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**FEATURE:** UK energy crunch looms – Time for policy reform

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## FEATURE: UK energy crunch looms – Time for policy reform

On the 4 November 2015 – on a calm day during the mildest winter since records began – the operator of Great Britain's electricity transmission system, National Grid, had to implement measures of last resort to avoid cutting supply to customers. Four ageing coal-fired power stations had gone down at short notice. Because it was calm, the nation's 13 GW of wind power capacity was generating only minimal amounts of electricity. And by the time of the late afternoon demand peak, a lack of sunlight would have rendered the nation's (estimated) 8 GW of solar power capacity useless.



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