

WIND AND SOLAR ENERGY REGULATION IN NIGERIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM: LESSONS TO BE LEARNT

AINA OLUTOLA OYEWOLE PhD

aina.olutola@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

This study examined the extant energy laws in Nigeria and the United Kingdom to suggest lessons that can be learnt from the legal framework for wind and solar energy in the United Kingdom. A qualitative methodology was adopted in this research, utilizing a doctrinal approach and comparative content analysis. The data gathered for the doctrinal and comparative content analysis include primary sources of energy laws in Nigeria and the UK. The study found that wind and solar energy have been properly regulated in the UK for electricity generation. Recommendations were drawn from the energy laws on wind and solar energy in the UK to suggest ways of improving wind and solar energy systems in Nigeria to support the electricity supply. It was concluded that vital lessons learnt from the UK can be utilized in Nigeria to build a viable structure for electricity supply from wind and solar energy sources.

Keywords: Energy law, Electricity supply, Legal framework, Solar energy, Wind energy.

1. Introduction

Nigeria is among the comity of nations that have integrated the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations into its national policy.¹ Part of the objectives of the United Nations under this sustainable goal is to facilitate affordable and clean energy and climate action.² Given this goal, Nigeria, as a member state of the United Nations, has begun discussions and policy redesign to align its energy policy and decisions around these objectives.³

¹ United Nations Nigeria, 'Common Country Analysis' <[https://nigeria.un.org/sites/default/files/202207/Common Country Analysis 2022_Nigeria.pdf](https://nigeria.un.org/sites/default/files/202207/Common%20Country%20Analysis%202022_Nigeria.pdf)> accessed 10 July 2026.

² *ibid.*

³ *ibid.*

Additionally, Nigeria is a signatory state to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of 1998 (Kyoto Protocol).⁴ As part of the objectives of the United Nations under the protocol, it seeks to ensure the removal or drastic reduction of all forms of emissions caused by greenhouse gases, which are depleting the environment.⁵

The current state of clean energy in Nigeria does not reflect its commitments to the international agenda on clean energy. Presently, the energy sector in Nigeria is dominated by thermal (73.45%) and 26.55% of hydropower generation for electricity supply and consumption.⁶ Thermal power generation has been said to contribute 60% of Oxides of Sulphur (SO₂), 20% of Oxides of Nitrogen (NO₂), 25% of man-made mercury, and carbon dioxide above 30% to the environment globally.⁷ Non-renewable sources are harmful to human beings and the environment.⁸ The emission level from non-renewable energy sources in Nigeria is high and the bulk of this emission comes from the use of non-renewable energy sources for electricity generation.⁹

The Nigerian government, in line with global objectives on the environment, is currently making efforts to attain a reputable standard of the energy mix that will involve electricity generation through more renewable energy sources to drive its economy and social life.¹⁰ This drive is, however, not achievable without a proper policy framework on the generation, distribution, and consumption of electricity through renewable energy sources which will in turn boost energy security in Nigeria.

Renewable energy generation is presently a growing development in Nigeria, but nonrenewable energy sources, that is, fossil fuel and gas currently account for the largest source of energy generation.¹¹ This development has made power generation in Nigeria relatively expensive and has left the country in deficit in the area of sustainable development due to the poor energy situation and poor access to cheap and clean energy.¹² Solar and wind sources

⁴ Agaptus Nwozor, et al, 'Transition to Green Energy and Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Prospective and Evaluative Analysis' (2021) 665 IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science 1.

⁵ *ibid.*

⁶ 'Nigeria-Electricity and Power System' <<https://www.trade.gov/country-commercial-guides/nigeriaelectricity-and-power-systems>> accessed 10 July 2026.

⁷ Frederica Perera, 'Pollution from Fossil-Fuel Combustion is the leading Environmental threat to Global Pediatric Health and Equity: Solutions Exist' (2018) 15 IJERPH 16.

⁸ *ibid.*

⁹ Adeyemi A Ogundipe, Chiamaka Okwara and Oluwatomisin M Ogundipe, 'CO2 Emissions and Environmental Implications in Nigeria' (2020) 10 International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy 317.

¹⁰ *ibid.*

¹¹ Ebuwa Elisabeth Eweka, et al, 'Energy Landscape and Renewable Energy Resources in Nigeria: A Review' (2022) 15 Energies 5514. ¹² *ibid.*

are among the most available, cheap, and clean sources of energy for electricity generation in Nigeria.

To build a strong and viable renewable energy mechanism for power generation in Nigeria, a sound legal framework is required for its sustainability. The lack of a comprehensive legal framework for wind and solar energy in Nigeria has greatly impaired their development and regulation for a viable energy mix. Therefore, this study seeks to examine further legal frameworks that can be adopted in Nigeria to boost the use of Solar and Wind energy for electricity generation. The study will also, in line with international standards, propose legal frameworks or policies required for the generation, distribution, and consumption of power generated from solar and wind energy in Nigeria.

1.0 The Current State of Wind and Solar Energy Development in Nigeria

The Electricity Act 2023 repealed¹² the Electric Power Sector Reform Act of 2005¹³. Following this development, the Electricity Act 2023 is now the principal legislation that regulates electricity in Nigeria. This legislation regulates the power sector in Nigeria and also provides for power generation, transmission, distribution, trading, and supply. By this legislation, performance standards in the power sector are enforced. The electricity tariff is regulated, and the rights of electricity consumers are protected. In addition, licensing requirements and approvals of operators in the power sector are coordinated by the Act.

The Electricity Act 2023 sought to create a viable market and policy framework that would break the monopoly in the power sector and attract private investors for electricity generation and consumption in Nigeria through renewable energy sources¹⁵ and other sources. The Act made general provisions for renewable energy, but has no specific provision for the use and regulation of solar and wind energy for electricity generation, distribution, and consumption in Nigeria through the national grid.

The National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP) is another effort of the inter-ministerial committee in Nigeria to develop a National Policy on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Nigeria. The policy was approved by the Nigerian Federal Executive Council in the year 2015 for Economic Development, Rural Electrification planning, and the implementation of Millennium Development Goals.

¹² The Explanatory Memorandum Electricity Act 2023.

¹³ Electricity Act 2023, CAP E7, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004. ¹⁵ Electricity Act 2023, Part XVII, ss 164-170.

The policy provided action plans for the regulations of renewable energy in Nigeria through specific policy targets. According to the policy, the productive use of solar energy through efficient and innovative technologies like photovoltaic, concentrated solar panels for power generation, and solar thermal is realistic in Nigeria. The policy also made provision for a legal framework to facilitate the development of solar and wind energy storage facilities and technologies with mandatory support for them through relevant programs. The NREEEP made provision for the development of wind and solar energy for electricity generation in Nigeria, but the provisions of the policy are not sufficient in light of energy poverty in Nigeria and the growing demand for electricity generation from wind and solar energy sources.

Additionally, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended) recognized only hydroelectric power generated through the dam process as the only source of renewable energy in the power sector.¹⁴ The amended constitution now allows the 36 States in the Federal Republic of Nigeria to independently generate, transmit, and distribute electricity in areas covered by the national grid without interference from the federal government.¹⁷ Lagos State is the only state in Nigeria that has made efforts to draw up an electricity policy. However, the said policy recognized gas installations mainly as the source of power generation. The policy has no specific provision for the integration of wind and solar energy sources for electricity generation in Nigeria. In light of this development, the various states in Nigeria do not have a legal framework for the integration of solar and wind energy for electricity generation.

Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, during the exhibition of the Nigeria International Energy Summit, held in April 2023 at the International Conference Centre, Abuja, emphasized the importance of developing all natural resources, including natural gas, solar, and biofuels in Nigeria.¹⁵ He further opined that Nigeria can leverage its renewable energy potential to improve its economic and social life.¹⁹ Much cannot be achieved in this regard if the laws in Nigeria are not strengthened and improved upon to support the integration of renewable electricity into the energy mix in Nigeria. Certainty of the law is one of the values for developing a legal subject in any nation.

¹⁴ Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), Part II Concurrent List item 13 (c).¹⁷ Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (As Amended), Part II, s 14 (a-c), 2nd Schedule; Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (Fifth Alteration) Act (No.17), 2023.

¹⁵ Cyril Okonkwo, 'VP Osinbajo urges Transition to Sustainable Energy' <<https://von.gov.ng/vp-osinbajourges-transition-to-sustainable-energy/>> accessed 9 July 2026. ¹⁹ *ibid*.

2.0 Overview of the Legal Framework for Solar and Wind Energy Integration in the United Kingdom

The electricity system in the UK has been in operation for an estimated 140 years.¹⁶ The Electricity Act 1989 was a major legislative instrument that provided a credible framework for renewable energy regulation, despite its original focus on the traditional electricity sector. Although wind and solar technologies were relatively undeveloped in 1989 compared to other forms of conventional energy generation, the regulatory principles stemming from the Act have guided the evolution of the energy sector toward cleaner, renewable sources. Essentially, the Act enabled market liberalisation, licensing, and regulatory stability, which created an adaptable framework for policy improvements. One of the fundamental innovations of the Act was the establishment of a licensing regime for electricity generation, supply, distribution,²¹ and a competitive market environment. With this development, criteria and process are set under the act for obtaining a generation and supply licence.²² This fostered competition in the electricity market and paved the way for innovative energy producers willing to invest in renewable energy technologies, which promoted sources such as wind and solar power. As the UK transitions towards a cleaner energy future, the principles enshrined in the Act remain relevant in the UK electricity sector.

The existing legal framework for solar and wind renewable energy sources in the United Kingdom consists of primary and secondary legislation. The primary legislation consists of the Energy Act 2013, the Climate Change Act 2008, the Planning Act 2008, and the Infrastructure Act 2015. The secondary legislations also include the Renewables Obligation Scheme, Feed-in Tariffs Scheme, and the Contract for Difference Scheme. The secondary legislation was made to improve and support electricity generation from renewable sources in the United Kingdom.

2.0.1 The Climate Change Act, 2008

The United Kingdom Climate Change Act was enacted in November 2008 to create a legally binding goal of reducing the UK's greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.¹⁷ The Act introduced the carbon budgets which are interim emissions reduction milestones across five-year

¹⁶ Jinqi Liu, Jihong Wang and Joel Cardinal, 'Evolution and Reform of UK Electricity Market' (2022) 161 *Renewable and Sustainable Energy Reviews* 112317. ²¹ Electricity Act 1989, s 6 (a & b) and 10. ²² Electricity Act 1989, s 8 and 9.

¹⁷ *ibid* s 1 (1) Climate Change Act 2008.

intervals aimed at meeting the target of net zero by 2050.¹⁸ The main body in charge of the implementation of the provisions of the Act is the Climate Change Committee. The Committee is also an independent statutory advisor to the United Kingdom Government.²⁵

The Committee set up the first three carbon budgets in 2008 which covered the periods of 2008 to 2023. The fourth carbon budget which was set in 2011 covers the period of 2023 to 2027¹⁹ while the fifth carbon budget covers the period of 2028 to 2032 and the sixth carbon budget will cover 2033 to 2037.²⁰

The Secretary of State is saddled with the responsibility of monitoring the United Kingdom's progress concerning reducing emissions and climate change risk adaptation.²¹ The Committee produces reports on the United Kingdom's progress in emission reduction yearly while the report on climate change risk adaptation is published biannually.²² The Secretary of State and the Committee on Climate Change must respectively take into account energy policy and the impact of their decision on energy supplies including the carbon and energy intensity of the economy before coming to any decision or considering any advice.²³

As soon as the carbon budget is drawn for a budgetary period, the Secretary of State under the Act is required to present the budget to the Parliament.²⁴ The budget is expected to contain a report setting out an indicative annual range for the net UK carbon account.³² Requisite proposals and policies must be made and drawn up by the Secretary of State to facilitate substantial compliance with the carbon budgets set under the Act ²⁵

2.0.2 Planning Act, 2008

The Planning Act was enacted in the United Kingdom to speed up the process of obtaining consent for major infrastructural projects, part of which includes installation of the electric lines above ground and the construction or extension of a generating station²⁶ which are

¹⁸ Section 4 *ibid.* ²⁵

Section 3 *ibid.*

¹⁹ Gov.UK, 'Carbon Budgets' <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/carbon-budgets> accessed 9 July, 2026.

²⁰ *ibid.*

²¹ Climate Change Act 2008, CAP 27, s 14 (1).

²² *ibid.*

²³ *ibid* s 10 (1 and 2f).

²⁴ *ibid* s 12. ³²

ibid.

²⁵ *ibid* s 13.

²⁶ *ibid* s 14 (1).

designated as Nationally Significant Infrastructural Projects.²⁷ The Infrastructure Planning Commission is empowered by the Act to approve and give consent to Major infrastructural projects through the Development Consent Orders provided for under the Act.²⁸ The Secretary of State may, by order, add a new energy project or other specified projects.²⁹ Additionally, he may vary or remove an existing type of project or amend, repeal, and make further provisions for new projects.³⁰

The Localism Act 2011 amended some portions of the Planning Act, and following this amendment, the Powers of the Infrastructure Planning Commission have now been transferred to the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit of the Planning Inspectorate and final decision-making power is now vested in the Secretary of State.³¹

2.0.3 The Energy Act 2013

The Energy Act³² received Royal Assent on 18th December 2013. The Act provided a legal framework for setting a decarbonisation target range and ancillary obligations connected to it. Additionally, the Act made provisions for ways of reforming the electricity market to promote the use of low-carbon electricity.³³ To achieve this objective, the Secretary of State is required under the Act to set a decarbonisation target range every year and ensure that the carbon intensity from electricity generated each year in the United Kingdom is not beyond the permitted range.³⁴ The Energy Act 2013 introduced two major mechanisms in the area of electricity generation in the United Kingdom. These mechanisms include the Contract for Difference Scheme³⁵ and the Capacity Market scheme.³⁶

The Contract for Difference Scheme (CfD) is a scheme provided for under the Act to promote lowcarbon electricity generation. The scheme is implemented by allowing for a longer duration of the contract between a Contract of Difference counterparty, also known as a Low Carbon Contracts Company (LCCC), and an eligible generator. The longer duration of the contract is envisaged to create stable and predictable pricing for electricity, which in the end should serve as incentives for entities willing to invest in low-carbon energy generation. The CfD is designed to fill the gap between the wholesale

²⁷ *ibid.*

²⁸ *ibid* Part 5, s 37-40.

²⁹ *ibid* s 14(6). Other projects like transport; water; waste water; waste.

³⁰ *ibid.*

³¹ *ibid* s 132.

³² Energy Act 2013, CAP 32.

³³ Energy Act 2013, Explanatory Note.

³⁴ Energy Act 2013, s 1 (1).

³⁵ *ibid* CAP 2, s 6.

³⁶ *ibid* CAP 3, s 27.

market price and the generator's market price. The strike price is determined through the auction process and once set, will usually not fluctuate throughout the life of the contract, which is

currently set at 15 years.³⁷ The Generators during this period will consistently receive the strike price for each unit of electricity produced.³⁸

Setting the strike price is done by allowing renewable electricity generators to submit a sealed bid containing the amount they desire to be paid for each kilowatt of electricity generated. Sequel to the bid, the Department of Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy sets up an administrative maximum strike price upon which a CfD contract is based.³⁹ The Department then runs the auctions and ranks the bids by unit price. Bids are accepted by the department based on the best bids up to the point where the budget or capacity caps are reached. The sealed bid for the last project accepted sets the strike price that all successful bidders receive, as long as they are in the same year/technology "pot".⁴⁰ Though the strike price subsists for 15 years, subject to the validity of the contract, the contract may however, be adjusted or modified subject to the provisions of the Energy Act and agreement of the parties to the contract.⁴¹

The Capacity Market is a system that allows the Secretary of State to take decisive initiatives by providing the required regulations to tackle the shortage of electricity to consumers in Great Britain.⁴² To avert a shortage of electricity, a forecast is usually made of future peak electricity demand. The outcome of this assessment is then used to determine the level of reliable capacity of electricity that will be needed to guarantee the security of the electricity supply shortly. The powers to make market capacity can only be exercised by the Secretary of State after consultations with persons who are holders of a licence to supply electricity or who are the capacity providers or stakeholders.⁴³

2.0.4 Infrastructure Act 2015

The Infrastructure Act became law in the United Kingdom on the 12th of February, 2015. The Secretary of State under the Act is empowered to make regulations that enable individual residents in a community to invest in a renewable power generation facility located within the community (if it is a land-based facility) and an adjacent community (if it is an offshore facility) at a fair market price and other relating activities thereto.⁴⁴ The right to invest extends to renewable electricity generation facilities located in Great Britain, Waters in or adjacent to

³⁷ Contract Length Analysis for Feed-in Tariff with Contract for Difference, Para 12.

³⁸ *ibid.*

³⁹ *ibid.*

⁴⁰ *ibid.*

⁴¹ Energy Act 2013, s 15 (1-6).

⁴² *ibid* s 27 (1).

⁴³ *ibid* s 40 (7).

⁴⁴ Infrastructure Act 2015, s 38(1).

Great Britain which are between the mean low water mark and the seaward limits of the territorial sea adjacent to Great Britain.⁴⁵ The right does not extend to territorial sea or renewable energy zones within the meaning of Chapter 2 of Part 2 of the Energy Act 2004.⁴⁶ The right to invest in renewable energy facilities under the Act applies only to facilities with a total installed capacity of at least 5 megawatts, or to facilities that are expanded to reach that capacity.⁴⁷ The Secretary of State may make regulations on the choice of entities that could be facility operators and the ownership of facility operators, including the rights, duties, and powers arising from such ownership.⁴⁸⁴⁹

2.0.5 The Renewable Obligation Order 2015

The Renewable Obligation Order 2015⁵⁷ is a statutory initiative of the Secretary of State in the exercise of the powers conferred by the extant electricity laws in the UK and assented to by Parliament.⁵⁰ It has been the major driving mechanism for large-scale renewable energy projects in the UK.⁵¹

Under this Order, individual electricity suppliers in England and Wales are required to meet the renewable energy obligation.⁶⁰ This renewables obligation mandates each designated electricity supplier to provide the Authority, within a fixed time frame, with evidence of supplying a specific megawatt hour of electricity to customers in England and Wales.⁵² The production rate of the specified megawatt hour under the obligation period is calculated and determined by the Secretary of State in line with the provisions of Articles 8 to 12 of the Order.⁵³ Suppliers under the Renewable Obligation are expected to present their Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROCs) report each reporting year to show that they have met their supply obligation. If a supplier fails to present a sufficient number of ROC, a payment penalty, termed the buy-out price for each ROC missed, is levied against such supplier.⁶³

⁴⁵ *ibid* s 38 (7).

⁴⁶ *ibid*.

⁴⁷ Renewables Obligation Order 2015, schedule 6, art 2.

⁴⁸ Infrastructure Act 2015, s 38 (2).

⁴⁹ No. 0000 Electricity, England and Wales. The Renewables Obligation Order 2015.

⁵⁰ Localism Act, ss 32 – 32k; Electricity Act 1989, 32M, (a) (the 1989 Act), European Communities Act 1972 (b), s 2(2) (the 1972 Act) (as read with paragraph 1A of Schedule 2 to the 1972 Act).

⁵¹ Li Jinke, Guy Liu and Shao Jing, ‘Understanding the ROC transfer Payment in the Renewables Obligation with the Recycling Mechanism in the United Kingdom’ (2020) 87 Energy Economics 1. ⁶⁰ Renewables Obligation Order 2015, art 7(1).

⁵² *ibid* art 7(2).

⁵³ *ibid* art 7(3). ⁶³

ibid

An Authority is established under the Renewable Obligation Order to be in charge of maintaining and making available to the public a list of generating stations granted preliminary accreditation.⁵⁴ The Authority is responsible for maintaining and publishing lists of approved and revoked ROCs, total ROC claims, and making these records available to the public.⁵⁵ Upon any valid application, the Authority may grant station accreditation to an operator or an agent over a commissioned generating station.⁵⁶ Renewable Obligation Order made provision for electricity generation using offshore wind turbines, and it forms part of those facilities which the Authority has the power to accredit and administer.⁵⁷ The amount of electricity derived from wind energy is to be stated in each ROC and should be distributed by suppliers to consumers at a fixed range of 2/3a Megawatt-hour.⁵⁸ This provision, however, applies to forms of electricity generated solely from offshore wind turbines, which are considered a part of the first generating station not earlier than 12th July 2006 and no later than 31st March 2010.⁶⁹ The Capacity of an offshore wind turbine may be increased, and new installations may also be commissioned and accredited subject to the approval of the authority and the relevant Articles of the Renewables Obligation Order.⁵⁹

2.0.6 The Feed-in Tariffs Order, 2012 and (Amendment) Order 2017

The Feed-in Tariffs (FIT) Order, 2012 came into force on the 1st of December 2012. An amendment order was made by the Secretary of State amending a few portions of the 2012 Order under the powers conferred on him by sections 43(3)(a) and 104(2) of the Energy Act 2008. The amendment Order was laid before the Parliament on the 10th of February 2017 and it came into force on the 20th of March 2017.

Under the Feed-in Tariffs Order 2012, applications are allowed from suppliers to the Authority for accreditation of an eligible installation involving a qualified low-carbon energy source whose net capacity has been clarified to be more than 50 kilowatts.⁷¹ Renewable energy sources are part of those sources required for the generation of low-carbon energy in the UK. Renewable

⁵⁴ *ibid* art 86(a) and 93 (1).

⁵⁵ *ibid* art 86 (b and c).

⁵⁶ *ibid* art 89 (2).

⁵⁷ *ibid* art 91 (b).

⁵⁸ Feed-in Tariffs Order 2012 and (Amendment) Order 2017, art 38(1). ⁶⁹ *ibid* art 38(2)

⁵⁹ Renewables Obligation Order 2015, arts 91 (9 and 10) and 92(1). ⁷¹ The Feed-in Tariffs Order 2012, art 4(3).

sources under the Energy Act in the UK are referred to as energy sources derived from sources other than fossil fuel or nuclear fuel, but include waste derived from fossil fuel⁶⁰

The FIT scheme is an initiative of the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) which created an obligation for accredited electricity suppliers to make tariff payments for generating and exporting renewable and low-carbon electricity.⁶¹ Installations involving solar photovoltaic (PV) and wind technologies of up to 5MW in the UK can receive FIT payments, provided all eligibility requirements are met.⁶² The Renewables Obligation (RO) under the UK Energy Act is replaced by the FIT scheme as the major support for Solar PV, wind, and other approved renewable energy sources.⁷⁵

In the UK, the FIT scheme is administered by Government-approved FIT Licensees. Known as Mandatory FIT Licensees, these are accredited electricity suppliers with more than 250,000 domestic customers, and their details are recorded in the Central FIT Register (CFR).⁶³ The Central FIT Register is a database of all FIT-accredited installations in the UK.⁶⁴ Between 1st January and 31st March 2023, an additional 41 FIT installations were registered in the UK and this increased the total number of registrations under the FIT scheme to 870,544.⁶⁵ During this period, the Total Installed Capacity (TIC) under the FIT scheme rose to 8.3 MW, bringing the UK's overall FIT capacity to 6,920 MW. In the same timeframe, suppliers claimed £347,267,269 in FIT Export and Generation payments.

There are two main participants under the FIT scheme in the UK. They include the FiT Licences Electricity Suppliers who pay a fixed amount of money to micro and small-scale renewable and Micro Combined Heat and Power (MCHP) generators for electricity generated and exported to the Grid⁶⁶ and FiT generators who are the owners of accredited installations.

⁶⁰ Energy Act 1989, s 32(1).

⁶¹ Ofgem, 'Feed – in – Tariffs: Guidance for Renewable Installations' <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2021-12/Feedin%20Tariffs_Guidance%20for%20renewable%20installations_V16.pdf> accessed 10 July 2026.

⁶² *ibid.*⁷⁵

ibid.

⁶³ 'Licensed Electricity Suppliers' <<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/environmental-and-social-schemes/feed-tariffsfit/feed-tariffs-fit-electricitysuppliers#:~:text=Licensed%20electricity%20suppliers%20with%20over%20250%2C000%20domestic%20customers,do%20so.%20These%20are%20called%20%E2%80%98Voluntary%20FIT%20Licensees%E2%80%99>> accessed 10 July 2026.

⁶⁴ *ibid.*

⁶⁵ 'Feed-in Tariff (FIT): Quarterly Report – Issue 52' <<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/feed-tariff-fitquarterly-report-issue-52>> accessed 10 July 2026.

⁶⁶ Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, 'Feed-in Tariffs and Contract for Difference Schemes and Guarantees of Origin'

The Feed-in Tariffs (Closure, etc.) Order 2018 was made in December 2018 to close down the scheme to new generating capacity from April 1, 2019.⁶⁷ This has ultimately led to the reduction of the total number of installations registered on the scheme. FIT installations and commissioned facilities that were in operation before 1st April 2019 are still being administered and controlled under the FIT system in the UK to date.

To support small-scale renewable energy projects such as household solar installations, the UK has introduced Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) and Contracts for Difference (CfDs). These schemes provide financial incentives and long-term contracts that guarantee revenue for renewable energy producers. In addition, the government has set legally binding targets to cut greenhouse gas emissions and increase the share of renewables in the electricity generation mix. The UK is committed to achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 and is actively phasing out unabated coal power plants.

3.0 Conclusion

Important lessons can be learnt by Nigeria from the renewable energy strategic approaches adopted in the UK to build an efficient Wind and Solar energy structure for power generation. Prominent among the approaches adopted for Wind and Solar energy integration for power development in the UK is policy and statutory innovation. Those innovations are already identified in this study, and they are considerably dynamic. They can be modified and considered along with other extant Wind and Solar energy regulations in Nigeria to develop a viable Wind and Solar energy legal Structure.

4.0 Recommendations

The Renewable Energy Act in the United Kingdom has a comprehensive renewable energy policy framework in place. The British government, following the provisions of the Act, has set out Energy Security strategies to achieve up to 50GW of offshore wind capacity (including 5GW of floating offshore) by 2030 and an increase in the deployment of solar by 2035.⁶⁸ The

⁶⁷ Feed-in Tariffs (Closure, etc.) Order 2018, art 2.

⁶⁸ ‘Policy Paper British Energy Security strategy’ <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energysecurity-strategy/british-energy-security-strategy#energy-plan-objectives-and-key-measures>> accessed 10 July 2026.

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1070105/fits-cfd-guarantee-origin-consultation.pdf> accessed 10 July 2026.

Contracts for Difference (CfDs) in the UK also implemented CfDs, which provide long-term contracts to renewable energy developers for the sale of electricity at a pre-

agreed price. This has ensured stable revenue for developers and encouraged investment in renewable energy projects.

Additionally, ‘Consultation on policy considerations for future rounds of the Contracts for Difference scheme’ in the UK is a research and development initiative of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy in the year 2023 to address problems incidental to the regime of CFD contracts in the UK. Nigeria's approach to the assessment of data and research on the existing realities of wind and solar resources or potentials has been relatively inadequate, particularly on the part of the government. The limited availability of reliable and up-to-date data on wind and solar resources in Nigeria is a major challenge to policy formulation for wind and solar energy in Nigeria.

A comprehensive policy framework for renewable energy should be supported by efficient pricing of carbon aligned with a sound, purposeful, and clear agenda to net zero. Additionally, the success of renewable energy and a viable energy transition plan in a developing country is dependent on the status of the enabling environment provided for it under its laws. A feasible regulatory framework is the bedrock of an enabling environment, and with it, huge capital can be attracted and deployed on a large scale. Integrating those advanced and innovative provisions provided for under the Renewable Energy laws in the UK is not an impossible task in Nigeria. They should therefore be considered and adopted to build a more robust legal framework for renewable energy in Nigeria. To this end, the following are recommended:

- The Contracts for Difference (CfDs) scheme can be adopted in Nigeria to grow wind and solar energy capacity for electricity generation.
- A proper legal framework or mechanism should be put in place by the government to facilitate reliable and up-to-date data generation and verification on wind and solar resources and their level of viability and integration in each geopolitical zone in Nigeria. This will assist in developing a dynamic policy for wind and solar energy regulation in Nigeria.
- A clear roadmap for the integration of wind and solar as sources of energy in Nigeria should be considered to reduce the social cost of carbon from each geopolitical zone where their level of carbon emission constitutes a threat to the ecosystem. This will provide an

economic incentive and a policy lever to promote renewable energy over fossil fuels in the energy mix in Nigeria.

- A Feed-in Tariffs system can be implemented in Nigeria to accredit electricity suppliers who are capable of deploying or have deployed installations involving a qualified lowcarbon energy source whose net capacity has been clarified to be more than 50 kilowatts or up to 1 megawatt. The tariff payments will serve as compensation for accredited suppliers for both the energy generated and the excesses exported to the national grid.