

## NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP SEPTEMBER 2024

HUB UPDATES	LINK
Our Community Energy Fund is open for applications until <b>October 13<sup>th</sup></b> . The fund provides up to £140,000 to help community groups, charities, sports teams, faith groups and others get energy schemes which benefit their local areas off the ground.	<a href="#">NEYNZH</a>
The Hub's annual conference takes place in Sheffield on <b>November 5<sup>th</sup></b> and focuses on financing and delivering domestic and non-domestic building decarbonisation. Attendees will hear innovative case studies, hear details of the new government's plans for retrofit and attend workshops on delivering and financing retrofit activities. The event will also see the launch of research from the Hub into delivering domestic retrofit, and new support for heat network and public sector building decarbonisation.  <i>To enquire about attending the event, contact <a href="mailto:enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com">enquiries@NEYnetzerohub.com</a></i>	<a href="#">NEYNZH</a>
The Hub's Strategic Project Pipeline is open for proposals. The Pipeline is an opportunity to inform and shape the Hub's delivery, with proposals being considered and potentially brought forward for resource allocation and government funding when available.	<a href="#">NEYNZH</a>

STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>The government has confirmed the continuation of several building upgrade schemes and a new local grant for low-income homeowners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The new <b>Warm Homes: Local Grant</b>, to be delivered by Local Authorities, will fund energy performance upgrades and the installation of cleaner heating for low-income households living in the worst quality, privately owned homes in England. An expression of interest window will open later this month.</li> <li>• The <b>Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund</b> will replace the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. Wave 3 of the WH:SHF will upgrade thousands of social homes falling below the standard of EPC C - with measures including insulation, double glazing and heat pumps, cutting bills and tackling fuel poverty.</li> </ul> <p>The government will consult by the end of the year on raising minimum energy efficiency standards for private and social rented homes by 2030. Currently, private rented homes can be rented out if they meet EPC E, while social rented homes have no minimum energy efficiency standard. The government will shortly consult on proposals for private and social rented homes to achieve EPC C or equivalent by 2030.</p> <p><i>The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub leads a consortium of local authorities and housing providers delivering energy efficiency improvements at over 5500 homes from across the region as part of SHDF Wave 2.1</i></p>	<a href="#">DESNZ</a>
The UK's final coal-fired power station has desynced from the National Grid, ending 142-years of the burning of the fossil fuel to produce electricity in the country. Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottingham ceased operations at 3pm on Monday September 30 <sup>th</sup> .	<a href="#">BBC</a>
131 energy projects are proceeding following the sixth Contracts for Difference Round. The annual Renewables Auction was the most	<a href="#">DESNZ</a>

successful on record, with projects on the pipeline including what will be Europe's largest and second largest windfarm projects, Hornsea 3 and Hornsea 4 off the Yorkshire coast.	
The Chancellor has announced that a national Industrial Strategy will be published in early 2025 with "making Britain a clean energy superpower" a core element of the strategy.	HMT
The new independent National Energy System Operator (NESO) has come into operation.  NESO is a publicly owned body which will be responsible for overseeing the strategic planning and design of the country's electricity and gas network.	DESNZ
The government has confirmed funding for the UK's first carbon capture sites – including Teesside in the North East and Yorkshire.  £21.7bn of funding will be allocated to the clusters over 25 years, aiming to capture 8.5m tonnes of carbon a year.	DESNZ
Yorkshire and the Humber Climate Change Commission has published its updated Climate Action Plan for 2024.  The plan offers a "strategic framework for action" endorsed by all Combined Authority Mayors and Local Authority Leaders of the county.  <i>The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub is an affiliate member of the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Change Commission.</i>	YHCCC
The government has announced a permanent end to further government funding for the retrofit of buses after research showed an average 11% reduction in NOX emissions from retrofitted buses compared to the 80% reduction anticipated.	DfT
The Planning Advisory Service has developed templates to support local planning authorities to meet biodiversity net gain requirements.	MHCLG
The Transport Secretary has outlined the government's priorities for maritime at a speech marking International Shipping Week.  These include the ambition to "transform how maritime is powered" through "hydrogen or battery power, green corridors or smart shipping".	DfT

CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	<a href="#">LINK</a>
A consultation has been launched to identify emerging generating technologies that may be eligible to participate in future capacity market auctions.  <i>This consultation closes on November 1<sup>st</sup>.</i>	DESNZ
A consultation has been launched to discuss reforming the retail energy market through the direct regulation of Third-Party Intermediaries (TPIs), such as bill aggregators, energy brokers and price comparison websites.  <i>This consultation closes on November 15<sup>th</sup>.</i>	DESNZ

FUNDING ANNOUNCED	
<p>Ofgem has approved 12 bids to its Strategic Innovation Fund, which is designed to support a just energy transition, accelerate decarbonisation and improve energy system resilience.</p> <p>Successful projects include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A project involving Newcastle University which will explore how electronics devices can monitor and manage low-voltage distribution networks, in the face of growing demand for renewable electricity.</li> <li>• Work from Northern Powergrid coordinated solutions for cost effective resilient services that maintain customer supply during unplanned grid outages, particularly in rural locations.</li> <li>• Research into flexible railway energy hubs involving Leeds University, designed to accelerate the decarbonisation of the rail network.</li> </ul>	UKRI
<p>Innovate UK have announced six innovation projects that use data and AI to encourage investment in nature.</p> <p>Successful applications include a project involving the University of Huddersfield which will use a machine learning-optimised project development platform designed to quantify inorganic carbon sequestration from natural oxalate inputs in soils.</p>	Innovate UK
<p>The latest recipients of the Public Sector Low Carbon Skills Fund have been announced. The £16m funding provides grants for public sector bodies to access skills and expertise decarbonise their estates.</p> <p>Successful applications from the North East and Yorkshire Hub region include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Durham County Council</li> <li>• Horizons Specialist Academy Trust (Stockton)</li> <li>• Askham Bryan College (York)</li> <li>• Diocese of Leeds</li> <li>• Ebor Academy Trust (York)</li> <li>• Humber Teaching NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• Inspire Learning Trust (Rotherham)</li> <li>• Outwood Grange Academies Trust (West Yorkshire)</li> <li>• South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust</li> <li>• York Diocesan Board of Education.</li> </ul>	DESNZ
<p>£2.7m of funding has been awarded in the sixth round of the government's Heat Network Efficiency Scheme, which improves the performance of existing heat networks.</p> <p>Successful applications include the Taylor Court heat network in Hull, which serves 288 residents.</p>	Gemserv
<p>The National Lottery Heritage Fund has announced £15m in funding, (grants of £250,000 up to £1m) to support local authorities and community partners to plan their urban green space network.</p>	HLF
<p>Innovate UK will invest £3.2 million in seven projects to accelerate decarbonisation of the UK concrete industry. The funding will support development of recycled concrete as a low-carbon cement substitute.</p>	Innovate UK

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
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<p>The first outputs from government's heat network zoning pilot are available and can be used to identify where heat networks exist and/or are highly likely to grow or be built out in the future.</p> <p><i>Areas to have been included in the pilot include Newcastle, Sunderland, Leeds, Bridlington, Hull, Darlington, Northallerton and Sheffield.</i></p>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>DfT has published research and analysis to help inform a possible Commute Zero programme in the UK. This outlines attitudes of businesses towards encouraging employees to reduce commuting and business travel emissions.</p> <p>Key findings show that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Covid-19 pandemic had reduced the volume of commuting and business travel in organisations</li> <li>• Commuting and business travel accounted for a significant proportion of a business' carbon emissions.</li> <li>• Corporate social responsibility and sustainability were often regarded as subordinate to cost and logistics.</li> </ul>	<p>DfT</p>
<p>DESNZ has published a report providing a review of different approaches to emissions measurement and reporting. The report makes 5 main recommendations to help increase the effectiveness of emissions reporting in driving decarbonisation in the public sector.</p> <p>The recommendations are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clear and consistent guidance to help address arising issues.</li> <li>• Clear purpose of emissions reporting including emissions reporting and measurement pathways.</li> <li>• Emissions database and tools that can be easily accessible.</li> <li>• Capacity building of public sector staff in this sector.</li> <li>• Governance and leadership from senior management.</li> </ul>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>Research from the University of Cambridge suggests children living in London's ultra-low emission zone (ULEZ) were nearly four times as likely to switch to walking and cycling after its introduction compared with those outside the zone.</p>	<p>University of Cambridge</p>

MISCELLANEOUS	LINK
<p>The UK's first carbon capture pilot at an energy from waste site has begun at a site in Ferrybridge, West Yorkshire.</p>	<p><a href="#">enFinium</a></p>
<p>City of York Council has had plans approved to create a "floating ecosystem" on the River Ouse.</p> <p>The floating island is set to host between 20 and 30 different plant species to provide shelter for small mammals.</p>	<p><a href="#">York City Council</a></p>
<p>More than 1.9m trees were planted across northern England last year as part of the Northern Forest project – enough to fill 1200 football pitches.</p>	<p><a href="#">Woodland Trust</a></p>

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