# Net Zero policy roundup 02/23

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| Strategy/policy updates | LINK |
| ****Mission Zero: Independent Review** report published, reviewing the government’s **net zero policy approach.**** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/review-of-net-zero#full-publication-update-history) |
| **Government publishes **Electric Vehicle Smart Charging Action Plan.**** | [BEIS, Ofgem](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plan-for-smart-electric-vehicle-ev-charging-could-save-consumers-up-to-1000-a-year) |
| **Draft **Environmental Protection** **Regulations** published, outlining bans on supply of **single-use plastics** from October 2023.** |  [DEFRA](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128831/Draft_Environmental_Protection__Plastic_Plates_etc._and_Polystyrene_Containers_etc.___England__Regulations_2023.pdf) |
| ****Energy Bills Discount Scheme** announced, supporting **non-domestic organisations** with energy costs.** | [HM Treasury](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/energy-bills-discount-scheme) |
| **Government announces proposals to increase **minimum efficiency standards for lighting.****  | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/leading-the-world-in-lighting-efficiency-lightens-the-load-on-energy-bills) |
| **Two **green freeports** announced in Scotland.** | [DLUHC](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-cooperation-to-deliver-two-new-green-freeports-in-firth-of-forth-and-inverness-and-cromarty-firth) |

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| Consultations AND REVIEWS | LINK |
| **BEIS opens consultation on increasing **minimum energy performance** **standards** for **lighting products.**** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/new-ecodesign-requirements-for-lighting-products) |
| **Government releases response to consultation on a **market-based mechanism for low carbon heat.**** | [BEIS](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1128190/market-based-mechanism-for-low-carbon-heat-government-response.pdf) |
| **BEIS seeking views on reforming the **Electricity Capacity Market.**** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/capacity-market-consultation-strengthening-security-of-supply-and-alignment-with-net-zero) |
| **Government releases response to consultation on **vehicle-to-X** **energy technologies.**** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/role-of-vehicle-to-x-technologies-in-a-net-zero-energy-system-call-for-evidence#full-publication-update-history) |
| **Government opens consultation on **consents for major energy infrastructure projects.**** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-consents-for-major-energy-infrastructure-projects-and-special-protection-areas-2022) |
| **Ofgem opens consultation on reflecting the **ECO+ scheme** in the **energy price cap.**** | [Ofgem](https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/price-cap-consultation-reflecting-planned-eco-scheme) |
| ****BEIS Select Committee** opens Call for Evidence on **batteries for electric vehicle manufacturing.**** | [BEIS Select Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/call-for-evidence/3015) |

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| Funding announced | LINK |
| **£7 million **Freight Innovation Fund** announced to assist SMEs in **decarbonising freight transport.**** | [DfT](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/7-million-tech-fund-to-decarbonise-freight-and-boost-innovation) |
| **£32.9 million in funding announced to support **local walking and cycling schemes.**** | [DfT](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/329-million-to-create-a-national-network-of-walking-and-cycling-experts) |
| **Innovate UK announces £6 million **Net Zero Living: Fast Followers Competition.**** | [Innovate UK](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1440/overview/776abe62-d0a0-443e-90a9-9100d5d43647) |
| **£16 million in funding announced for **novel, low-emission food production systems.****  | [Innovate UK; BBSRC](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1416/overview/f02b9287-5101-482c-94e3-1faa6eb59f9c) |
| **Advanced Propulsion Centre announces £20 million **Industrialising net zero automotive technology** funding competition.** | [APC](https://apply-for-innovation-funding.service.gov.uk/competition/1407/overview/33bb385c-dded-4a98-9074-4e973a4350c9) |
| **£75 million **Nuclear Fuel Fund** launched.** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-fuel-fund#full-publication-update-history) |
| **Phase 2 of **Red Diesel Replacement Competition** announced.** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-support-british-industry-in-cutting-fossil-fuels-with-325-million) |
| **DEFRA launch £100 million **UK Seafood Fund** to trial **greener engine technology.****  | [DEFRA](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fishing-fund-gears-up-to-help-industry-go-green) |
| **£30 million in funding announced to **decarbonise UK highways**.** | [DfT](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/30-million-government-funding-for-innovative-projects-to-decarbonise-uk-highways) |

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| Research and statistics  |  LINK |
| **ECIU releases analysis showing that the **transition to net zero** contributes over **£70 billion** to the UK economy.**  | [ECIU](https://eciu.net/analysis/reports/2023/mapping-the-uk-net-zero-economy) |
| **Arup publishes report on the **Global Green Economy.**** | [Arup](https://www.arup.com/perspectives/publications/research/section/the-global-green-economy-capturing-the-opportunity) |
| ****‘The state of Carbon Dioxide Removal’** report, assessing the global picture in **CO2 capture and storage**, published for 2023.** | [University of Oxford](https://www.stateofcdr.org/) |
| **Cornwall Insight publishes forecast for **winter 2023-24 price cap.**** | [Cornwall Insight](https://www.cornwall-insight.com/winter-2023-24-price-cap-forecasts-fall-further-below-2022-23-epg-but-long-term-prospects-remain-uncertain/) |
| **E3G publishes briefing on **supporting private renters** through improved **energy efficiency standards.**** | [E3G](https://www.e3g.org/wp-content/uploads/E3G-briefing_Private-Rented-Sector-MEES_embargoed.pdf) |
| **Environmental Audit Committee publishes **‘Accelerating the transition from fossil fuels and securing energy suppliers’** report.** | [EAC](https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm5803/cmselect/cmenvaud/109/report.html) |
| **Research published on the use potential of **underground gravity energy storage**.** | Energies Journal |
| ****Skipton Group** publishes research on **household energy efficiency** and homeowners’ views on their energy efficiency ratings.** | [Skipton Group](https://www.skipton.co.uk/press-office/press-release-article?BlogID=%7b63C10279-0042-4B85-A6E1-4793FFCD4E32%7d) |
| ****IPPR** publish briefing on investment in **household energy efficiency**.** | [IPPR](https://www.ippr.org/research/publications/greengo-clean-heat-revolution) |
| **Research published on the contribution of **electric vehicle batteries** to **short-term grid storage demand.**** | [Nature Communications Journal](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-022-35393-0) |
| ****Office for Environmental Protection** releases report on **improving the natural environment in England** for 2021/22.** | [OEP](https://www.theoep.org.uk/report/progress-improving-natural-environment-england-20212022) |
| **Statistics released for **Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund** rollout.** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/social-housing-decarbonisation-fund-statistics-january-2023) |
| **BEIS publishes statistics on **Energy Bills Support** Scheme voucher take-up by **energy suppliers.**** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-government-figures-shine-a-light-on-which-suppliers-are-supporting-households-this-winter) |
| **Research published on **heating and cooling installers** and their attitudes to **heat pump training** **and standards.**** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heating-and-cooling-installer-study) |

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| Miscellaneous  |  LINK |
| **Chief Executive of Environment Agency gives speech on **climate optimism.**** | [Environment Agency](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/facing-the-fear-of-fear-itself-the-case-for-climate-optimism) |
| **BEIS publishes **Heat Networks Project Pipeline** for Q3 2022.** | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-pipelines?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=) |
| **National Grid announces **Demand Flexibility Service**, encouraging households to use **less energy** on Monday evenings.** | [National Grid](https://www.nationalgrideso.com/industry-information/balancing-services/demand-flexibility) |
| **UK signs **Clean Energy MoU** with UAE governments, setting out plans for **joint clean energy investment.****  | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-and-united-arab-emirates-agree-to-boost-energy-security-and-unlock-investment) |
| **Business Secretary publishes letter calling on **energy suppliers** to take measures to protect **vulnerable consumers**.**  | [BEIS](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/business-secretary-warns-energy-suppliers-to-end-mistreatment-of-customers) |
| ****Chief Executive of Ofgem** provides oral evidence to BEIS Select Committee on the **current state of the energy retail market.**** | [BEIS Select Committee](https://committees.parliament.uk/event/17109/formal-meeting-oral-evidence-session/) |

To find out about upcoming events relevant to Net Zero, please check out our website events page [here](https://www.neynetzerohub.com/latest-new/hub-events/).