

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP MARCH 2026

STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>The government and Great British Energy have published the Local Power Plan, a vision for accelerating the growth of local and community-owned energy aiming to support 1000 new projects by 2030.</p> <p>The Hub has produced a briefing note on the Local Power Plan.</p>	<p>Local Power Plan</p>
<p>The government published the Warm Homes Plan, setting out how it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy rooftop solar on up to 3 million more homes • Deliver over 450,000 heat pump installations per year • Upgrade up to 5 million homes • Double the amount of heat demand met via heat networks. <p>The Hub has produced a briefing note on the Warm Homes Plan.</p> <p>The Hub manages a consortium of 18 partners led by the South West Net Zero Hub that secured nearly £67 million from the fund to make homes across the region warmer and more energy efficient.</p>	<p>Warm Homes Plan</p>
<p>The government has produced a factsheet on the impacts of the recent conflict in the Middle East - includes gas supply, energy security, and fuel prices.</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The Climate Change Committee has released a new report to complement its 2025 advice on the UK's Seventh Carbon Budget.</p> <p>The independent, statutory body tested its cost and energy security conclusions against different scenarios. It found that the total additional cost of a single fossil fuel price spike of 2022 magnitude is likely to be as large as the total net additional cost of meeting the pathway to Net Zero across every year to 2050.</p> <p>In all scenarios, achieving Net Zero was found to be a more cost-effective path for the UK economy than continued reliance on fossil fuels, bringing a net benefit to society</p>	<p>CCC</p>
<p>The energy price cap will fall by 7% in April, meaning a decrease of around £117 for the typical dual fuel household.</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The National Energy System Operator has launched the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) informing the strategic development of the energy network in the 2028-33 period.</p> <p>The South West Net Zero Hub area is covered by three of the eleven RESP areas, which can all be found here - South West Context, Central England Context, Central England Context. The national Hub network has produced guidance for local areas in preparing for the enduring RESP.</p>	<p>NESO</p>
<p>NESO has announced changes the timetable for Connections Reform which has been pushed back by several months across all offer categories.</p>	<p>NESO</p>

<p>Revised timings now stretch from February 2026 through March 2027, with new sequencing and support mechanisms introduced to improve clarity and coordination.</p> <p>The changes are necessary as a result of technical and engineering matters discovered post-queue formation which require additional time to review and resolve.</p>	
<p>The Department for Transport has launched its new 'Get that electric feeling' campaign, highlighting how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home charging now costs as little as 2p per mile – or £5 to fully charge your car. • EV owners charging at home off-peak can save up to £1400 a year on running costs. <p>You can read more about the campaign here</p>	DfT
<p>New statutory powers will allow energy generated from renewable electricity proposals across land managed by Forestry England to be both used on site and sold to the national grid – generating income streams for environmental projects.</p>	DEFRA
<p>Jonathan Brearley has been appointed as the new Permanent Secretary at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). Jonathan was previously CEO of Ofgem.</p>	DESNZ

CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
<p>The government is seeking views on the proposed geographies over which spatial development strategies (SDS) should be produced.</p> <p>The consultation closes on March 26th.</p>	MHCLG
<p>The government is consulting on proposed reforms to the process for managing demand-side connections to the electricity network.</p>	DESNZ

FUNDING ANNOUNCED	LINK
<p>100 schools and colleges have now installed Great British Energy (GBE) funded solar panels – saving schools an estimated combined £220m over the panel's lifetime.</p> <p>This includes schools in Plymouth, Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole, Axminster, and Gloucestershire.</p>	DESNZ, DfE, GBE
<p>A further £18m funding has been announced for the Plug-in Truck Grant. This means discounts of up to £120,000 on new electric trucks.</p>	DfT
<p>82 NHS sites, 8 military sites, and one prison are receiving £74m DESNZ funding – supported by £9m investment from GBE - for clean energy technologies and enhanced energy efficiency.</p> <p>HMP Channings Wood in Devon will receive £495,000 for solar panels and almost £250,000 for electrical and plumbing works to help reduce heat loss.</p>	DESNZ

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
A series of videos aimed at upskilling operation and maintenance in the heat networks sector have been published by the government, covering a range of topics including temperatures and monitoring, procurement and contracting, and consumer information.	DESNZ
Edie, in partnership with Lloyds Corporate & Institutional, have produced a report on the barriers and solutions to Net Zero delivery, setting out how business and government can work together on place-based approaches to decarbonisation.	Edie

MISCELLANEOUS	LINK
The UK's first geothermal power plant, in Cornwall, has been turned on, providing a completely new type of renewable electricity using hot water from underground.	BBC News