end of the week, UK gas and power prices strengthened again amid a slightly undersupplied system, rising gas-for-power demand, lower Norwegian flows and LNG send-out, and continued geopolitical developments

Week commencing 13th April 2026

	Oil (bbl)	Gas (ppt)	Power (MWh)	Coal (MT)
Start	\$96.90	107.29	£90.61	\$105.00
End	\$88.91	95.79	£86.96	\$100.15

Early in the week, market weakness was initially driven by expectations that talks between Iran and the United States in Islamabad might ease geopolitical tensions, but optimism faded when no agreement was reached and representatives, including JD Vance, departed without progress; this disappointment fed into energy markets, adding bullish pressure, which was further intensified after Donald Trump signalled potential action to block vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz, a key corridor for crude and LNG flows, pushing oil prices higher before mixed signals around maritime activity and possible renewed talks introduced volatility; throughout the week, UK gas and power markets reflected this uncertainty, with prices initially softening before showing mixed movements amid thin liquidity and a generally long system balance. Forecasts pointed to warmer-than-normal conditions before a brief cooler shift, reinforcing weaker demand trends, while continued geopolitical developments kept markets highly headline-driven, ultimately leading to softer front-curve pricing by the end of the week even as longer-dated contracts edged higher and oil prices fluctuated amid ceasefire developments and fragile diplomatic progress.

Week commencing 6th April 2026

	Oil (bbl)	Gas (ppt)	Power (MWh)	Coal (MT)
Start	\$62.46	123.67	£100.84	\$95.15
End	\$96.90	107.29	£90.61	\$105.00

Across the week, UK gas and power markets have been influenced by a mix of supply dynamics, weather shifts, and geopolitical developments. Prices began relatively stable, with the system long on supply and gas-for-power demand expected to rise due to weaker wind generation, while strong nominations and increased Norwegian flows added to comfortable supply conditions. Temperatures briefly peaked before trending closer to seasonal norms, and LNG send-out remained steady. Midweek, the announcement of a temporary ceasefire between the US and Iran, alongside commitments to keep the Strait of Hormuz open, triggered a sharp drop in oil prices and applied downward pressure across European gas markets, although longer-dated contracts were less affected. Prices then rebounded slightly as cooler weather forecasts, reduced Norwegian flows due to maintenance, and renewed geopolitical tensions in the Middle East lifted oil markets again. Spot prices softened to end the week, though the curve remained mixed. The ceasefire showed signs of strain with renewed tensions and conflicting claims around compliance, keeping broader market sentiment cautious

Disclaimer: The above information is based on current market data available at the time of producing this document and is subject to change. ECA cannot be held responsible for movement in the commodity market.