



# E.ON MarketReport

## July 2012

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## Overview of June 2011 – June 2012

Welcome to the July edition of the E.ON MarketReport, where we look in detail at the energy markets from June 2011 to June 2012.

This report provides an historical 12 month overview of the power, gas, oil, coal and carbon markets. In addition the E.ON Market Report contains month to month commentary and price movements for each of these individual markets.

## Last Month in Brief (June 2012)

During June, front month prices were held firm as increased trading activity for these contracts offset bearish sentiment that has been fuelled by the Eurozone debt crisis. Unpredictable gas flows from Norway into the UK system and wet weather were driving the price up on the near-term delivery contracts.

On the curve, longer dated annualised contracts experienced further losses driven primarily by weak Macroeconomic data, as China and the US released poor manufacturing data and Eurozone debt crisis reached new lows. These drivers had a negative impact on the price of Brent Oil, which lost around 8% during June and in-turn this pushed down the price for longer dated gas and power contracts.

Overall annualised prices are still 20% lower for power and 13% lower for gas compared to June 2011, and the general trend has been downward for a number of months across oil, coal and carbon markets.

## Power and gas

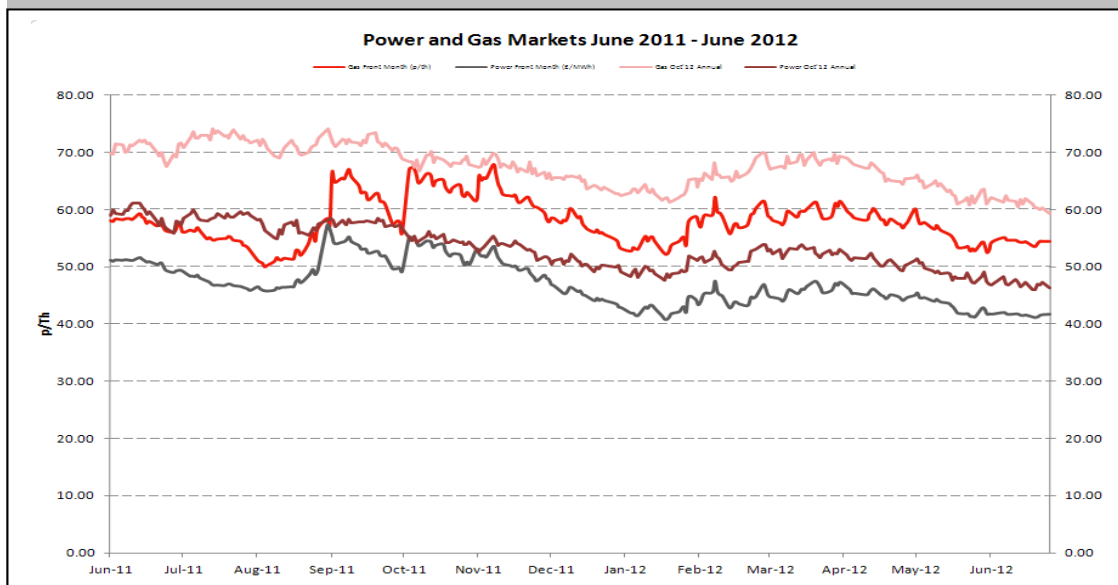
### Movements in the power and gas market

Front month power

Front month gas

Annualised power

Annualised gas



## Change in prices from June 2011 – June 2012

The average front month power contract price in June 2012 was approximately 18% lower than June 2011.

The average front month gas contract price in June 2012 was approximately 6% lower than June 2011.

The average Oct'12 Annualised power price in June 2012 was approximately 20% lower than June 2011.

The average Oct'12 Annualised gas price in June 2012 was approximately 13% lower than June 2011.

## Monthly movement

Front month power contract prices decreased by approximately 0% over the course of June, between a range of £41.1 - £42 / MWh

Front month gas contract prices decreased by approximately 0% over the course of June 2012, between a range of 53.5p - 55.1p / therm

Oct'12 Annualised Power prices decreased by approximately 1% over the course of June 2012, between a range of £46.08 - £48.23 / MWh

Oct'12 Annualised Gas prices decreased by approximately 5% over the course of June 2012, between a range of 59.35p - 62.47p / therm

## Month by month review

June 2012	Against a backdrop of comfortable fundamentals in regard to supply and demand, and continued macroeconomic concerns within the Euro zone, UK power and gas prices continued to be traded down throughout the month. Weakness in Crude Oil, which hit an 18-month low in June has continued to be the main driver for gas and power. Some resistance was met for near-term front month contracts, as volatile gas flows from Norway and wet weather lifted the price.
May 2012	Discussions over Greece and Spain have caused macroeconomic sentiment to sink across Europe and the UK gas and power curves were no exception as front-month and annualised contracts saw month-on-month losses. On the near curve prices fell in line with lower gas demand due to warmer temperatures and high gas flows from Norway, while further out risks to the UK as a result of the Euro zone crisis were highlighted by the Bank of England as it cut its growth forecast for the UK this year from 1.2% to 0.8%.
April 2012	UK Gas and Power prices traded down throughout April driven primarily by lower Oil, Carbon and Coal prices. News that the UK has officially entered a double dip recession added to the weak macroeconomic outlook that had already been formed and was applying further downward pressure to most fuel markets. Additionally, energy markets reacted to optimistic news that Japan could restart nuclear generation, which would help ease global demand for LNG.
March 2012	Movements within the Brent Crude Oil market were once again the key driver behind UK Gas & Power prices. The benchmark Oil contract has gained around 17% during 2012 and held firm throughout most of March within a

tight \$4.24 range. There were some bearish factors, including reports that Japan may look to re-start some of their nuclear generation, which would ease global demand for LNG. Overall prices were generally trading sideways resulting in relatively flat movements over the course of the month.

February 2012

Gas and Electricity prices were buoyed throughout February by increased demand due to colder than average seasonal temperatures, additional risk premium due to low gas storage and LNG levels and sustained gains within the Brent Crude Oil market.

January 2012

Mid-January prices were lifted on expectations of colder weather; however the gains were short-lived as bearish fundamental sentiment returned to the market. Comfortable supply availability for both power and gas filled the market with confidence and even during the cold snap; demand was not troubling the system or causing a shortage. Further out on the curve, bearish signals from the Crude oil market helped prices soften despite tensions between Iran and the US creating some within month volatility.

December 2011

UK gas and electricity prices levelled out during December, following 3-months of steady decline. Reasons for the hold up in prices include increased day-ahead demand and increased buying interest from financial speculative traders. Despite this bullish activity prices were reluctant to move much higher, as fundamentals still remain overly bearish with comfortable supply levels and relatively low seasonal demand.

November 2011

Seasonally mild temperatures throughout most of November kept demand levels lower than usual for the time of year. The subdued demand allowed gas storage facilities remain full and this boosted confidence in the market for the near-term supply outlook.

October 2011

as we enter the first month of winter'11 the UK supply system coped well with temperature related demand and as a result, trader confidence was given a boost. Prices moved down amid this healthy supply/demand balance. Further downward support was given by ongoing debt concerns within the Euro-zone potentially impacting energy demand over future years.

September 2011

Throughout September prices moved down, as the UK was well supplied with gas and demand from both UK & Europe was subdued due to higher than average seasonal temperatures. Lower gas prices reduced the generation costs for producing electricity, as such UK power prices moved down in line with gas.

August 2011

August was generally bullish with most power & gas contracts increasing in price. Traders commented that there was a move away from an Oil price link, instead supply & demand fundamentals on near-term delivery was having the most impact on prices. At the back-end of August prices climbed to a 9-week high.

July 2011

Ample gas supplies in the near-term helped front-month prices to fall, however, longer dated prices were held firm by Oil. These longer dated seasonal prices that make up annualised contracts traded sideways with a slight upward move on gas.

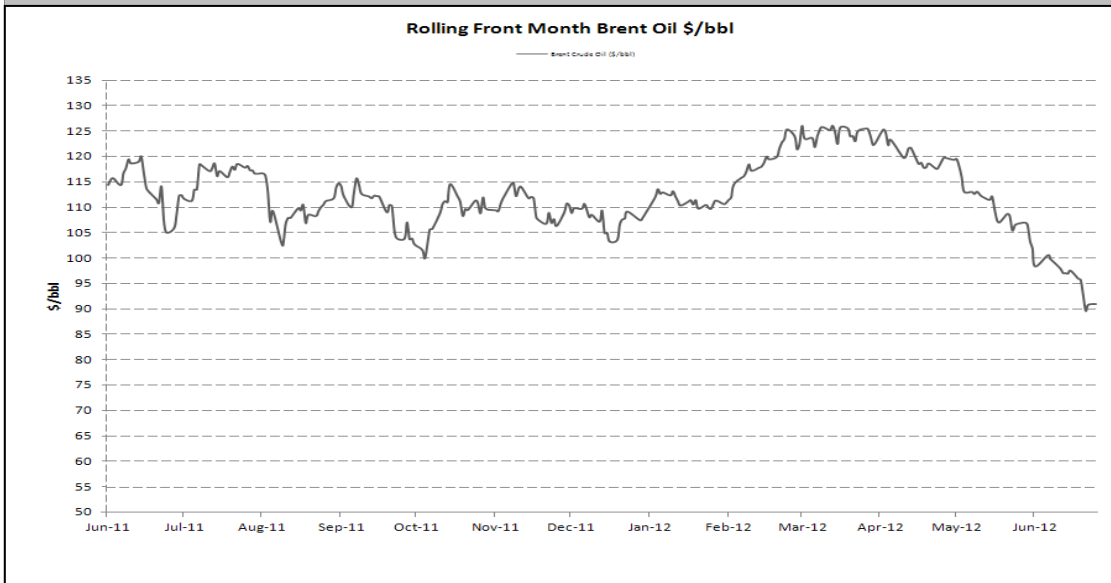
June 2011

The back-end of June saw prices fall to their lowest levels since the steep increases recorded during March following the Japan disaster. The main driver behind losses in power & gas, were the significant drops seen in the carbon & oil markets. The entire energy market dropped, tracking the downward movement of oil & carbon.

# Oil

## Movements in the oil market

Rolling front month Brent Crude oil



### Change in prices from June 2011 – June 2012

The average front month oil contract price in June 2012 was approximately 16% lower than in June 2011.

### Monthly movement

Front month oil prices decreased by approximately 8% over the course of June 2012, between a range of \$89.67 - \$100.64 / bbl

### Month by month review

#### June 2012

The benchmark front month Brent Crude Oil contract continued its downward trajectory driven by high Crude stocks in the US, ongoing concerns on Euro Zone economic activity and OPEC (Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries) keeping production quotas at record high causing a glut in supply across the global market. Brent hit a low of \$89.67/bbl towards the end of June, which was its lowest closing price assessment for 18-months.

#### May 2012

During May Brent hit its lowest closing price for 2012 driven mainly by political action within the Euro zone and reduced anxiety of supply disruption. The Socialist victory in the French presidential election and Greece's fragmented result refreshed worries about the Euro zone debt crisis and pushed Brent prices lower. Additionally, eased fears of supply disruption when the talks between Iran and the West restarted supported the losses.

April 2012	Brent prices fell significantly during the last month as pessimistic reports from China and the US raised concerns about a potential slowdown in the global economy. Additionally, the Energy Information Administration cut its forecast for world oil demand growth for 2012 and 2013 in their monthly report. Prices started the month at around \$125 and had soon eroded around \$6 by the last week of April where prices stabilised at around \$118/bbl.
March 2012	The dispute between Iran and the West over Tehran's nuclear program has lifted Brent prices by about 17% in 2012. Recently, improving German economic sentiment and rising U.S. retail sales have strengthened the bullish sentiment. Additionally, when the U.S. central bank reiterated its plans to keep interest rates low, oil market optimism improved on economic growth prospects.
February 2012	Brent Crude Oil hit a 9-month high during February driven by ongoing tensions between Iran and the west and the possibility of supply disruptions from other nations in the Middle East. Further support was added when news of a second bail-out package to support the Greek debt crisis hit the markets.
January 2012	Continued political tension between Iran and the west added volatility to a Crude oil market that struggled to find any clear direction during January. The potential of supply disruption as tensions grow in Arab regions added risk premium to prices, however, the over-riding negative economic outlook within the euro-zone continued to plague the value of the Euro, consequently lowering the price of Brent Crude.
December 2011	Oil prices were pulled in opposite directions through Dec 11 leaving the market flat when comparing the start of the month to the end. An 11-month low point for the Euro vs. Dollar exchange rate and further debt concern within Europe pushed prices lower. Upside was driven by political tension between the US and Iran and potential supply disruption following tension in Kazakhstan and Iraq.
November 2011	Crude oil prices were driven higher by renewed hopes that Greece and Italy would resolve their debt issues. Concerns over Iranian nuclear activity added further upward pressure, as well as unrest in Egypt and Syria.
October 2011	October proved to be a volatile month for Crude Oil, with prices swinging over \$14 within month. The market appeared to lack clear direction, however, prices were given a sharp boost with reports surrounding the Euro-zone debt crisis and a potential recovery plan being the main driver.
September 2011	Crude Oil hit a 6-week low on depressing economic news, including the euro-zone debt crisis and doubts whether Greece would get more aid to bolster its troubled economy. Further downward support was given by news that Libya was planning on restarting further oil production boosting their output.
August 2011	News that the US could have its AAA credit rating downgraded sent global equities and Brent Crude markets into decline. The possible downgrade revived worries of a global 'double-dip' recession. Prices then staged an upward recovery driven mostly by stronger financial markets.
July 2011	Oil prices rallied during July hitting a high of \$118/bbl. Consumption data from the US was the main driver behind the gains.

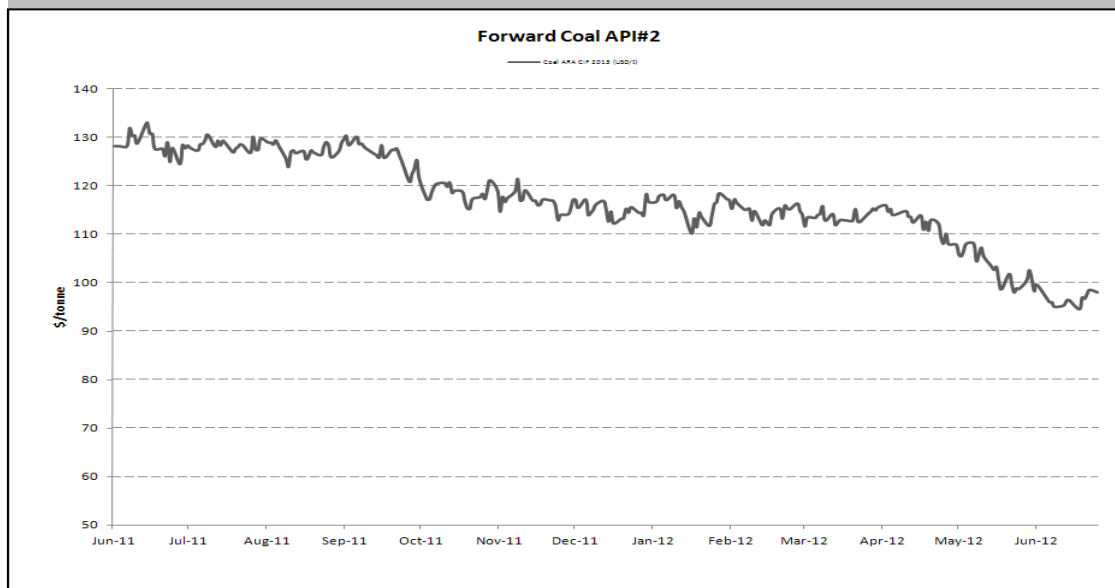
June 2011

On Thursday 23 the International Energy Agency surprised markets by announcing that it will release a total of 60 million bbls of oil from government held strategic reserves. This sent the price of Crude to a 4 month low, shedding \$7 in a single day. Downward movement was supported by on-going concerns over Euro zone debt, in particular the Greek financial crisis

## Coal

### Movements in the coal market

Forward coal 1 year



### Change in prices from June 2011 – June 2012

The average Forward coal 1 year contract price in June 2012 was approximately 25% lower than in June 2011.

### Monthly movement

Forward coal 1 year contract prices decreased by approximately 2% over the course of June 2012, between a range of \$94.55 - \$99.64 / tonne

### Month by month review

June 2012

International coal prices came under pressure because of persistent economic concerns. Especially the significant decline in oil prices coupled with weak economic data in the EU and the US had influence on the energy complex.

May 2012

Persistent coal oversupplies and revived bearish macro sentiment led to further losses in coal prices.

April 2012

In addition to persistent oversupplied coal markets, a bearish sentiment was concluded at Coaltrans Conference in Beijing as the number of deals done was lower than anticipated. With coal demand seasonally weak and fundamentals still pointing to a rather weak scenario, coal prices at the front end of the curve saw another month of decline.

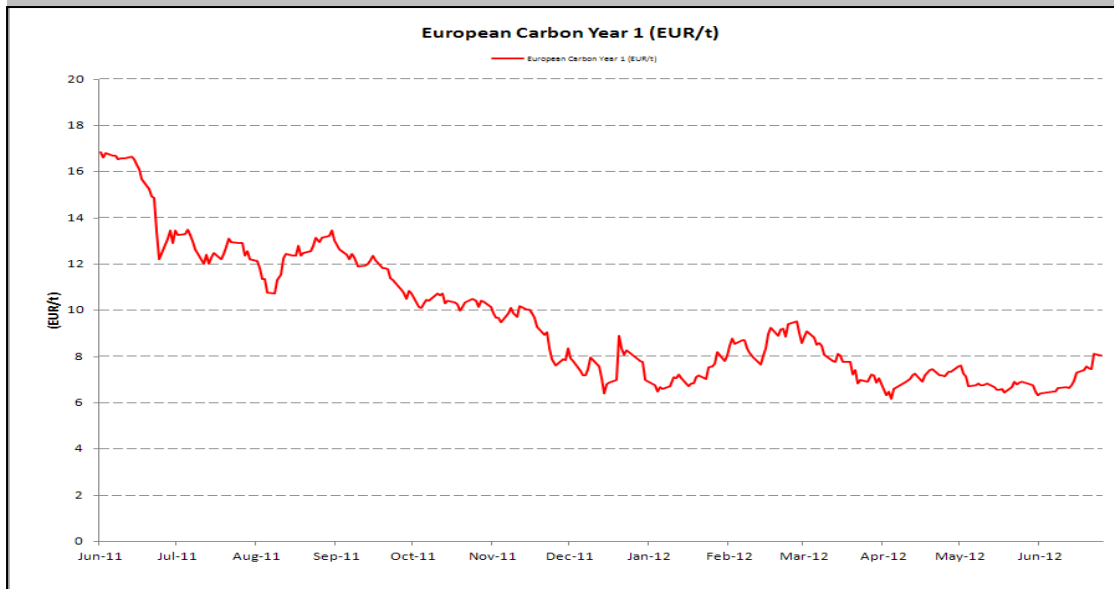
March 2012	Prices at the front end of the curve came again under pressure due to ample coal flooding the market. Only minor movements were noticed in international coal prices throughout the month.
February 2012	The European coal market continues to be driven by a lack of buying interest resulting in an oversupply of coal around the world. According to reports this could see export prices out of South Africa's Richards Bay (Africa's largest Coal terminal) fall to record lows.
January 2012	Coal prices fell amid soft demand and ample supply, particularly within the Atlantic region.
December 2011	Coal prices were fairly stable during December staying tightly linked to developments in other energy markets.
November 2011	The combination of fresh economic concerns about Italian sovereign debt and the healthy supply situation in the market were the main drivers behind coal prices.
October 2011	Coal prices were being driven mostly by wider macroeconomic sentiment, which was impacting financial and commodity markets throughout October. Although there was some within month price movement, the end result was that prices ended the month range-bound compared with the start.
September 2011	Stoked by renewed concerns over debt crisis within the euro-zone and a significant drop in crude oil price due to large stock build up, coal markets moved down in what was a generally bearish month for energy related markets.
August 2011	The state of the global economy had a downward affect on the price of coal pushing it down 'significantly' according to one source. This downside was soon recovered as oil began to recoup some of its losses. Prices ended the month range-bound despite the within month movements.
July 2011	Coal prices end the month where they started. Traders commented that a "luke-warm" Asian demand created the subdued activity.
June 2011	European coal prices tracked downward movements across most energy markets during the latter part of June. Traders pointed to weaker Crude Oil prices as the biggest price driver for coal.



# Carbon

## Movements in the carbon market

European Carbon year 1



## Carbon overview

Carbon permits have become an increasingly important driver for the price of UK power as more than 70% of UK power stations use coal or gas.

Burning coal and gas releases harmful emissions into the environment. Higher generation means more carbon emissions are produced. Therefore the cost of 'clean' power also takes into account the cost of carbon permits traded under the EU scheme.

Cost of producing 'clean' power = price of generation fuel + price of carbon

Burning coal generates more than twice as much carbon as burning gas, hence if the price of carbon increases, the effects are felt more strongly in coal generation. Carbon price therefore directly affects the demand for both gas and coal as a generation fuel.

## Change in prices from June 2011 – June 2012

The average European Carbon front year contract price in June 2012 was approximately 54% lower than in June 2011.

## Monthly movement

European Carbon front year contract prices increased by approximately 25% over the course of June 2012, between a range of €6.42 - €8.12 / tonne

## Month by month review

June 2012	Emissions prices have been taking direction from Euro Zone developments over the past month, in particular the Euro/Dollar exchange rate, with the Dec-12 contract dropping as low as 6.17 EUR/t as the Euro fell against the dollar. Gains were recorded at the end of June due to a move to set-aside excess carbon permits to help support the market.
May 2012	Carbon prices were driven lower by plummeting oil prices last week. Uncertainty about the future of the Euro zone following the Greek and French election results added to bearish sentiment.
April 2012	Dec-12 EUAs fell back below 7 EUR/t at the start of the month, as rising Spanish bond yields revived concerns about the Euro zone, triggering falls in equity markets and the Euro.
March 2012	Carbon prices dropped below €8 after Poland blocked a proposal to reduce emissions. The move is the latest stage in the failure of EU carbon policy that has seen the European carbon trading price collapse.
February 2012	Colder weather and demand for Carbon allowances added support to prices during the start of the month. Prices were then given a further significant boost as EU parliamentary leaders agreed to support a motion in the Industry Committee vote at the end of the month.
January 2012	The price of European Emissions continued to hover around record low levels for most of January.
December 2011	European carbon prices continue to plummet driven mostly by ongoing economic concerns within the Euro-zone.
November 2011	The carbon market was cautious over demand levels due to ongoing economic concerns within the Euro-zone.
October 2011	Trade volumes were moderate during October within the European Carbon market, missing strong market drivers and impulses. Traders appeared to be waiting for clear messages surrounding the Euro-zone bailout plans before fixing out positions.
September 2011	With Greece planning to auction off nearly 4million carbon permits, the outlook for the emissions market is that there is an oversupply. This allowed for prices to move down, if only marginally.
August 2011	Stronger German power prices helped the carbon market recover some of its devastating losses that were recorded the last few months. Increased buying activity from utility companies supported the gains.
July 2011	An over-supplied market resulted in Carbon being unable to gain in price during July. A measure to help power companies obtain carbon credits for forward power sales also helped keep a lid on the carbon market.
June 2011	European Carbon prices slumped by 28% during June to levels not seen since March 2009. The lack of demand for carbon allowances, Greece's economic uncertainty & EU regulation over energy efficiency all impacted the emissions market.

## Key dates

September 11/12 2012

Energy Event 2012, NEC Birmingham

## Useful web links

### For more information about E.ON, the following links may be useful:

Business energy	<a href="http://eonenergy.com/business">eonenergy.com/business</a>
Business Energy Connections	<a href="http://eonenergy.com/bec">eonenergy.com/bec</a>
Sustainable Energy	<a href="http://eonenergy.com/sustainable">eonenergy.com/sustainable</a>
Carbon Reduction Commitment	<a href="http://eonenergy.com/crc">eonenergy.com/crc</a>

### The following links provide further information on the energy industry:

Defra	<a href="http://defra.gov.uk">defra.gov.uk</a>
The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) formally DTI	<a href="http://berr.gov.uk">berr.gov.uk</a>
The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC)	<a href="http://decc.gov.uk">decc.gov.uk</a>
Health and Safety Executive	<a href="http://hse.gov.uk">hse.gov.uk</a>
National Grid	<a href="http://nationalgrid.com">nationalgrid.com</a>
Met Office	<a href="http://metoffice.gov.uk">metoffice.gov.uk</a>
Ofgem	<a href="http://ofgem.gov.uk">ofgem.gov.uk</a>
Environment Agency	<a href="http://environment—agency.gov.uk">environment—agency.gov.uk</a>
Consumer Focus formally Energywatch	<a href="http://consumerfocus.org.uk">consumerfocus.org.uk</a>
The Carbon Trust	<a href="http://thecarbontrust.co.uk">thecarbontrust.co.uk</a>
The Energy Institute	<a href="http://energyinst.org.uk">energyinst.org.uk</a>
The Energy Saving Trust	<a href="http://est.org.uk">est.org.uk</a>
The National Energy Foundation	<a href="http://nef.org.uk">nef.org.uk</a>
Petroleum Economist	<a href="http://petroleum-economist.com">petroleum-economist.com</a>
Live oil prices	<a href="http://thisismoney.co.uk/oil-price">thisismoney.co.uk/oil-price</a>

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