

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP JUNE 2025

HUB UPDATES	LINK
<p>£5m Great British Energy Fund announced</p> <p>A total of £5m of funding nationally will be made available to community groups to develop community energy projects, including £1m for the South West. More information, including a webinar is available on the Hub website.</p>	SWNZH
<p>The Government has announced that the Local Carbon Skills Fund will not run in 2025/26 as it prioritises delivery of existing Heat Decarbonisation Plans for public buildings.</p> <p>The Hub's Public Sector Decarbonisation team can support public sector organisations with the development of strategy stage heat decarbonisation plans and strategic and technical advice on next steps.</p> <p>Breaking news - On 12/06/2025 the government has now announced that they will commit no further investment for the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme beyond currently awarded projects. We will provide more information when we have it.</p>	SWNZH
STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>The Spending Review 2025 has confirmed that the Warm Homes Plan will receive £13.2 billion over the course of the parliament. Further details will be revealed in October.</p> <p>The Spending Review has also confirmed that Great British Energy will receive £8.3 billion, however the £2.5 billion funding announced for Small Modular Reactors will now come from this budget.</p> <p>We will provide more information in a separate briefing document.</p>	HMT
<p>The Great British Energy Act has received Royal Assent, allowing Great British Energy - the new publicly owned energy company - to formally begin operations.</p> <p>The first schools to receive funding for solar panels as part of GBE's first investments have also been announced, including Notre Dame RC School, St Boniface's RC College, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Poole and St Mary's Catholic Primary School, Axminster in the South West.</p> <p>Funding for the national Local Net Zero Hub network was extended earlier this year to support GBE with the identification and development of a pipeline of local energy projects, as well as to support the implementation of the forthcoming Warm Homes Plan.</p>	DESNZ

<p>Ofgem have confirmed the activities that the National Energy System Operator will undertake as Regional Energy Strategic Planner.</p> <p>This will see the development of 11 Regional Energy Strategic Plans which will set out how local energy infrastructure will develop to meet economic growth and energy needs. The area covered by the South West Net Zero Hub is covered by the South West, South East and Central England region.</p> <p>The methodology for the creation of Regional Energy Strategic Plans will be consulted on later this year, with the first plans delivered by the end of 2027.</p> <p>Ofgem has also approved NESO's grid connections reform proposals which prioritise projects which are ready to proceed or which are aligned with local strategic plans.</p> <p>Ofgem has approved a grid code modification that will enable energy projects under 5MW to bypass the transmission connections queue and only be reviewed at a distribution network level.</p>	NESO
<p>Ofgem has also announced plans to review its Guaranteed Standards of Performance for Smart Meters, proposing four new rules which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shorter wait times for smart meter installation appointments, so customers requesting a new meter are offered an appointment within six weeks • Compensation for a failed smart meter installation due to a fault within the supplier's control • Quicker fixes if a customer reports a problem with their smart meter, requiring suppliers to provide a resolution plan within five working days <p>Compensation for smart meters not operating in smart mode if not fixed within 90 days.</p>	Ofgem
<p>The AI Energy Council has held its first meeting. The council is made up of representatives from the energy and technology sectors who will convene to discuss how Artificial Intelligence can be utilised to support the delivery of natural energy goals.</p>	DSIT
CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
<p>The government is seeking views on proposals which would see community benefits become mandatory for low carbon energy infrastructure, and it has become a requirement for developers to offer local communities the option of shared ownership of local projects.</p> <p>The requirements would come into effect in 2027 at the earliest and are separate from proposals in the Planning and Infrastructure Bill for cheaper energy bills for areas hosting new energy infrastructure.</p>	DESNZ

The consultation is open until July 16 th .	
The government is proposing mandating the installation of solar canopies on new outdoor car parks - as well as new Permitted Development Rights for electric vehicle charging infrastructure . The consultation ends on June 18 th ,	DESNZ
The Treasury is seeking views on reforms to the Landfill Tax , designed to encourage the development of a Circular Economy. This consultation ends on July 21st	HMT
RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
Final reports have been published Local Industrial Cluster Plan projects, which saw funding provided for the development plans for the decarbonisation of dispersed industrial clusters, Port of Poole Maritime Industrial Cluster, Solent Cluster and West of England Industrial Cluster.	DESNZ
The government has published findings from a study exploring the impact of extreme heat and heatwaves on UK energy assets, designed to enhance decision-makers' understanding of climate risk to the energy system. The report found that the most vulnerable asset category was power sector networks, and that extreme heat may lead to indirect stress on the electricity system through increased demand for active cooling.	DESNZ
Heat Network Zoning Opportunity Reports have been published for Bristol, Cheltenham and Exeter.	DESNZ
The Royal Town Planning Institute have published a suite of resources designed to help integrate town and energy planning.	RTPI
The IPPR has published a new report setting out recommendations for delivery of the Local Power Plan.	IPPR
The Greater South East Net Zero Hub has produced guidance on how local authorities can support the community energy sector in their area, and on governance models for community energy organisations.	GSENZH