

Whilst reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions is essential to tackling climate change - other emissions are also harmful to our health and the environment.

Greenhouse Gas removals

GHGs are the focus of targets set by the Climate Change Act 2008 – with the UK expected to reduce these by 80% by 2050 compared to 1990 levels.

The energy sector has more than halved its GHG emissions since 1990¹ by moving to cleaner forms of generation such as solar and wind.

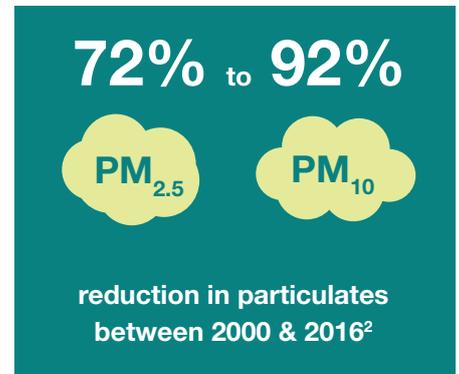
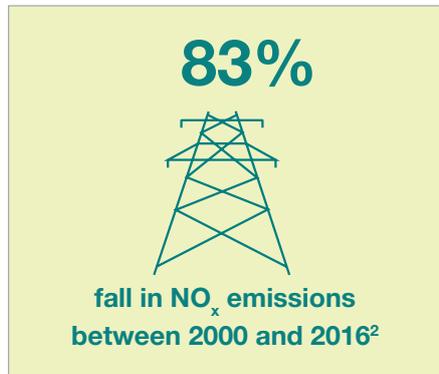
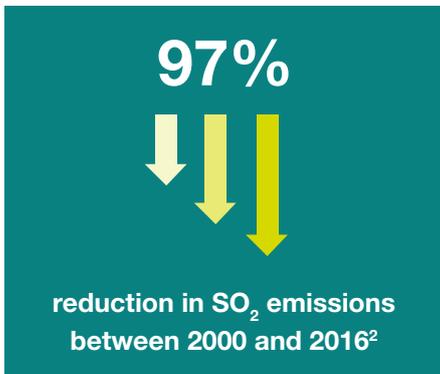
This transition is producing new records all the time – earlier this year the UK went over three days without generating any power from coal. Low carbon sources are also now consistently providing over half of the UK's power.

Emissions statement

But other emissions - sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NO_x) and types of dust known as particulate matter (PM_{2.5} and PM₁₀) - must also be reduced for the good of our health and the environment. These emissions can cause serious health problems, particularly for people with existing heart or respiratory conditions - with the young and elderly particularly vulnerable.

These emissions come from thermal power stations as well as other sources such as transport, industrial combustion and domestic fuel.

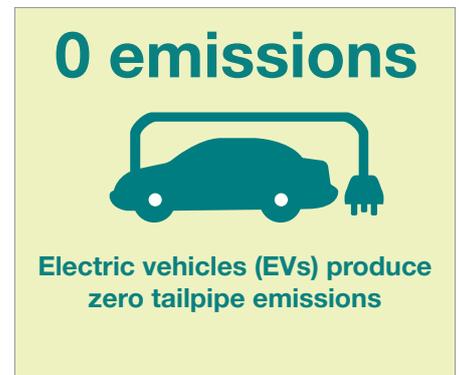
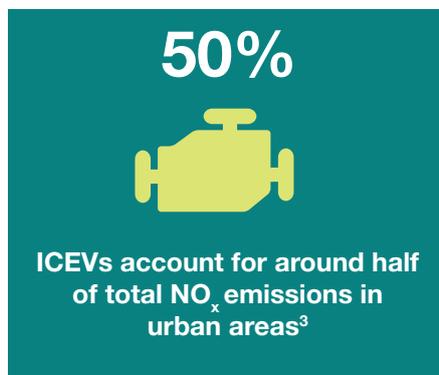
The transition to cleaner forms of generation along with installation of mitigation measures has seen the power sector achieve huge reductions across these emissions too.



The sector has more work to do but other sectors also need to play their part and the decarbonisation of transport will be key.

Clear roads ahead?

Transport has recently taken over as the main source of GHG emissions but it also dominates production of NO_x emissions, notably from internal combustion engine vehicles (ICEVs). These are particularly harmful in high concentrations around main roads and therefore present a major concern for those living in big cities and towns.



With over **140,000** EVs on the roads and **16,000** charge points installed across the UK, the EV revolution is underway and the Government is phasing out the sale of ICEVs by 2040. Although this progress is welcome, we support more ambitious targets for the EV rollout that will clear the air that we breathe sooner and help meet the UK's climate change targets.

For more details on **Clean Air Day** (Thursday 21 June) visit www.cleanairday.org.uk

Sources: ¹BEIS; ²Environment Agency's Environmental Outlook for the Combustion Sector 2016 ³Defra National Statistics Release: Emissions of air pollutants in the UK, 1970 to 2016