

## NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP MARCH 2026

STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>The government and Great British Energy have published the <b>Local Power Plan</b>, a vision for accelerating the growth of local and community-owned energy aiming to support 1000 new projects by 2030.</p> <p><a href="#">The Hub has produced a briefing note on the Local Power Plan.</a></p>	<p><a href="#">Local Power Plan</a></p>
<p>The government published the <b>Warm Homes Plan</b>, setting out how it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deploy rooftop solar on up to 3 million more homes</li> <li>• Deliver over 450,000 heat pump installations per year</li> <li>• Upgrade up to 5 million homes</li> <li>• Double the amount of heat demand met via heat networks.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">The Hub has produced a briefing note on the Warm Homes Plan.</a></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><a href="#">Warm Homes Plan</a></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><a href="#">DESNZ</a></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><a href="#">DESNZ</a></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 - <a href="#">South West Context</a>, <a href="#">Central England Context</a>, <a href="#">Central England Context</a>. The national Hub network has produced <a href="#">guidance for local areas in preparing for the enduring RESP</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">NESO</a></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>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><a href="#">NESO</a></p>
<p>The Department for Transport has launched its new 'Get that electric feeling' campaign, highlighting how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home charging now costs as little as 2p per mile – or £5 to fully charge your car.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">DfT</a></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EV owners charging at home off-peak can save up to £1400 a year on running costs.</li> </ul> <p>You can read more about the campaign <a href="#">here</a></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.	<a href="#">DEFRA</a>
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.	<a href="#">DESNZ</a>

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 26<sup>th</sup>.</p>	<a href="#">MHCLG</a>

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 &amp; Poole, Axminster, and Gloucestershire.</p>	<a href="#">DESNZ, DfE, GBE</a>
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.	<a href="#">DfT</a>
<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>	<a href="#">DESNZ</a>

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.	<a href="#">DESNZ</a>
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.	<a href="#">Edie</a>

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.	<a href="#">BBC News</a>