

Policy Briefing July 2025

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1.1 Introduction

There have been several significant policy updates since the last SNWZH newsletter.

These include:

- Spending Review
- Industrial Strategy
- Solar Roadmap
- Onshore Wind Strategy
- Review of Electricity Market Arrangements (REMA)

1.2 Spending Review

The Government published the [2025 Spending Review](#) on June 11th. This sets out planned day-to-day spending totals for all government departments for the years from 2026/27 to 2028/29, and investment spending plans for a further year (from 2026/27 to 2029/30).

The Spending Review confirms the Government's commitment to its [Clean Energy 2030](#) mission, with energy security referenced in relation to economic and national security - and confirms that the government's Clean Energy Industries plan will be published alongside the national Industrial Strategy later this month (see below).

In terms of specific spending commitments, the Spending Review states:

- Capital Spending by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero will rise by 2.6% in the period 2025-26 to 2028-29.
- Great British Energy and Great British Energy - Nuclear will invest more than £8.3 billion over this Parliament in homegrown clean power.
 - £300m of this will support Offshore Wind supply chains, with the aim of "securing manufacturing facilities for critical clean energy supply chains such as floating offshore platforms"
- Up to £27.8bn capital to be invested through the National Wealth Fund, which prioritises investment into the clean energy - as well as digital innovation, advanced manufacturing, and transport.
- £13.2bn funding for the forthcoming Warm Homes Plan.

The review also states:

The government is fully committed to meeting its legally binding carbon budgets and to reaching net zero by 2050, and this SR supports that. The government will set out further details in its Carbon Budget and Growth Delivery Plan in October, including its plans to decarbonise industry.

Warm Homes Plan

The government's Warm Homes Plan will be published by October 2025. The Spending Review states that the Plan's £13.2bn funding settlement will be allocated across schemes that support the rollout of heat pumps, alongside energy efficiency measures and other low-carbon technologies, such as solar and batteries

and sets out that the stated aim of the Plan will be to address high home energy costs by improving energy efficiency and to cut bills by up to £600 for families across the country.

Carbon Capture and Storage

The Spending Review confirms a £9.4bn allocation to Carbon Capture over a four-year period

Transport

The settlement commits £2.6bn to decarbonise transport, including:

- £1.4bn to support uptake of electric vehicles, including vans and heavy goods vehicles.
- £400m for the further rollout of public charging infrastructure.
- Extending the Advanced Fuels Fund to 2029-30 to support the production of sustainable aviation fuel.
- Investing £616m to build and maintain walking and cycling infrastructure.

Climate adaption and the Natural Environment

The review notes that the government is also investing in climate adaptation and the natural environment “to increase the UK’s resilience to the effects of climate change and to protect the ecosystems that underpin the economy and food security” including by:

- Investing £2.7bn a year in sustainable farming and natural recovery until 2028-29.
- Committing £4.bn over three years to build and maintain flood defences.

1.3 Modern Industrial Strategy

The [Modern Industrial Strategy](#) was published by Government on 23 Jun 2025. The Industrial Strategy is a 10-year plan to increase business investment and grow the industries of the future in the UK. The Strategy will make it quicker and easier for business to invest and will provide the certainty and stability needed for long-term investment decisions.

There are 8 priority industries (IS8), including Clean Energy

- Advanced Manufacturing
- **Clean Energy Industries**
- Creative Industries
- Defence
- Digital and Technologies
- Financial Services
- Life Sciences
- Professional and Business Services

Clean Energy is a central part of the strategy, with the strategy pledging to tackle high industrial electricity costs, ensure strategic investment projects receive

timely grid connections, invest in clean energy, and strengthen our connections to the EU energy market.

Local authorities across England have a critical role to play in supporting their area's strengths in the Industrial Strategy's 8 Key Growth Sectors (referred to by the Government as the IS-8). The Government will work with councils to deliver the interventions set out in the Industrial Strategy, from maximising the potential of Industrial Strategy Zones to identifying, developing, and securing the right finance for investible projects in city centres and strategic industrial sites

Free ports, investment zones and enterprise zones are now all under the umbrella of investment zones. These will come with £160 million in funding over 10 years to stimulate growth in key Clean Energy clusters.

Funding set out in the Modern Industrial Strategy includes:

- £500 million Mayoral Recyclable Growth Fund
- Local Innovation Partnerships Fund, which will provide up to £500 million to grow high-potential innovation clusters across the UK

1.3.1 Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan

The Modern Industrial Strategy also included a specific Clean Energy Industries Sector Plan <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/clean-energy-industries-sector-plan>

The Government is targeting at least a doubling of current investment levels across our frontier Clean Energy Industries to over £30 billion per year by 2035

Wind (Onshore, Offshore and Floating Offshore), Nuclear Fission, Fusion Energy, Carbon Capture Usage and Storage (CCUS) including Greenhouse Gas Removals (GGRs), Hydrogen, and Heat Pumps

Solar not in the list but named as a technology that will get continued support

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/the-uks-modern-industrial-strategy-2025>

The document outlines updates and priorities related to local power initiatives, community energy projects, and government support for renewable energy development in the UK, focusing on achieving net zero goals.

1.4 Solar Roadmap [Solar roadmap - GOV.UK](#)

The Solar Roadmap, produced through collaboration with industry, presents a comprehensive strategy and clear plan of action to achieve the significant increase in solar deployment needed to support the delivery of clean power by 2030, as set out in the government's [Clean Power Action Plan](#).

The Solar Roadmap details over 70 actions across a variety of areas including:

- streamlining the grid connection process for solar

- making the solar supply chain resilient, diverse, and sustainable
- demonstrating the government's commitment to eradicate the abhorrent practices of modern slavery and forced labour
- proposals for mandatory community benefit funds for local areas provided by developers, to ensure communities enjoy the benefits of hosting new infrastructure

The Clean Power Action Plan calls for the rapid acceleration of solar deployment, from over 18GW at present to 45-47GW by 2030.

The Solar Roadmap demonstrates how this can be achieved, and how with additional measures to remove barriers to rooftop Solar there is potential for solar in excess of 85GW by 2035.

- **Rooftop Solar** - Government and industry are “determined to unleash a rooftop revolution”.
- **Electricity Networks and Connections Reform**
- **Supply chains and innovation**
- **Skills**
 - Complement the work of OCEJ to help deliver a resilient, highly skilled, well-paid solar workforce.
 - Mapping current training infrastructure for solar in England to tackle the lack of understanding of the training offers available to the sector.
 - Piloting regional careers fairs at colleges across England to make students aware of the breadth and variety of careers in the sector
- **Planning**
 - the UK Government has announced a £46 million package of investment into the planning system to support capacity and capability in local planning authorities.
 - SEUK will work with representatives from the planning profession to review current training provision for the sector and ensure it is fit-for purpose in supporting the delivery of renewables (including solar), including through university degrees.
- **Environment**
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 - Alongside ground mount projects there will be a focus on solar across multifunctional uses of space such as rooftops, car parks and water bodies whilst maintaining planning protections for our best agricultural land.
 - Also maximising benefits and opportunities for integrating solar and farming
- **Community Benefits.**

The government is proposing making it mandatory for developers of low carbon infrastructure (including solar) to provide community benefit funds. (See [Working Paper on Community benefits and shared ownership for low carbon energy infrastructure](#)).

The Solar Roadmap confirms the importance of local and community energy, including the support of the Local Net Zero Hubs programme.

1.5 Onshore Wind

[Onshore wind strategy - GOV.UK](#)

The Onshore Wind Strategy is the result of the Onshore Wind Taskforce. The Government repealed the de-facto ban on onshore wind as one of their first acts in power. This strategy sets out how they will achieve their ambitions of up to 29GW of onshore wind by 2030.

The strategy sets out 40 actions that government and industry will take, including reforms to planning, grid connections, and routes to market, while building the supply chains and skilled workforce we need.

There is clear support for community benefit and community and local ownership of onshore wind, as well as support to Local Authorities

The key actions include:

1. Scoping, planning, and consenting - ambitious new reforms to improve planning system attrition rates and ensure streamlined consenting, including but not limited to:
 - a. Updating planning policy and guidance for onshore wind to ensure that planning decisions are based on up-to-date technical information and evidence.
 - b. Improving data and delivering an enhanced training package, to ensure that site surveying and assessments are more efficient.
 - c. A consultation on permitted development rights to support small-scale deployment and repowering.
2. Networks and systems - commitments reiterating important actions already underway, such as:
 - a. Radical connections reform, to ensure the grid can support low-carbon generation such as onshore wind, and network build is accelerated.
 - b. Delivering the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan, to support a more actively planned approach to energy infrastructure.
3. Communities and public perception - new commitments to further enhance the relationship between onshore wind developers and local community stakeholders, including:
 - a. Embedding best practice principles of engagement into planning guidance.
 - b. Publishing updated Community Benefits Guidance for Onshore Wind in England.
 - c. Delivering regional communications campaigns that provide accurate information on economic investment and development impacts, led by industry.

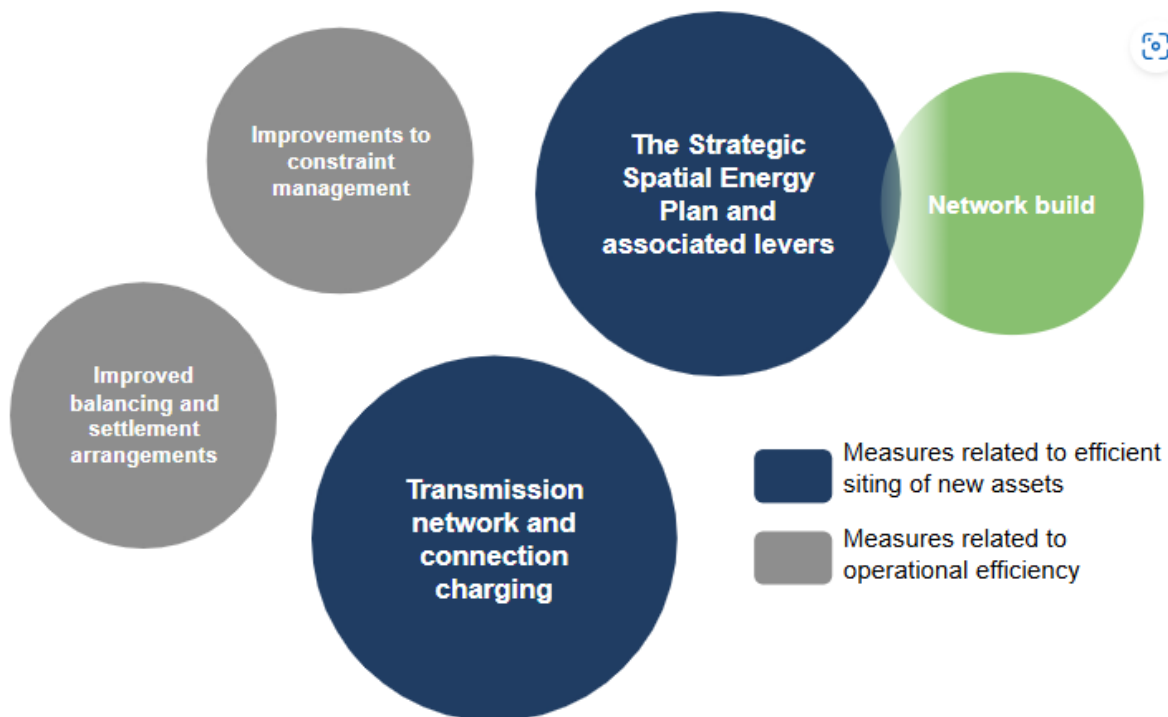
4. Aviation and defence - range of new commitments to tackle onshore wind interference issues with civil and military radar, including but not limited to:
 - a. Time-bound commitments to consult and enforce a revised solution to managing the Eskdalemuir Seismic Array.
 - b. An annual survey to quantify the impact of aviation and defence objections on the onshore wind sector.
 - c. Enhancing the role of the Civil Aviation Authority to act as a mediator in local mitigation processes.
 - d. A programme of trials to test potential solutions to onshore wind turbine interference with Ministry of Defence (MoD) air traffic control radars (including RAF Lossiemouth).
5. Finance and routes to market - considers project routes to market (e.g. the Contracts for Difference Scheme), and delivery challenges projects face related to financing, including commitments to:
 - a. Establish a joint Government/industry subgroup as part of a new Onshore Wind Council, to identify and monitor specific challenges facing projects.
 - b. Consider reforms to the Contracts for Difference Scheme.
6. Supply chains, skills, and the workforce - new commitments to improve the evidence base to underpin future supply chain and skills policy interventions, including:
 - a. Undertaking supply chain research to better understand constraints and opportunities across the onshore wind sector.
 - b. Completing workforce monitoring for the sector, led by the onshore wind industry.

1.6 Review of Electricity Market Arrangements (REMA)

The government has published the findings of the [Review of Electricity Markets Arrangements \(REMA\)](#). The main headlines are that the government will:

- **Retain a single national, GB-wide, wholesale electricity market.** The government therefore does not intend to introduce zonal pricing.
- **Implement an ambitious approach to reformed national pricing, a cohesive package of reforms to improve the effectiveness of our national pricing model.** These will build on include actions already happening through the [Clean Power Action Plan](#).

Figure 1: Graphic of the policies forming part of the reformed national pricing package.



The next step will be the government's Reformed National Pricing Delivery Plan due later this year.