

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP NOVEMBER 2025

STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
The Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero has published the Strategic Priorities for Great British Energy (GBE) - and requested the publicly-owned energy company publish a Strategic Plan within six months. The Priorities are: • “Drive energy deployment” as a “strategic developer, investor or owner”, acting as a co-developer of projects with the public and private sector, local government and community energy groups; investing in clean energy supply chain projects and catalysing additional private sector investment. • Ensuring tax and bill payers and communities benefit from the clean energy transition by “increasing public and community ownership... so that any return can be reinvested”. The paper also states that GBE is expected to put communities at the heart of a more decentralised and resilient energy system” and to deliver a significant increase in the deployment of Community Energy in communities”. Current investment activities should involve investing in more developed projects that are entering construction that help build GBE’s development. The forthcoming Local Power Plan should “Prioritise interventions to unlock the potential local and community energy pipeline” and GBE should target “renewable generation led by local government, Mayoral Strategic Authorities and community groups” through • Capacity and capability support • A package of financial support	DESNZ

Promoting shared ownership. The Hub's current MOU with government sets the Hub with the objective of supporting GBE with the identification and development of local energy projects.	
The government has published a Clean Energy Jobs Plan, setting out how it anticipates the clean energy workforce will double to 860,000 jobs between now and 2030, requiring the recruitment of 420,000 new workers, specifically: 180,000 in heat and buildings 30,000 in onshore wind 70,000 in offshore wind. The plan sets out how the government intends to deliver a pipeline of skilled workers to meet the demand including by: - Aligning the skills and employment system to support Industrial Strategy Sectors, including a £100m engineering skills package and a £625m construction skills package - Establishing 5 Clean Energy Technical Excellence Colleges to specialise in this workforce “in city regions and clusters identified as key to delivery” - Targeted recruitment incentive of £6000 for further education teachers As most of the 2030 workforce is already in employment the plan also includes: £20m to support transition of North Sea workers into clean energy £2.5m to support three innovative skills pilots aimed at supporting workers to move into clean energy. The nearest of these is North East Lincolnshire and will be managed by the Midlands Net Zero Hub. - Expand the Energy Skills Passport to help workers from carbon intensive industries pivot into new opportunities in clean energy. - Developing new employment pathways for Veterans - including job-matching approaches.	DESNZ

<i>The Strategy also sets out how the government will allocate funding for Local Net Zero Hubs to build a regional picture of clean energy skills and jobs with local authorities.</i>	
DESNZ has also published the Carbon budget and growth delivery plan, which sets out how the government will meet its statutory carbon budgets. There is a clear emphasis on the benefits of the addressing climate change to: • Deliver energy security • Lower household and business bills • Create good jobs • Improve quality of life • Protect the natural environment This was also published alongside an investment prospectus which sets out at a high level the opportunities to invest in the transition to net zero. UK net zero transition: investment opportunities - GOV.UK	DESNZ
This first major project for Great British Energy has seen solar panels installed on 5 NHS sites and 3 schools, with 8 more schools due over autumn. This will save a combined total of £3.8m on their energy bills. The schools include Peasedown St. John in Bath and North East Somerset.	GB Energy
Further to the above, more funding has been confirmed by GBE for solar panels on public buildings, now including military sites as well as schools and hospitals.	GB Energy
Several amendments have been tabled to the Planning and Infrastructure Bill which is currently before Parliament. One change includes a new ministerial power allowing government ministers to issue “holding directions” that prevent local authorities from rejecting planning applications which may be subject to government review. Currently, this power only applies when councils are set to approve applications. It has been suggested that this change may facilitate an additional 3GW of onshore wind capacity.	UK Parliament
UK Power Networks, Cadent, and SGN have agreed on a shared format (‘Common Ask Template’) to make it easier for local authorities to provide information which will inform network upgrades.	UK Power Networks

A new Statement of Strategic Priorities has been published for the British Business Bank, which provides funding for SMEs. Objective 1 is supporting business operating in the key growth sectors details in the national Industrial Strategy, which includes Clean Energy.	Department for Business and Trade
The National Energy Systems Operator has forecast the largest winter electricity margins in the last six years - meaning UK electricity supply will exceed demand more than any winter since 2019/20.	NESO
Plans have been announced aimed at strengthening consumer protections offered by the Energy Ombudsman including: • Halving the time for complaint escalation • Quicker access to redress when suppliers let customers down • Compensation for complainants if Ombudsman rulings aren't implemented quickly enough	DESNZ

CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
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Ellexon have launched a consultation on new regulations for complex site classes. The proposals may allow more community energy groups and small-scale renewable generators to combine outputs and develop local energy markets - potentially increasing local benefits and revenue.

[Ellexon](#)

DESNZ are seeking views on the design of the Warm Homes Discount scheme - which lowers heating bills by £150 for low-income households - from winter 2026 to 2027 to 2030 to 2031.

[DESNZ](#)

Proposed qualifying benefits in this period are:

- The 'Savings Credit' element of Pension Credit
- The 'Guarantee Credit' element of Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income Support
- Universal Credit

The consultation is open until November 20th.

NESO have launched a consultation on the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP).

tRESP has been developed to act as a bridge between the current approach to local energy network planning, and the new RESPs, which will set out the future development of the local energy system.

The consultation is open until November 3rd.

FUNDING ANNOUNCED

LINK

The Department for Transport will invest £448m in reducing emissions from UK shipping. The funding will support the UK SHORE programme, which supports the research and development of new clean maritime technologies and fuels, including electric, hydrogen, ammonia, methanol and wind power.

[DfT](#)

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

LINK

Energy think tank Ember forecasts that solar energy overtook coal as the world's leading source of electricity earlier this year.

Most solar generation is in lower-income countries, whereas as in some more developed countries there was an increase in reliance on fossil fuels due to electricity demand growing faster than clean energy output.

[Ember](#)

Carbon Brief has forecast that as of late September, Britain has run on 100% clean power for 87 hours in 2025.

The government's Clean Energy 2030 ambition is for Britain to run on entirely clean power by 2030.

[Carbon Brief](#)

The Climate Change Committee have warned that the UK must prepare for at least 2°C of global warming by 2050,

[CCC](#)

and that the country has not yet adapted to current climate extremes.	
Research commissioned by the government suggests British households are more airtight than previously thought.	DESNZ
3Ci have published new research into Community Municipal Investments, a way for local authorities to raise finance from residents and institutions, providing low-cost finance while giving communities a chance to invest in and shape their local environment and climate goals.	Catapult / 3Ci