

Key Highlights

Energy use remained essentially flat in 2018, increasing by 0.7%. Energy related CO₂ emissions reduced slightly (by 1.8%), but this was largely due to a one-off outage at Moneypoint power station which led to a significant reduction in coal used for electricity generation.

- In 2018 energy use grew by 0.7% and energy CO₂ emissions fell by 1.8%. The fall in emissions was due to reductions in coal and peat use, mainly in electricity generation, along with increased contribution from renewable energy sources.
- Natural gas use grew by 3.8% (mainly in final consumption) and accounted for 31% of all energy used. It is used mainly for industrial processes, heating of homes and businesses and electricity.
- Coal use fell by 32% in 2018 with Moneypoint electricity generating station being offline for approximately three months towards the end of the year. Coal accounted for 5.2% of all energy use in 2018, down from 7.6% in 2017.
- Peat use fell by 3.8% and accounted for 4.7% of all energy use.
- Oil use increased by 1% in 2018 and accounted for 48% of all energy use. It is used mainly in the transport sector and for household heating.
- Import dependency increased slightly in 2018 to 67% from 66% in 2017. Gas imports increased by 23% (331 ktoe) and mostly offset reduced coal imports, which fell by 32% (391 ktoe). Indigenous gas production was down by 3.6% also.
- 61% of natural gas use in Ireland in 2018 came from indigenous sources compared with 66% in 2017.

Electricity Generation

- Demand for electricity increased by 2% in 2018.
- The majority of electricity generated came from gas, followed by wind and then coal and peat.
- Coal and peat use in electricity generation were down by 44% (379 ktoe) and 3% (14 ktoe) respectively between 2017 and 2018.
- Natural gas input to electricity generation increased by 1.9% or 45 ktoe while the contribution from wind increased by 12.7% (81 ktoe), biomass by 35% (48 ktoe) and wastes by 106% (59 ktoe).
- These changes have resulted in the CO₂ intensity of electricity falling by 13% to a new low of **379 gCO₂/kWh** from 437 gCO₂/kWh in 2018.

Renewable Targets

- Overall renewable contribution to gross final energy consumption in 2018 increased to 11.5% (provisional) from 10.6% in 2017.
- Renewable electricity (RES-E) increased to 33.2% (30.1% in 2017). Figures for renewable heat and transport will be available later in the year.

Note: All figures are provisional and subject to change. Final 2018 energy balance will be published in October 2019.