
ACCELERATING WIND AND RENEWABLES TO ACHIEVE ENERGY SECURITY

A WIND ACTION PLAN
TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF
ENERGY CRISES

12 MARCH 2026

CONTEXT

The escalation of tensions involving Iran, the U.S., Israel and other entities in February and March 2026 has once again exposed the hazards of global fossil fuel supply chains and energy system dependence. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz – a critical chokepoint for global shipping – has halted a large share of tanker traffic, creating chaos in oil and gas markets and forcing curtailments at major energy facilities including the Ras Tanura Refinery and LNG export infrastructure in Qatar.

The economic consequences are spreading well beyond energy markets globally. The price of a barrel of oil broke the US\$100 mark on 9 March 2026¹. Rising oil and gas costs in many markets are feeding directly into electricity prices, increasing inflationary pressures and costs for consumers. Analysts expect that even a temporary spike in oil prices may slow global growth by 0.4pp, while sustained oil price elevation beyond three months may lead to significant inflation across gasoline, transportation, utilities, production and other sectors linked to energy prices across the economy (see Annex)².

In response, many countries are introducing emergency measures such as price caps and fuel subsidies to shield households and industries from the immediate impacts. However, these interventions are only quick fixes and often fiscally difficult to sustain, particularly for lower-income and energy-importing economies which are more exposed to global fuel price shocks.



A 5-POINT-PLAN TO ACCELERATE WIND ENERGY

1



FAST-TRACK EMERGENCY PERMITTING



2



ADDRESS GRID AND STORAGE BLOCKERS



3



MOBILISE FINANCING NOW



4



MOVE SWIFTLY TO ELECTRIFICATION



5



SCALE UP SUPPLY CHAINS



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HISTORY REPEATS ITSELF

We have seen this before. Fossil fuel price volatility destabilised markets and runaway inflation reverberated across economies after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, during the Gulf War in the 1990s and following supply disruption and political upheaval in the Middle East in the 1970s.

This pattern has become a feature of the fossil fuel economy, demonstrating how quickly geopolitical conflict can send oil, gas and coal prices surging, forcing governments to step in to shield consumers from high inflation. In many countries, particularly within the Gulf region, the impacts on costs extend further through the food-energy-water nexus, affecting human welfare.

**The lesson of the last half-century is clear:
Diversifying energy systems is no longer just a climate objective; it is
disciplined risk management for the modern, interconnected world.**

For governments, the implications are strategic. Energy systems that are heavily dependent on imported fossil fuels will remain exposed to geopolitical chokepoints, recurrent supply disruptions and price volatility, posing a direct threat to energy security.

RENEWABLES ARE THE SOLUTION TO ENERGY SECURITY

Countries that moved quickly to diversify their energy systems and accelerate renewable deployment in the last few years are now better protected from the fossil fuel price shocks and financial contagion caused by distant conflicts (see Annex).

Several countries are already deploying rapid response mechanisms in response to the current crisis. South Korea's president has called for a strategic expansion of renewable energy to shield the country from future geopolitical shocks and energy price volatility.³ The leaders of the UK, France and Spain have echoed similar commitments to double down on renewables and reduce dependency on fossil fuels.

Emerging markets are joining the call as well. For example, the Egyptian government has pledged to add 2,500 MW of wind and solar capacity to the national grid before next summer to ensure a stable and reliable electricity supply.⁴



WIND IS THE KEY TO UNLOCKING RENEWABLES FOR ENERGY SECURITY

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WIND POWER AS A STRATEGIC HEDGE

Renewable energy deployment and energy security are fundamentally aligned. Wind power in particular provides a limitless, domestic and scalable source of electricity with predictable long-term costs. Once grid and project infrastructure is built, countries can tap into wind generation for near-zero marginal costs, insulating economies from global fuel price volatility.

The most secure energy systems avoid over-reliance on any single fuel source, supplier or transit corridor. Wind energy plays a central role in this diversification:

- Wind strengthens energy sovereignty. It is a limitless, homegrown power source that is inherently better protected against international conflict or global shipping chokepoints.
- With no fuel costs and near-zero marginal costs, wind offers long-term price certainty.
- Investment in wind stabilises energy expenditure, reduces vulnerability to fuel price shocks, and provides predictable cash flows over a long term, helping governments conserve foreign exchange reserves, avoid economic disruption fossil fuel-related crises and reallocate funds to essential national priorities.
- Onshore wind is the lowest-cost renewable energy option by global average, making it the most cost-competitive source of any new electricity generation.⁵
- Wind is highly scalable and can provide large amounts of stable power or “variable baseload,” according to the IEA.⁶
- Offshore wind projects have high capacity factors, rivalling those of the most efficient gas plants or coal plants.⁷
- Mature offshore wind markets have demonstrated significant cost reductions after the first 2-3 GW of deployment, reinforcing long-term competitiveness, according to BloombergNEF.
- Wind power creates long-term value and whole-of-economy benefits, including income and employment growth, skills development, as well as a boost to wellbeing and societal savings related to health, subsidy and climate-related costs.⁸



FAST-TRACK WIND DEPLOYMENT NOW

POLICYMAKERS SHOULD URGENTLY REVIEW THEIR EXPOSURE TO FUTURE FOSSIL FUEL PRICE SHOCKS, AND IMPLEMENT EMERGENCY POLICY PACKAGES TO DIVERSIFY POWER SOURCES AND SCALE RENEWABLE ENERGY DEPLOYMENT AT UNPRECEDENTED SPEED.

BUILDING UPON THE GLOBAL RENEWABLES ALLIANCE'S RENEWABLES ACTION PLAN TO ACCELERATE RENEWABLES, POLICYMAKERS CAN TAKE PRACTICAL STEPS WITHIN THE NEXT 12 MONTHS TO UNLOCK LARGE-SCALE WIND DEPLOYMENT AND STRENGTHEN NATIONAL RESILIENCE:

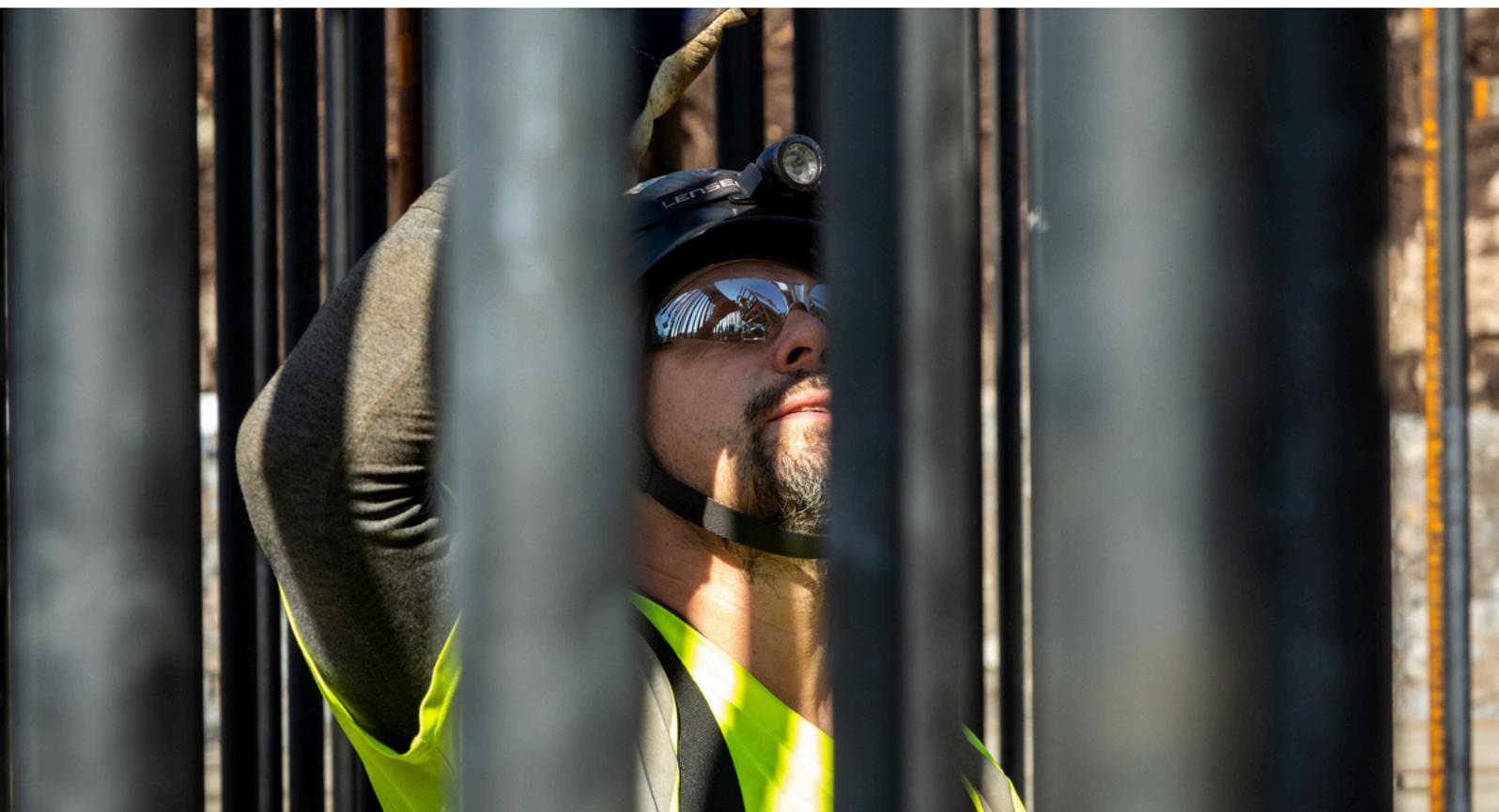


FAST-TRACK EMERGENCY PERMITTING

Accelerate regulatory approvals by urgently streamlining permitting and consenting procedures for wind, renewables and storage projects to deliver a major expansion of capacity within the next 36 months

Priority actions for wind power:

- Identify projects that could be prioritised for construction within 1-3 years.
- Fast-track pilot projects that have the potential to spur future growth.
- Mandate maximum lead times for permitting wind projects.
- Establish centralised permitting authorities or one-stop shops.
- Where possible, designate priority renewable energy development zones from pre-existing approved sites, without restricting planning access to other greenfield sites.
- Deploy digital permitting platforms and transparent approval timelines and guidelines.
- Streamline inter-agency/ministry coordination, including aviation, radar, and military clearance processes.
- Accelerate repowering regulations as the 'low-hanging fruit' to replace ageing turbines with larger, more efficient models while reusing existing grid connections. By 2030, 178GW of wind capacity globally face decommissioning.⁹





2. ADDRESS GRID AND STORAGE BLOCKERS

Expand, modernise and optimise electricity grids and storage systems to integrate new wind capacity. Significantly shorten lengthy grid connection queues and accelerate grid access by guaranteeing priority dispatch for renewables.

Priority actions for wind power:

- Identify “shovel-ready” wind projects in the pipeline that could be prioritised for grid connection within 1-3 years, as done during the “green recovery” period after the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Enable priority dispatch for wind projects to reduce curtailment.
- Immediate investment and emphasis on grid management and updates to take into account location of wind projects and corresponding load centres.
- Provide firm grid connection guarantees and ensure grid connections are in place ahead of time.



MOBILISE FINANCING NOW

Unlock and de-risk public and private investment for wind and other renewable energy projects and associated infrastructure, by introducing preferential interest rates and financing, decreasing financial institution lending limits, creating renewable lending windows, and redirecting capital away from carbon intensive industries.

Priority actions for wind power:

- Prioritising risk-sharing measures which allocates project risks to the stakeholder (government, private sector, offtaker, financial institutions) to ensure project bankability.
- Execute auction reform learning lessons from recent unsuccessful auctions, such as UK AR6 and Denmark.
- Establish renewable lending facilities or green investment windows to facilitate and encourage access to capital, considering the scale of capital required for wind projects.
- Introduce preferential interest rates, grant packages, credit guarantees for strategic wind projects.



4

MOVE SWIFTLY TO ELECTRIFICATION

Introduce and implement national strategies to reduce fossil fuel dependence by accelerating end-use electrification and system integration across transport, heating and industry, supported by flexibility markets, demand response and short- and long-duration energy storage.

Priority actions for wind power:

- Support legal frameworks for corporate power purchase agreements (PPAs) for wind projects, especially for large electricity consumers such as data centres and heavy industry.
- Introduce flexibility and storage system incentives where it makes sense, and not burden project development with unattainable requirements.
- Develop wind projects using a systems approach: Integrate wind with other renewables and energy storage, optimising synergies, grid reliability, and value across the power system.



5

SCALE-UP SUPPLY CHAINS

Develop robust industrial strategies for supply chain development with clear milestones to expand renewable, grid and storage deployment. Create clear demand signals and offtake frameworks, increase pipeline visibility, and generate long-term revenue certainty, to promote necessary investments in manufacturing and labour force capacity.

Priority actions for wind power:

- Form inter-ministerial taskforces and joint industry dialogues that aim to get wind and renewables projects and value chains built on an accelerated timeline.
- Set out clear, yearly auction volumes, and actionable roadmaps to drive investor confidence.
- Create priority mechanisms to ensure vital commodities are available for the energy transition.

Taking these five emergency measures to fast-track permitting, expand grid access, mobilise financing, accelerate system electrification and scale up supply chains will create the necessary speed and certainty for large-scale wind power deployment. This in turn will enable massive job creation and green industry investment.

By implementing these actions in the next 12 months, governments can shield themselves from the volatility and conflict linked to fossil fuels and build a foundation for secure, lasting growth.

DISCLAIMER This action plan was approved on 12 March 2026 by the Global Wind Energy Council's Executive Committee members, and as such it may not necessarily reflect the views of all GWEC members.

FOOTNOTES

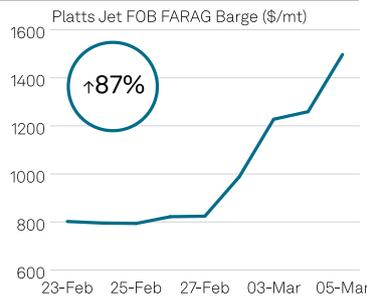
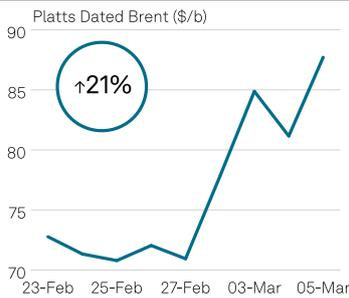
1. <https://www.politico.eu/article/spillover-iran-energy-shockwaves-hit-europe/>
2. On average, a 10% increase in oil prices raises consumer price index (CPI) inflation by about 0.2 percentage points. See: <https://think.ing.com/articles/assessing-the-global-economic-impact-of-middle-east-war>; <https://www.reuters.com/business/global-economy-faces-inflation-growth-test-amid-escalating-conflict-iran-goldman-2026-03-05/>; <https://www.thestreet.com/economy/goldman-sachs-delivers-quiet-warning-on-oil-prices>.
3. <https://www.chosun.com/english/market-money-en/2026/03/10/YCKVTEFUNZHTDMEG55FG5GHW3Y/>
4. <https://www.dailynewsegyp.com/2026/03/04/egypt-to-add-2500mw-of-renewable-energy-capacity-to-national-grid/>
5. <https://www.irena.org/Publications/2025/Jun/Renewable-Power-Generation-Costs-in-2024>
6. <https://www.iea.org/reports/offshore-wind-outlook-2019>
7. <https://www.iea.org/data-and-statistics/charts/average-annual-capacity-factors-by-technology-2018>
8. https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Agency/Publication/2019/Oct/IRENA_Future_of_wind_2019.pdf
9. https://www.irena.org/-/media/Files/IRENA/Remember/Assembly/Sixteenth%20session%20of%20the%20Assembly/A_16_BN_REPowering%20for%20Tripling_Advancing%20Wind%20Energy#:~:text=IRENA's%20Coalition%20for%20Action%2C%20a,grid%20connections%20and%20local%20communities

ANNEX

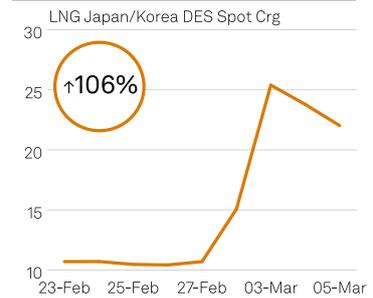
Middle East conflict rattles commodities markets

Commodity prices have jumped in the week since war broke out in the Middle East, as supply concerns grow with disruptions to shipping. Here are some key Platts price assessments on markets that have been impacted.

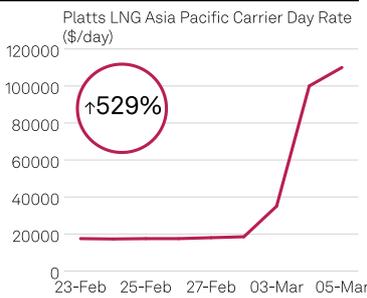
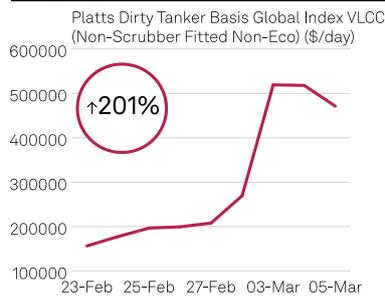
Oil



Gas



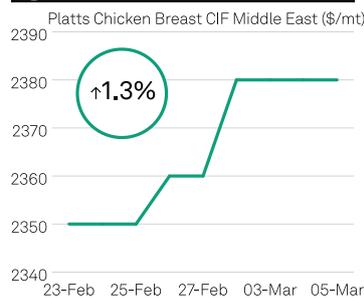
Shipping



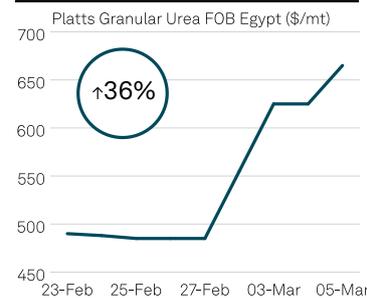
Metals



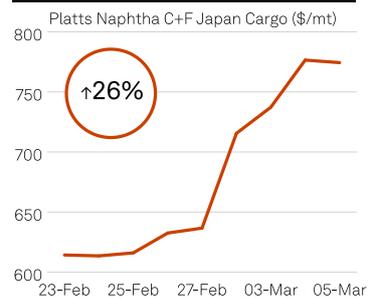
Agriculture



Fertilizer



Chemicals feedstock



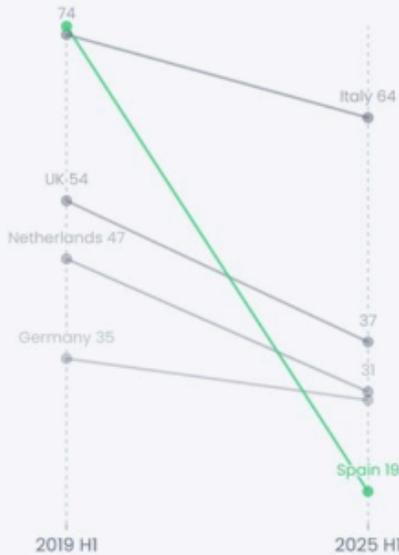
Platts

S&P Global Energy

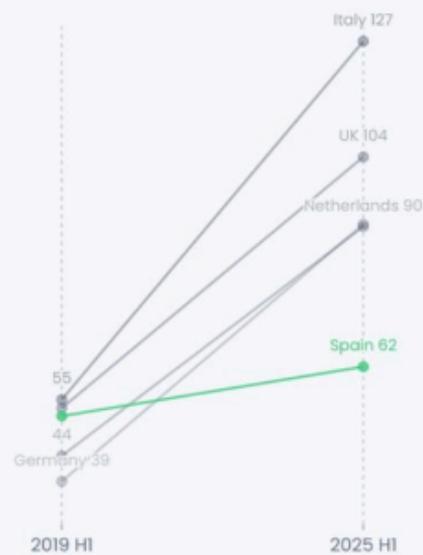
Source: S&P Global Energy
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Spain curbed the influence of expensive gas and coal power, becoming one of the cheapest electricity markets in EU+UK

Fossil influence on electricity price (% hours)



Average wholesale electricity price (€/MWh)



Source: [ENTSOE](#), [LCCC](#), [Montel](#), BFF • Fossil influence measured by % hours when electricity price is above the cost of gas power.

Top 5 countries in EU+UK by installed gas generation capacity.



Rapid solar and wind growth strengthens Spain's position as a low-fossil power leader

Share of electricity demand in H1 2019 → H1 2025 (%)

Top five EU+UK countries by installed gas generation capacity

Generator ● Solar and wind ● Fossil



Source: [Monthly electricity data](#), EMBER

