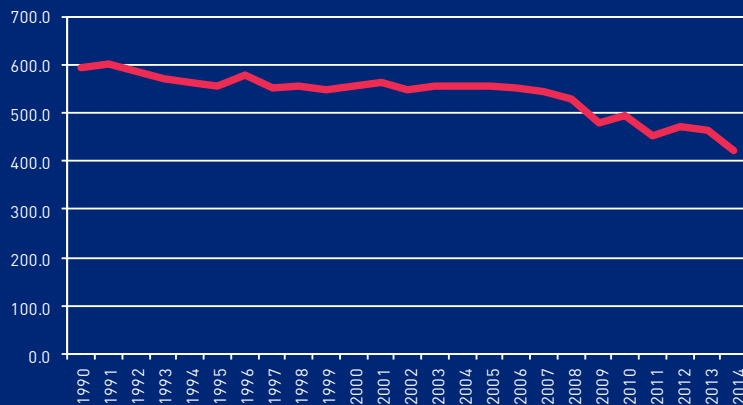




What has natural gas ever done for us?

Since 1990, net CO₂ emissions in the UK have fallen steadily, and are continuing to decline. Some of this fall can be attributed to changes in the composition of the economy, with industries like engineering and manufacturing shrinking whilst the service sector has grown. Additional environmental controls have also undoubtedly played a part. But so has natural gas.

Net CO₂ emissions (MtCO₂eq) 1990 to 2014



Did you know?

Coal emits 903 tonnes of CO₂ per GWh of electricity produced whereas natural gas emits just 365 tonnes of CO₂ per GWh?

In 1990, the UK consumed 49.04 MtOE of coal in electricity generation (Million Tonnes of Oil Equivalent) and just 0.56 MtOE of natural gas. At the end of 2014, coal consumption had halved to around 24.12 MtOE whilst natural gas had risen to 18.78 MtOE. When used to generate electricity, natural gas emits approximately half the CO₂ of coal and virtually none of the harmful particulates. This massive growth in the use of natural gas to generate electricity has, without doubt, contributed to meeting the UK's climate change and air quality goals in the last quarter of a century.

With a new onshore source of natural gas, it can do the same again, even providing flexible back-up generation for technologies like wind and solar.