



Newsround

June 2026

8 May – Independent: Fires break out in exclusion zone around Chernobyl nuclear plant. Russia has said it is carrying out enhanced radiation monitoring after fires broke out in the exclusion zone around the Chernobyl nuclear power plant on Friday. The country's national public health agency said that enhanced radiation monitoring was being conducted and the situation was now “stable”.

[Fires break out in exclusion zone around Chernobyl nuclear plant | The Independent](#)

11 May – Oil Price: Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) are still unlikely to drive the energy transition because renewables, batteries, and grid flexibility attract far more investment, scale faster, and generate quicker returns. The main barrier is no longer just technology or timelines, but economics. SMRs may find niche uses in industrial clusters or remote grids, but offshore wind, solar, storage, and transmission upgrades are already delivering emissions cuts and energy security today.

[SMRs Aren't Losing on Technology. They're Losing on Economics | OilPrice.com](#)

12 May - Policy Brief (accessed): Steve Thomas: The wrong questions, the wrong team, the wrong answers. The UK government's 2025 Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce (Fingleton Review), established to cut "red tape" blocking nuclear expansion, is fundamentally misconceived. Historical evidence shows that failed nuclear projects collapsed due to financial risk, not regulatory failure. The Taskforce lacked expertise in radiation science, environment, and economics, its recommendations threaten regulator independence, and its reforms will consume government resources without delivering new capacity before the mid-2040s.

12 May – Financial Post: Electricite de France SA (EdeF) is working with an adviser to sell its renewable energy assets in China as the French state-owned utility refocuses on European nuclear power projects, people familiar with the matter said. EDF's wind and solar assets in China could fetch more than \$500 million, some of the people said, who asked not to be identified discussing confidential information. The company is sounding out potential interest from bidders including Chinese firms, but the sale is in its early stages and there's no certainty the process will lead to a deal, the people said.

13 May - Building, Design & Construction: PERI UK has revealed the engineering behind one of the Hinkley Point C (HPC) project's most demanding phases: the formation of the geometrically complex reactor domes. Faced with the challenge of pouring concrete for structures that curve in multiple directions – without the ability to use traditional through-ties – PERI UK engineers developed a bespoke, non-standard solution. The system allowed for the successful completion of the Unit 1 inner dome in late 2025 and has significantly accelerated works on the Unit 2 outer dome, where the entire platform solution was installed in under 14 days.

[PERI UK delivers bespoke formwork solution for Hinkley Point C reactor domes](#)

14 May – FT: The risk of relying on EDF to deliver Europe's nuclear renaissance. The group needs to cut costs and rejuvenate its reactor-building expertise. In mid-March, France's President Emmanuel Macron visited Penly in Normandy, the site of two nuclear reactors due to start generating electricity from 2038. Donning a hi-vis coat and a white helmet, he hailed the “works of the century”, saying France would “do for its children what our parents did for us”. Some 225km to the west, another nuclear power development demonstrates how enormous that undertaking will be. Last December, the Flamanville 3 reactor reached full power, 12 years after its scheduled start-up date and costing seven times its original budget. New reactors in the UK (HPC!) have also been beset by delays and budget increases.

15 May – Notes on Growth: Sam Dumitriu: Natural England (NE) is a threat to Britain's energy security. Our fears have been confirmed. Natural England have decided that the £700m or so spent by EDF protecting fish affected by HPC wasn't enough. It appears that in their role as a Statutory Consultee, NE will advise the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), not to grant the nuclear power plant a water discharge permit. Unless NE changes its position, HPC will miss its 2030 switch-on date.

[Natural England is a threat to Britain's energy security](#)

15 May – Telegraph: One of Labour's biggest donors has backed Sir Keir Starmer and promised to bankroll the Prime Minister in any leadership battle. Dale Vince, a green energy millionaire (and Stop Hinkley Patron!), told The Telegraph that a looming Labour leadership fight was a "terrible distraction" engineered by "politicians being opportunistic". He said he still hoped a contest could be avoided but pledged to fund Sir Keir's re-election campaign as Labour leader if it came to it.

15 May – Press & Journal: Plans for a 70-turbine wind farm off the coast of Fraserburgh are approved as bosses hail job boom. The project is said to create 50 permanent jobs in Aberdeenshire and as many as 2,900 across Scotland as its built. Buchan Offshore Wind Ltd, operated from Glasgow with French and Belgian connections, has been granted permission in principle to begin building facilities near Rattray Head.

[Fraserburgh wind farm plans approved by Aberdeenshire Council](#)

18 May – Mirror: Danger at Europe's largest nuclear plant 'near point of no return' after deadly attack. The Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in Ukraine was targeted again last week, with continual concern over its safety since the start of the war with Russia in 2022. Safety at Europe's biggest nuclear power plant is "rapidly deteriorating", Russia's nuclear energy chief has warned.

[Danger at Europe's largest nuclear plant 'near point of no return' after deadly attack - The Mirror](#)

18 May – Daily Mail: The first attack targeting an Arab nuclear site has sent a symbolic warning to the United Arab Emirates and its allies, even as Iran and the US remain in negotiations to end the Middle East war, analysts say. An unclaimed drone struck an electrical generator on Sunday near the Arab world's first nuclear power plant in Barakah in the emirate of Abu Dhabi, triggering a fire but causing no injuries nor radiation leak.

[First attack on Arab nuclear site sends warning to... | Daily Mail Online](#)

20 May – National Audit Office (NAO): Government adopts novel finance structure for Sizewell C (SZC) and will need to monitor risks closely. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) successfully reached a deal with EDF and other investors to construct and operate SZC. DESNZ estimates SZC net benefits of up to £18 billion over the site's operational life. But, to help fund construction, electricity bills for the typical household could rise up to £19 a year by the time it opens from 2039. Sharing risk between the investors and taxpayers and consumers appears to have reduced the cost of financing SZC, but the rewards for investors still appear high. Investor financial returns will cost consumers over £4 billion but will be justified if they help the project to cut construction costs and speed up delivery times. DESNZ's delivery model for SZC places more risks on taxpayers and consumers than other electricity projects.

[Government adopts novel finance structure for Sizewell C and will need to monitor risks closely - NAO press release](#)

20 May – FT: Power from SZC will be more expensive than HPC, says UK watchdog. The NAO report says consumers will pay more for energy from the Suffolk project compared to its Somerset counterpart. Electricity from SZC is set to be more expensive than power from HPC, even though the Suffolk plant is cheaper to build, Britain's public spending watchdog has said. SZC is on course to cost about 22% less than HPC. But HPC has contracted to sell its electricity at a fixed price, limiting the cost to end users because developer EDF has to absorb any cost overruns. A NAO report estimates that if construction costs are in line with forecasts of £38bn-£48bn, electricity from SZC will cost between £131-£155 per megawatt hour (MWh) in 2024-2025 prices. This compares to £129 per MWh for electricity from HPC.

25 May – Guardian: Ministers were urged to act as households in Great Britain face energy bill ‘anxiety’. Under the government’s price cap, typical gas and electricity bills are forecast to rise by £209 from this summer. Ministers face growing calls to cut utility bills as millions of households in Great Britain face energy cost “anxiety,” with gas and electricity costs forecast to rise to almost £1,900 from this summer. The typical dual-fuel bill is expected to climb by nearly 13% under the government’s energy price cap, adding £209 a year to household costs.

[Ministers urged to act as households in Great Britain face energy bill ‘anxiety’ | Energy bills | The Guardian](#)

26 May – West Somerset Free Press (WSFP): The positive impact of HPC on people and the economy has been documented in a new report. The HPC Socio-economic and Environmental Impact Report 2026 shows its three local training centres, operated in partnership with the UCS College Group, have given 19,500 people the skills they need to be part of the nuclear power industry. Nearly 70 per cent of the 1,740 apprentices trained at HPC were from the Westcountry, while others included youngsters from Suffolk who have learned skills they can take to SZC, the twin nuclear project in the East of England. The number of apprentices trained easily topped the station’s target of 1,000.

[Community and economic benefits of Hinkley Point C mapped in new report | West Somerset Free Press](#)

27 May – Spectator: Meet the ‘anti-Gretas’: the women celebrating nuclear energy. A group of female activists are optimistic that the planet can be saved. And why wouldn't they be? Over the course of their lives, Americans have an average carbon footprint of 1,200 tonnes of CO₂. Paris Ortiz-Wines, a young woman from San Francisco, has already cancelled hers out. She could hop on a flight every week for the rest of her life, eat ribeyes at every meal and sip almond milk all day long, and still be in the clear. Back in 2021, Ortiz-Wines played a key role in the campaign that stopped the closure of California's only nuclear power plant, Diablo Canyon. This has already saved more than 30 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions.

29 May – Drill or Drop: Nearly twice as many Reform UK voters would back a solar farm in their area than support fracking, according to a new poll published today. The findings, for the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit, are at odds with Reform’s national support for fracking. The poll found that 43% of people who planned to vote Reform UK in this month’s local elections said they would back a solar farm as the best way to create energy locally. This compared with 23% who said they would support fracking.

1 June – BBC: A second nuclear reactor vessel has been lifted into place as work continues at Britain's largest nuclear power station. EDF, which is building HPC, said the 500-tonne cylinder will now be installed inside the reactor building. It said the reactor was lifted into place on 29 May using the world's largest crane, and added the building the reactor is being housed in is being built about 30% faster than the first reactor. The estimated cost of the project has risen to £46bn - in 2024 prices - from the £18bn predicted in 2017 at 2016 prices.

[Hinkley Point C's 500-tonne nuclear reactor lifted into place - BBC News](#)

4 June – Construction News (CN): EDF has told around 2,000 Mechanical, Electrical & Heating (MEH) workers to stay away from the HPC construction site until next Monday (8 June) after they downed tools in a dispute over shift patterns and other grievances, CN understands. The client for the £46bn Somerset nuclear project suspended the passes of workers from the MEH Alliance who took part in a sit-down protest on Tuesday (2 June). It is understood that operatives refused to undertake scheduled tasks on site and instead sat down for long periods in areas including the canteen and changing rooms. The workers are believed to be unhappy with a proposed change to shift patterns being introduced in July that will see them on duty for 10 days in a row every fortnight.

[Up to 2,000 workers temporarily kicked off Hinkley Point C site after protest | Construction News](#)

6 June – WSFP: A large early morning police presence was needed at HPC as tempers flared while hundreds of workers were locked out of the site during unofficial industrial action. The dispute arose after claims a dangerous crane lift on the nuclear power station construction site has put workers at risk. MEH Alliance workers, who are delivering HPC's mechanical, electrical, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning installations, staged protest sit-downs in canteens. The site's management then withdrew access rights for the workers ‘to avoid any further

disruption, limit impacts to other HPC team members, and allow time for discussions'.

[Industrial dispute on Hinkley C site sees large police presence | West Somerset Free Press](#)

7 June – FT: A Russian drone hit a storage site for spent nuclear fuel near the Chernobyl power plant on Sunday, the latest in a series of incidents that have raised fears of a nuclear incident as the Ukraine war drags on. Ukraine's state nuclear company Energoatom said the drone hit the reception area of a heavily secured facility overnight, triggering a fire that was quickly extinguished. No casualties were recorded while radiation levels remained “within normal limits”, the company said.

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley June 2026