

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP DECEMBER 2024/JANUARY 2025

HUB UPDATES	LINK
<p>The Hub has launched a specialist team offering dedicated support for local authorities improving the energy efficiency of their own estates and community buildings.</p> <p>The new team will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the development of heat decarbonisation plans and investment grade proposals. • Help find ways to progress stalled plans. • Maximise the use of available resources and toolkits to apply and spread best practice and encourage peer learning. 	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 early February 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
STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>The government has published a Clean Power Action Plan, setting out a pathway to achieving its ambition of delivering a clean power system by 2030.</p> <p><i>The Hub has published a full briefing on the Plan, which can be found here. The briefing also contains details of updates to the National Planning Policy Framework.</i></p>	DESNZ
<p>The government will publish a Net Zero Public Participation Strategy in 2025, outlining its approach to increasing engagement with the public when developing energy policy and in supporting people to adopt new technologies.</p> <p>The strategy was announced in the government's formal response to the Committee on Climate Change's 2024 Progress Report, which also announced a relaunch of the Net Zero Council, the government's primary stakeholder forum for clean energy policy, which will include representation from local government.</p>	DESNZ
<p>Contracts have been signed for the UK's first industrial scale carbon capture, usage and storage projects – which will be based within the North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub region.,</p> <p>The East Coast Cluster in Teesside – a cluster of carbon capture projects linked to the local industrial cluster – is set to start construction this year. One of the first projects, Net Zero Teesside Power, is estimated to deliver secure low-carbon energy capable of powering up to one million homes by 2028.</p>	DESNZ
<p>New waste incinerators will need to meet new local and environmental conditions to secure planning permission.</p>	DEFRA

<p>These being ready for carbon capture and being set up to divert waste heat for local heating or industry.</p>	
<p>The government has commenced a consultation (see below) on phasing out the sale of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030. The proposals would see no new petrol or diesel cars sold after 2030 and all new cars and vans required to be 100% zero emission by 2035.</p> <p>New guidance has also been published for local authorities on cross-pavement EV charging solutions.</p> <p>The guidance recommends local authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop policies based on local landscape, considering existing local charging strategies and transport plans, the availability of parking next to the applicant's property and physical factors such as pavement width. • Consider appropriate models for ownership and maintenance, which play a key role in determining responsibility for associated costs, seeking permissions and legal liabilities. The guidance highlights available financial support through the Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Fund. • Local authorities must be satisfied that the equipment used to facilitate cross-pavement charging is suitable and safe before it is placed on the public highway, listing standards local authorities should consult to inform decision making. 	<p>DfT</p>
<p>The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has published the framework document for the National Energy System Operator. The document outlines the governance structure between NESO and DESNZ, detailing NESO's core responsibilities, the accountability framework involving the department, the operator and UK Government Investments, and practical aspects of their day-to-day working relationship.</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The government has launched a new Steel Council to advise on a new national steel strategy. The council includes Industrial Decarbonisation Minister Sarah Jones MP and will be chaired by John Bolton of the Tees Valley research body the Materials Processing Institute.</p>	<p>DBT</p>

<p>CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS LINK</p>	
<p>A call for evidence has launched with a view to strengthen the role of the energy regulator.</p> <p>The review looks at three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remit – where Ofgem should regulate and what its focus should be. • Standards – what additional powers Ofgem might need to set stronger standards for suppliers and improve customer service outcomes. • Tools – equipping the regulator with more effective compliance and enforcement tools. <p>The call for evidence is open until February 28th</p>	<p>DEZNZ</p>
<p>The government has launched a consultation relating to the transition away from petrol and diesel road vehicles. The consultation is split into 2 parts.</p>	<p>DfT</p>

- The phasing out of sales of new petrol and diesel cars from 2030; options to end the sale of new cars with internal combustion engines from 2030; potential requirements for new non-zero emission vans to be sold from 2030 to 2035 and demand measures to support the uptake of zero emission vehicles.
- The Zero Emission Vehicle Mandate, delivered through the Vehicle Emissions Trading schemes. The mandate sets out the percentage of ZEVs manufacturers will be required to sell each year.

The consultation is open until February 18th

A joint government and Ofgem consultation is still seeking views on consumer protections relating to heat networks, including:

DESNZ / Ofgem

- 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

The consultation is open until January 31st.

A consultation on changes to Energy Performance Certificates has opened.

MHCLG

The consultation proposes reforms in areas including:

- Updating what EPCs measure through additional metrics
- Updating when energy certificates are required
- Managing energy certificate quality
- Improving the accessibility of building performance data

The consultation is open until February 26th

The government is seeking views on a proposal to implement the globally agreed international aviation carbon offsetting scheme (CORSIA) in the UK.

DfT

The scheme requires airlines to offset carbon dioxide emissions on international routes through initiatives such as switching to renewable energy sources and reforestation projects.

The consultation is open until February 10th.

A consultation has been launched on proposals to improve product standards for space and combination heaters, including proposals to:

DESNZ

- Raise minimum efficient standards for heat pumps and introducing such standards for hybrid heat pumps.
- Improve the efficiency of fossil fuel heating systems, including by removing some lower performing products from the market and improve interoperability of different manufacturers' products.

The consultation is open until March 25th.

FUNDING ANNOUNCED

<p>The Borderlands Partnership, which includes Northumberland, is seeking projects for its Energy Investment Programme. Projects should seek at least £1.5m in funding, align with the partnership’s Energy Investment Strategy, and be completed by December 2029.</p>	<p>Borderlands Partnership</p>
<p>Allocations have been announced for the Low Carbon Hydrogen Supply Competition which provides funding for projects designed to develop innovative low-carbon hydrogen supply solutions.</p> <p>Successful applications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An electrolyser project linked to a gigafactory in Sheffield. • A project from Cadent gas network – which supplies South Yorkshire – to repurpose existing gas transmission infrastructure for use in transport. 	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The latest allocations have been announced from the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund. The fund provides grants for feasibility and engineering studies, and for the deployment of industrial energy efficiency and deep decarbonisation projects.</p> <p>Successful applications from the recent round include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building block producer Plasmor’s proposals to utilise waste heat to generate electricity to feed back into the production process and adopt carbon capture technologies, at its facility in Goole, East Yorkshire. • Fuel switching to hydrogen at KP Snacks in Billingham in Tees Valley. • Kiln electrification at building supply producer Wienerberger’s facility in Brough, East Yorkshire. 	<p>DESNZ</p>

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
<p>A report commissioned by the Japanese government to make recommendations for how it can best support local areas to develop clean energy projects has described Local Net Zero Hubs as “essential”.</p> <p>The newly published report, from Pacific Consultants, details “policy trends related to regional decarbonization in European countries” and concludes that England’s Local Net Zero Hubs, “play an important role in regional decarbonisation in the UK.”</p>	<p>NEYNZ Hub</p>
<p>Industry figures show than 1 in 4 new cars bought in November were electric– with the overall number of electric vehicles purchased rising for the 11th consecutive month.</p>	<p>Society of Motor Manufacturers</p>
<p>A government-commissioned study into the future heating and cooling needs of UK homes has concluded that if no retrofit takes place by the 2030s, the majority of UK dwellings will fail current night time overheating criteria and recommends that the most effective strategy in terms of reducing overheating risk and associated cooling demand is external shutters.</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>

MISCELLANEOUS	LINK
<p>Almost 200 solar panels are being installed on the roof of York Minister. The panels are expected to produce 70,000KwH of power a year and prevent 13 tonnes of carbon emissions.</p>	<p>York Minister</p>

48 solar panels could also be added to the roof of a 19th-century church in Scarborough – alongside a battery storage system in its basement. If planning permission is approved for the plan, the works will be part-funded by the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

BBC