

Power stations opted in and out of the Large Combustion Plants Directive

The EU's Large Combustion Plants Directive (LCPD) sets limits on emissions of pollutants, including SO₂, NO_x and particulates, which can affect air quality. Large combustion plants must comply with these limits from 1 January 2008 or can opt out, meaning that they may run for a maximum of 20,000 hours and must close by 31 December 2015 at the latest. About a third of the UK's coal-fired power stations and all of its large oil-fired plants have opted out of the LCPD. The remainder of the UK's coal-fired power stations have fitted Flue Gas Desulphurisation (FGD) equipment to ensure that they comply with the SO₂ limits.

Opted in (coal)		
Power station	Operator	Capacity (GW)
Aberthaw	RWE npower	1.5
Cottam	EDF Energy	2.0
Drax	Drax Power	4.0
Eggborough	British Energy	2.0
Ferrybridge	Scottish and Southern Energy	1.0
Fiddler's Ferry	Scottish and Southern Energy	2.0
Kilroot	AES	0.5
Longannet	ScottishPower	2.3
Ratcliffe	E.ON UK	2.0
Rugeley	International Power	1.0
Uskmouth	Scottish and Southern Energy	0.4
West Burton	EDF Energy	2.0
Total		20.7

Opted out (coal & oil)		
Power station	Operator	Capacity (GW)
Coal		
Cockenzie	ScottishPower	1.2
Didcot A	RWE npower	2.0
Ferrybridge	Scottish and Southern Energy	1.0
Ironbridge	E.ON UK	1.0
Kingsnorth	E.ON UK	2.0
Tilbury	RWE npower	1.1
Oil		
Fawley	RWE npower	1.0
Grain	E.ON UK	1.4
Littlebrook	RWE npower	1.1
Total		11.8