

## NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP JULY 2024

HUB UPDATES	LINK
The Local Net Zero Hub network is hosting a webinar setting out how local authorities can make Net Zero activities more appealing to decision makers and put climate change at the heart of their day-to-day operations on August 20 <sup>th</sup> . The event will launch new research from the NEY Hub into the potential of carbon pricing and insetting.	<a href="#">NEYNZ Hub</a>
The NEY Net Zero Hub Annual Conference takes place in Sheffield on November 5 <sup>th</sup> and will focus on the financing and delivery of the retrofit of homes and buildings. You can register your interest to attend on the link opposite.	<a href="#">NEYNZ Hub</a>

STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>Following the election of a new government, <a href="#">Ed Miliband MP</a> has been appointed Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero. The Secretary of State has stated that their priorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Boosting energy independence and cutting bills through clean power by 2030</li> <li>• Great British Energy (see below)</li> <li>• Upgrading Britain's homes and cutting fuel poverty</li> <li>• Reforming the energy system.</li> </ul> <p>The departmental ministerial team includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Kerry McCarthy MP</a> (whose brief includes responsibility for Local Net Zero)</li> <li>• <a href="#">Miatta Fahnbulleh MP</a> (whose brief includes heat networks and retrofit).</li> <li>• <a href="#">Michael Shanks MP</a> (whose brief includes geothermal heat)</li> </ul> <p>Chris Stark, former head of the Committee on Climate Change, has also been appointed to lead the <a href="#">Clean Energy Mission Control</a> – a taskforce overseeing delivery of the government's aim of decarbonising the energy system by 2030.</p>	<a href="#">DESNZ</a>
<p>The King's Speech, which sets out the government's legislative agenda for the coming year, took place on July 17th and contained several planned bills relating to energy policy.</p> <p><b>Great British Energy Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of a publicly-owned energy production company which will own, manage and operate clean power projects.</li> <li>• The company will develop, own and operate assets, investing in partnership with the private sector, with capitalisation of £8.3 billion across this parliament.</li> </ul> <p><b>National Wealth Fund Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">£7bn fund</a> aimed at mobilising private investment in key industrial sectors – including clean energy.</li> <li>• Funding has started immediately through the UK Investment Bank, headquartered in Leeds.</li> </ul> <p><b>Planning and Infrastructure Bill</b></p>	<a href="#">Prime Minister's Office</a>

- Designed to streamline the delivery process for critical infrastructure including accelerating upgrades to the national grid and boosting renewable energy production.

#### **Product Safety and Metrology Bill**

- Updating the legal metrology framework, which governs the accuracy of weights and measures for purchased goods to allow for technological progress, including in support of net zero aims and infrastructure, for example the accuracy of energy meter readings.

#### **Crown Estate Bill**

- Allowing the Crown Estate to borrow and invest more, in order to bring forward offshore wind projects.

#### **Sustainable Aviation Fuel (revenue support mechanism) Bill**

- Business models aimed at increasing investment in lower-emission aviation fuels.

In his first parliamentary statement, the new Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero:

Hansard

- Announced that the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary will soon publish a land use framework “working in tandem with our spatial energy plan”.
- Stated GB Energy will “oversee the biggest expansion of community energy in British history through our local power plan”.
- Expressed support for the BioYorkshire project and the development of energy infrastructure on Teesside, in response to questions from local MPs.
- Reported new planning rules are being brought forward to allow small modular nuclear reactors to be built in more places - with current rules restricting the construction of new reactors to eight named sites.
- Announced the government will establish an onshore wind taskforce - chaired by the Secretary of State and EDF Renewables chief executive Matthieu Hueto – to “drive forward” new developments. A reconvened Solar Taskforce will produce a 'solar roadmap'.
- Rooftop solar will play an important role “as part of the future standards for homes and buildings”.
- There will be an announcement on the Contracts for Difference Allocation Round 6 budget by the end of July.

The **Great British Energy** and Crown Estate Bills (see above) were introduced into Parliament on July 25<sup>th</sup>.

DESNZ

The bills were introduced alongside an announcement of partnership between GB Energy and The Crown Estate which aims to bring forward 20-30GW of new offshore wind developments reaching seabed lease stage by 2030, creating enough energy to power 20 million homes. The organisation will be chaired by the former head of Siemens UK Juergen Maier.

A Great British Energy Policy Paper **has also been published**.

Great British Energy will have five key functions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project development</li> <li>• Project investment</li> <li>• Local Power Plan – supporting local energy generation projects through working with local authorities, combined authorities and communities</li> <li>• Supply chains –</li> <li>• Exploring how Great British Energy and Great British Nuclear will work together.</li> </ul>	
<p>The Committee on Climate Change – the government’s statutory advisory body for climate change – has published its annual report.</p> <p>Final emissions data confirms that the UK achieved its 2018-22 Carbon Budget – with reductions driven by energy supply. The committee states that contributions from agriculture, buildings, transport need to “accelerate fast” if this momentum is to be sustained, and it sets out several policy recommendations.</p>	CCC
<p>The new Secretary of State for Transport has named “delivering greener transport” as one of their key departmental priorities, stating none of the government’s Missions “can be realised without transport as a key enabler”.</p>	DfT
<p>The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government have announced changes to the National Planning Policy Framework placing onshore wind on the same footing as other energy development.</p>	HCLG
<p>The Coal Authority has announced a Nature Recovery Plan. The plan includes commitments that by 2026 the authority will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop the baseline and reporting of the carbon sequestration potential of its land and water assets and begun to implement natural climate solutions</li> <li>• Integrate nature recovery principles into project design and prioritise practices that support nature recovery.</li> </ul>	Coal Authority
<p>The Secretary of State for Transport has announced that a Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) mandate will be introduced on January 1st 2025.</p> <p>The mandate will initially require 2% of the UK’s total jet fuel demand be met by SAF in 2025. This will increase to 10% by 2030 and 22% by 2040, remaining at this level until further supply certainty is achieved.</p>	DfT

<b>CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS</b>	<a href="#">LINK</a>
<p>The Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Coalition is seeking views on Carbon Removal technologies in the Humber.</p>	YHCCC

<b>FUNDING ANNOUNCED</b>	
<p>Several projects from the North East and Yorkshire have received funding from the latest phase of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust:</b> Air source heat pumps installed in Trust buildings, alongside roof-mounted solar panels. The building energy management system has been upgraded to improve energy efficiency.</li> <li>• <b>Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust:</b> Air source heat pumps have been installed in treatment centres across the Trust’s property</li> </ul>	DESNZ

portfolio. The transport, IT and estates departments also received heat pumps, and solar panels have been installed on the roofs of the buildings. The building energy management system has been upgraded to improve energy efficiency.

- **Northumbria University:** Replacement of gas boilers with air source heat pumps in two buildings and LED lighting installed.
- **University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne:** Installation of heat pumps, and solar panels, LED lighting, roof insulation, double glazing, automatic speed doors and air handling units at Great North House office building.
- **Woodland Primary School, County Durham:** Oil-fired boiler replaced with three air source heat pumps. Installation of ground-mounted solar panels, LED lighting and cavity wall insulation.
- **Barnsley College, South Yorkshire:** Installation of air source heat pump at Wigfield Farm site, removing use of gas as source of heating and hot water.
- **Enquire Learning Trust, Wakefield:** Boiler replacement with air source heat pumps at two primary schools.
- **Luminate Education Group, Leeds:** Gas fired boilers were replaced at City College with hybrid heating system using air source heat pumps. Building also fitted with LED lighting and cavity wall and ceiling insulation and building energy management system upgraded to improve the efficiency of the campus.

The Green Heat Network Fund is expected to reopen for applications in the Autumn.

[DESNZ](#)

The fund is a capital grant fund supporting:

- Commercialisation and construction of new low and zero carbon heat networks
- Retrofitting and expansion of existing heat networks.

## RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

## LINK

The NEY NZ Hub has published new research into how local authorities can get the most out of their energy planning – including securing investment. The report sets out the data and skills which could give local areas a more informed picture of where they are on their Net Zero journey – and what tools may assist them.

[NEY NZ Hub](#)

Local authority statistics on greenhouse gas emissions since 2005 have been released – showing that the North East is emitting 5.2tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO<sub>2</sub>e) per person per annum, and Yorkshire 6.4 tonnes. While all regions have seen a reduction in emissions in this period (down 43% on average) the North East has seen the largest percentage reduction (65%) – although much of this reduction is related to industrial closures.

[DESNZ](#)

The Energy Systems Catapult has launched a toolkit of guidance for the decarbonisation of schools – ranging from energy auditing to funding.

[ESC](#)

## MISCELLANEOUS

## LINK

A joint venture between bp and Aberdeen City Council has announced a final investment decision for a hydrogen production, storage and distribution facility, located powered by electricity generated at a solar farm to be installed on a former landfill site.

[Aberdeen City Council](#)

The East Midlands Combined County Authority has announced what has been described as “the largest Local Area Energy Plan in the UK”.

East Midlands  
Combined County  
Authority

To find out about upcoming events relevant to Net Zero, please check out our website events page [here](#).