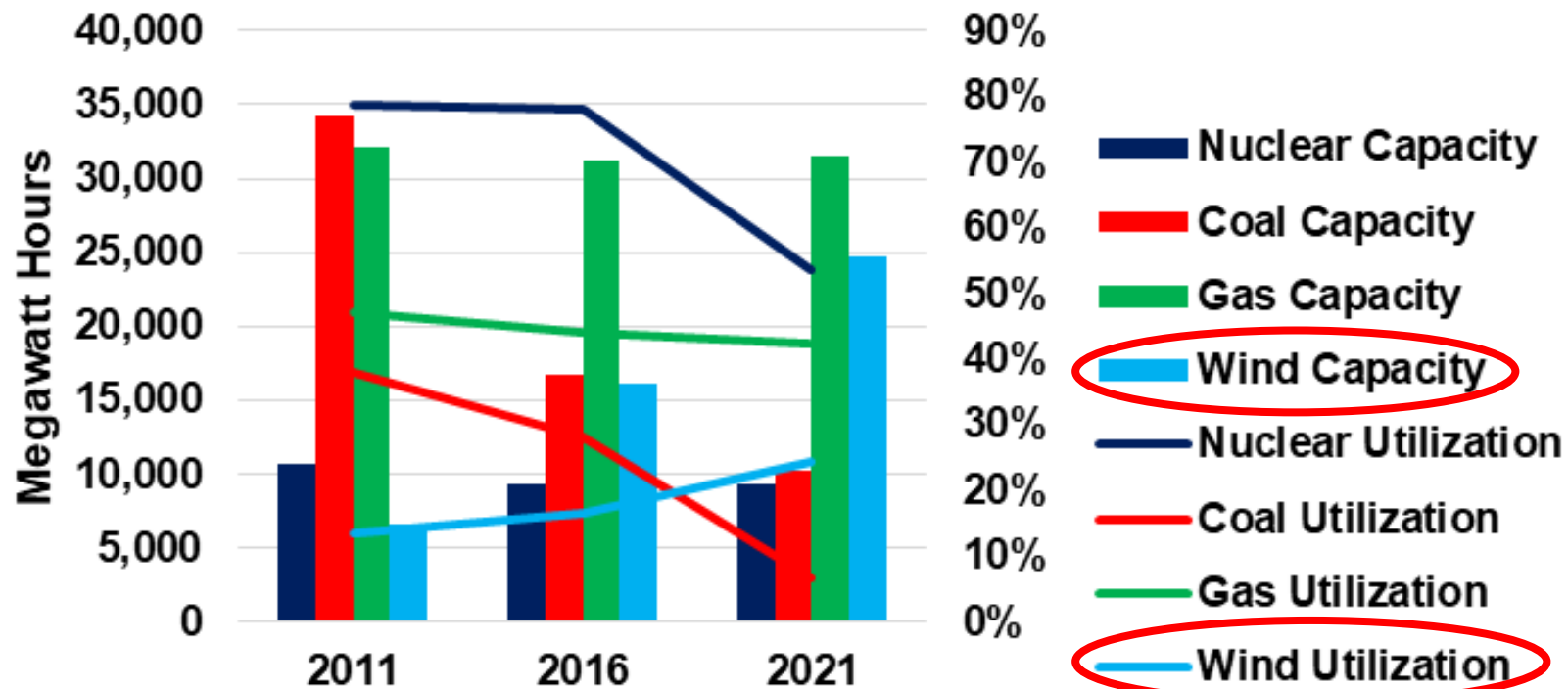


Chart of the Week: **UK Electricity Capacity vs** **Electricity Generation** ***Be Wary of the Headwinds***

Max Pyziur
May 27, 2021
Washington, DC

UK Electricity Generation Capacity (LHS) vs Capacity Utilization (RHS)



Based on January to May Data for each Year

Analysis Based on DUKES & IRENA Data

EPRINC

Despite the aggressive installation of wind generation in the United Kingdom, exceeding that of nuclear and coal, wind power capacity utilization remains low.

Headwinds in the United Kingdom's efforts to displace legacy fossil fuel electricity generation



- The United Kingdom has set out to aggressively displace legacy electricity generation capacity (especially coal) with renewables, in particular wind.
- In the last ten years, coal capacity has declined from 30.2 GWHs to 10.2 GWHs while wind has increased from 6.6 GWHs to 24.7 GWHs. Nuclear and natural gas capacity have declined slightly to 9.2 and 31.5 GWHs, respectively.
- Nevertheless, in this period, wind utilization (generation as a percentage of capacity) has increased somewhat to 24.5%, while natural gas utilization has remained stable at 42% and nuclear declining from 80% to 53%.
- In order to displace significant amounts of natural gas and nuclear generation, installed wind capacity needs to triple assuming prevailing utilization rates.
- This slide deck is available at: <https://eprinc.org/chart-of-the-week/>
- For more information on this chart, please contact Max Pyziur, maxp@eprinc.org