

POWERING UP BRITAIN: NET ZERO GROWTH PLAN

Briefing note



National Net Zero Plan: Net Zero hubs make “excellent progress in supporting local areas to deliver Net Zero”

The government has set out the new Department for Energy Security and Net Zero’s plans for achieving Net Zero – and confirmed Net Zero Hubs have a key role in delivering Net Zero in our communities.

The [Powering Up Britain Net Zero Growth Plan](#) highlights Net Zero Hubs as a vital part of the **“excellent progress in supporting local areas to deliver Net Zero”** and sees the government commit to **“strengthen our support to local authorities on capacity and capability building and ongoing knowledge sharing through our Local Net Zero Hubs”**.

The strategy continues:

“Through our Local Net Zero Hubs we are supporting local authorities and community energy groups to work together... providing local authorities with direct support to develop community-led energy groups and projects”.

“We continue to fund our five Local Net Zero Hubs which build capacity and capability in local government, The Hubs support local authorities across England to develop net zero projects and attract commercial investment... to support delivery at the local level.”

“The Independent Review of Net Zero also affirmed that Government should continue to support the Local Net Zero Hubs Programme, given their role supporting local authorities on capacity and capability building. **We have made excellent progress in this area to date and will continue to work collaboratively with local actors to progress still further”**.

The strategy highlights the “integral role” local areas have to play in the transition to Net Zero, stating:

“Local authorities have strong powers, assets, and responsibilities across many of the areas where emissions reductions are needed, and civil society organisations can enable communities to take collective action to accelerate the net zero transition in their neighbourhoods. Local government is also uniquely placed to attract private sector net zero investment that wouldn’t otherwise be obtained; maximising the local opportunities the transition will bring, such as the growth of green jobs and skills”.

Policy announcements of interest to the work of the Hubs detailed within the strategy include:

- A target of a **400% increase in Solar Energy**, supported by plans to facilitate ground mounted solar on brownfield and low value land and creation of a taskforce to make recommendations to increase deployment of rooftop solar.
- A coming response to a recent consultation on **changes to planning policy** in England for **onshore wind** to deliver a localist approach providing local authorities with more flexibility to respond to the views of local communities.
- An extended funding timeline for **Heat Network support schemes** to 2028

- The ambition restated for **600,000 Heat Pumps** to be installed by **2028**, supported by:
 - An extension of the **Boiler Upgrade Scheme** until 2028 – with enhanced marketing to encourage uptake.
 - A new **Clean Heat Market Mechanism**, designed to “create a market incentive to grow the numbers of heat pumps installed in existing premises each year, providing industry with a clear, long-term policy framework for investment and innovation”.
- The setting out of an approach to **rebalance fuel prices** to make **electricity prices more competitive than gas** by March 2024.
- **£350m** funding for **Electric Vehicle Charging infrastructure**.
- An updated **Green Finance Strategy**
- A new Energy Company Obligation scheme - the **Great British Insulation Scheme** – which will deliver **£1 billion additional investment** in **energy efficiency upgrades**, such as loft and cavity wall insulation in energy inefficient homes by 2026.
- A planned consultation “by the end of this year” on **improving the energy efficiency of owner-occupied homes**.
- An undertaking to publishing of responses to a recent consultation on improving the **energy performance of privately rented** homes and a government response to a consultation on **improving home energy performance through lenders**.

National Grid delivery

- The strategy recognises the need to expand the National Grid “**at an unprecedented scale and pace to deliver more clean power and increase our energy security**”.
- The [Powering Up Britain - Energy Security Plan](#) sets out plans to accelerate the delivery of strategic transmission upgrades by at least three years, with an ambition to cut delivery times in half.
- The Electricity Networks Commissioner has also been asked to advise government on what more can be done to accelerate grid delivery and will present recommendations to Ministers in June. The government will then publish an Action Plan later this year.
- **The strategy also acknowledges the current grid connections process, at both transmission and distribution levels, is “delaying both generation and demand projects in parts of the country”.**
- **The government has committed to publishing a connections action plan in the summer.**