

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP NOVEMBER 2024

HUB UPDATES	LINK
The Hub's Energy Project Enabling Fund is open for applications until December 8th. The fund offers capital grants of up to £240,000 to community groups and public sector organisations looking to deliver local energy projects.	NEYNZ Hub
<p>The Hub is offering community groups free tailored advice sessions from specialist consultants to help progress their local energy project.</p> <p>The sessions will take place in February 2025 and cover four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low Carbon Technologies • Net Zero Project Planning and Development • Commercial Case Development • Governance and Procurement for Community Energy Projects 	NEYNZ Hub
The Hub has published new research which sets out how local areas can deliver the most successful domestic retrofit programmes. The research was launched at the Hub's annual conference in Sheffield, which set out case studies of retrofit best practice from around our region. Videos of and slides from presentations given at the event are available here.	NEYNZ Hub
STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
The government announced new climate goals at the COP29 conference in Baku, including the aim to reduce emissions by 81% by 2035.	DESNZ
<p>The National Energy System Operator has published advice on how the government's clean energy 2030 ambition can be achieved. The advice states this is "a huge challenge, but achievable" and recommends:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harnessing the value of flexibility by unlocking markets, promoting engagement and removing wider barriers. • Contracting as much offshore wind capacity in the coming one to two years "as in the last six combined". • Delivering new dispatchable technologies, including carbon capture and storage and hydrogen to power. • Building "twice as much" new transmission infrastructure in the next five years "as was built in total over the last decade" • Reforming the connection processes in 2025 and the planning and consenting processes and improving community engagement so "key decisions on funding, awarding contracts, consenting and policy" are made "within the next year". • Expedited data sharing and enhanced decision-making driven through adoption of artificial intelligence. 	NESO
<p>UK energy ministers have commissioned the National Energy System Operator to produce the UK's first ever spatial plan for energy.</p> <p>The plan will provide a blueprint for Great Britain's energy infrastructure to 2050, in order to provide stability for investors, take a more strategic approach to cut grid connection waiting times, reduce overall system costs. The location for new energy infrastructure will be set out in the</p>	DESNZ

<p>plan and its 2026 iteration will focus on electricity generation and storage, including hydrogen assets, from offshore wind farms to hydro.</p>	
<p>The government has published an Industrial Strategy policy paper which describes energy as a “significant strength” of the UK which is “world leading in making one in three products vital to the Net Zero transition”.</p> <p>The strategy also notes there is huge potential in “our cities, region as and nations with sector strengths spread across the country” including “burgeon centres of modern industry” in West Yorkshire and “flourishing” clean energy industries in the North East.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Clean Energy Industries” is named as one of eight growth driving sectors with the UK aiming to “build a strong domestic industrial base across services and manufacturing to gain strategic economic advantage” • Energy is also key to “economic security and resilience” with “renewables” cited as one of the areas where “the UK can grow the economy and project strategic leadership...while being better placed to respond to future shocks”. • A further growth driving sector is Advanced Manufacturing, which “will be critical to achieving the Clean Energy (by 2030) Mission which will bring opportunities to this sector... the UK is entering a major investment cycle where Net Zero...transformations present considerable opportunities for UK manufacturing”. • The strategy highlights how “access to cheap and reliable energy is an influential determinant of business competitiveness and an important consideration for internationally mobile investment... a number of growth-driving sectors including advanced manufacturing... have cited electricity costs as a barrier to growth... high energy costs are a major barrier to growth and investment” as are “a lack of timely grid connections”. <p>The next stage of the strategy will be targeted sector plans for each of the eight growth driving areas, to be published by May 2025.</p>	<p>DBT</p>
<p>The government has named England’s first six heat network zones – including Sheffield and Leeds.</p> <p>Six cities will share £5.8m of funding to develop zones for heat networks in urban areas which recycle excess heat – generated in the case of Leeds by local glass manufacturing – to heat local buildings.</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The government has announced the next phase of its Warm Homes Plan, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing with £7500 discounts from the cost of heat pumps, with an extra £30m funding for the Boiler Upgrade Scheme • Funding supporting energy efficiency improvements in 300,000 social and low income households • Consulting on increasing minimum energy efficiency standards for all rented homes by 2030 • Consulting on plans to increase energy efficiency standards for new boilers and heat pumps. • Allowing households in England to install an air source heat pump without planning applications from early next year. • Introducing a reformed Clean Heat Market Mechanism on April 1st 2025, designed to incentivise heat pump production. • £5m funding for Hull-based Ideal Heating in the first award from the Heat Pump Investment Accelerator competition, which is designed to upscale the domestic heat pump industry. 	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The government has launched a new scheme to help build energy storage infrastructure – aimed at delivering the first new significant long duration energy storage (LDES) facilities in nearly 4 decades through a</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>

cap and floor model which will provide guaranteed minimum income for developers, in return for a limit on revenues.	
Ofgem has agreed to act as regulator and delivery body and the scheme's first round is expected to be open to applicants next year.	
HM Treasury has published more information on the National Wealth Fund, which succeeds the Leeds-based UK Infrastructure Bank. A policy paper states that the fund will focus first on, "committing the additional £5.8bn capital into... green hydrogen, green steel, carbon capture, gigafactories and ports".	HM Treasury
The government has committed to bringing in legislation which will prohibit new coal mining projects.	DESNZ
The Jet Zero Council, the industry taskforce established to support the production and delivery of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF) and zero emission flights, as been relaunched.	DfT
The move came as the SAF Mandate was signed into law, requiring an increasing amount of SAF in overall jet fuel from January 1st 2025. By 2040, 22% of all jet fuel must come from sustainable sources.	

CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
<p>A joint government and Ofgem consultation is seeking views on consumer protections relating to heat networks, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The scope of regulation • How protections will work for non-domestic and small-medium size enterprise consumers • Overarching standards of conduct • Obligations for fair pricing • Protecting vulnerable consumers <p>The consultation is open until January 31st 2025.</p>	DESNZ / Ofgem
<p>The Parliamentary Net Zero and Energy Security Committee has opened a call for evidence on unlocking community energy at scale, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential solutions to the financial and regulatory barriers facing community energy projects • How reforms to the planning system, grid connections and the energy market could support the growth of community energy. <p>The deadline to submit evidence is January 13th 2025.</p>	Parliament.uk
<p>The Law Commission has been asked by HM Treasury to review the legal framework governing co-operatives and community benefit societies. The deadline for consultation responses is December 10th.</p>	Law Commission
<p>The government will shortly be consulting on steps to raise the integrity and use of Voluntary carbon and nature markets - those in which carbon or other credits are produced and purchased voluntarily rather than for legal compliance purposes.</p>	DESNZ
<p>Ofgem is consulting on introducing a new investment fund designed to help energy transmission owners fast-track projects by procuring essential equipment – such as switchgear, cables and steel –in advance of it being needed. The consultation is open until December 18th.</p>	Ofgem

FUNDING ANNOUNCED	
The National Lottery is launching a major community energy fund in 2026 and is looking for 10-15 partner groups to work on its development.	National Lottery
Successful bids to the Green Corridor Fund have been announced. These include funding for the development of a Green Shipping Corridor (GSC) between the Ports of Tyne and Ijmuiden in the Netherlands transitioning vessels on the route to methanol-fuelled vessels.	DfT
The second round of the Manchester Prize will provide up to 10 projects with £100,000 of funding towards the development of AI technology which supports clean energy systems.	DSIT
Successful bids to the latest round of the Freight Innovation Fund include a trial of retrofitting existing fleet vehicles with hydrogen batteries. The trial will be based in Sheffield and focus on home delivery logistics undertaken by Asda.	DfT

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
The Met Office has just launched a new tool to help local authorities to identify climate risks and hazards in their area.	Met Office
The IPPR has a new paper on the economic potential of heat pump manufacturing	IPPR
Regen have published a paper on 'shared ownership' models, where energy projects are jointly owned by developers and community organisations.	Regen
The International Energy Agency predicts that renewables are on course to meet almost half of global electricity demand by the end of this decade.	IEA

MISCELLANEOUS	LINK
Commercial investments in energy projects announced at the government's international investor summit included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SeAh Turbine Monopile facility - Tees Valley. • Orsted Offshore Wind – East Riding. 	Prime Minister's Office
Hull City Council has appointed a contractor to deliver a joint Local Area Energy Plan for the authority and East Riding Council. A Local Area Energy Plan is a data-driven assessment of a local area's future energy needs, alongside recommendations for meeting that need. The development of the plan will be supported by the Hub's local capacity support for the area. Calderdale Council recently published its Local Area Energy Plan, which was also supported by the NEY Net Zero Hub.	Hull City Council Calderdale Council
The national Local Net Zero Hubs network is once again sponsoring the Association of Public Sector Excellence's national energy conference, which takes place in Birmingham next February. This year's event will feature a national award ceremony – including an award for community energy projects.	APSE