

Annex E

Energy and the environment

Carbon dioxide emissions

E.1 Provisional 2012 results for UK Greenhouse Gas emissions and progress towards targets were published on 28 March 2013. A copy of the statistical press release and associated data tables are available on the DECC section of the gov.uk website at:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/provisional-uk-emissions-estimates

Oil pollution, oil spills and gas flaring

E.2 The amounts of oil spilled around the coasts of the United Kingdom and offshore (North Sea) are small in relation to total oil production, with the amounts discharged on drill cuttings, and with produced water generally much larger than from offshore installation spills. The total amount of oil spilled offshore during 2012 was 40 tonnes.

E.3 The number of oil spills recorded dropped from 275 in 2002 to 248 in 2012. Of those reported in 2012, 240 were for spills of less than 1 tonne.

E.4 The Offshore Petroleum Activities (Oil Pollution Prevention and Control) Regulations 2005 (OPPC) came into effect in August 2005. Under OPPC installations a granted a permit for activities discharging oil-contaminated water to sea, but the oil content must not exceed 30 milligrams per litre. The average content of oil in produced water for 2012, for the UKCS as a whole, was 14.6 milligrams per litre compared to 14.3 milligrams per litre in the previous year.

E.5 Under the terms of petroleum production licences, gas may be flared only with the consent of the Secretary of State. Flaring at offshore installations in 2012 was estimated to be 2.57 million cubic metres of gas per day, 13 per cent lower than in 2011 and broadly in line with the fall in production. In 2012 gas flared was equivalent to about 2 per cent of UK production.

Data sources

E.6 Figures for the total number of oil spills reported are collected by the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea Annual Surveys of Oil Pollution around the Coasts of the United Kingdom.

E.7 Further information on oil spills and discharges is available on the DECC oil and gas website at www.gov.uk/oil-and-gas-uk-field-data.

Contact:

Nilesh Gorsia (Emissions statistics)
Climatechange.Statistics@decc.gsi.gov.uk
0300 068 2948

Clive Evans (Oil spills and gas flaring)
clive.evans@decc.gsi.gov.uk
0300 068 5040