

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP MAY 2023

STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>The government's Jet Zero Council has published a 2-year-plan to support the decarbonising of the aviation sector by 2050.</p> <p>The plan sets out how the Council will work to accelerate the production of sustainable aviation fuels (SAF).</p>	DfT
<p>A new group has been created to bring government and industry together to support the logistics sector – including rail, road, air, maritime and warehousing – reach Net Zero by 2050.</p> <p>The Freight Energy Forum will look to create a roadmap to roll out future clean energy infrastructure for the industry.</p>	DfT
<p>During the third reading of the Energy Security Bill in the House of Lords peers passed an amendment that will give Ofgem a statutory duty to assist in the delivery of Net Zero.</p>	Parliament
CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
<p>The government is seeking views and evidence on the potential introduction of non-price factors into the Contracts for Difference.</p> <p>These factors could include supply chain sustainability, addressing skills gaps and innovation, helping drive investment and boosting national energy security.</p> <p><i>The consultation is open until May 22nd.</i></p>	DESNZ
<p>The government is seeking views on the design of a market-based mechanism to support the development of the market in low-carbon electric heat pumps.</p> <p><i>The consultation is open until June 8th.</i></p>	DESNZ
<p>OFGEM is consulting on policy options for addressing priority customer service issues and new consumer standards.</p> <p><i>The consultation is open until May 31st</i></p>	OFGEM
<p>An inquiry by the House of Commons Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy has concluded “at the current pace of change, the UK is set to fail to hit its target of decarbonising the power sector by 2035. This in turn will fundamentally undermine our ability to hit Net Zero by 2050, reduce our dependence on imported fossil fuels and harness the cheapest form of electricity generation—renewables”. The committee notes that “Low-carbon projects are now facing delays of up to fifteen years to connect to the electricity network”</p> <p>Recommendations in the report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Local communities which host critical national infrastructure must see tangible benefits from doing so”. • “The Government should prioritise delivering a locally co-ordinated programme of energy efficiency and home retrofit”. 	Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee

FUNDING ANNOUNCED	LINK
<p>The Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans Competition (LIDP) will invest up to £5 million in feasibility studies to support the advancement of place-based industrial decarbonisation plans involving collaboration between closely located industrial businesses and other stakeholders.</p> <p><i>An introductory webinar will take place on May 18th. Applications will open in the Summer of 2023.</i></p>	<p>DESNZ</p> <p>Innovate UK</p>
<p>9 projects have been awarded £1.2m of funding from the latest round of the Freight Innovation Fund – designed to decarbonise the transport of goods.</p> <p><i>Successful projects include Otaski, a Gateshead based project which allows electric vehicles to charge from any power grid source and discharge energy back to the grid or storage.</i></p>	DfT
<p>Theatre operators can apply for grants of up to £20,000 towards projects help their buildings to reduce their environmental impact.</p>	Theatre's Trust
<p>The newly-launched Heat Training Grant provides £500 grant payments to support trainees in England undertaking training courses relevant to heat pumps and/or heat networks.</p>	DESNZ

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
<p>A report commissioned by Doncaster City Council has set out how the city can “transform itself into a centre for low carbon sector industries – potentially attracting green tech firms and generating hundreds of jobs”. The “Low Carbon Sector Feasibility Study” identified four areas considered to offer the most promising avenues for investment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon heat, such as heat pump manufacturing and R&D • Alternative fuels, including hydrogen • Bioenergy • Low carbon aviation. 	Doncaster City Council
<p>The most recent Energy Performance Certificate statistics show that in the quarter ending March 2023, the largest increase in EPCs reported for new dwellings compared to the same quarter in 2022, was in the Yorkshire and The Humber (19%), while the largest decrease was in North East (-20%). For existing dwellings, the largest decrease was in the Yorkshire and The Humber (-33%).</p>	DLUHC
<p>The most recent Boiler Upgrade Scheme statistics show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 437 applications received in the North East (400 air source, 13 ground source, 24 biomass) • 1610 applications received in Yorkshire and the Humber (1549 air source, 55 ground source, 1 ground loop, 5 biomass) 	DESNZ
<p>Long-term trends show cycling levels have increased by 23.7% since 2013.</p>	DfT
<p>Research from consultants Savills into the impact of energy costs on commercial property has found data centres and life sciences facilities to be the most exposed since they require large amounts of energy and have fewer options for alternative energy sources.</p>	Full Story
<p>Figures from boiler manufacturer Vaillant suggest 82% of installers are not currently installing heat pumps – although 87% are interested in taking training in the next year.</p>	Full Story

The International Energy Agency's recently-released Global Electric Vehicle Outlook predicts demand for EVs in 2023 could rise 35% this year and account for 18% of all new car sales	Full Story
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MISCELLANEOUS	LINK
Sky News has explored the potential of district heating networks for off-grid rural homes - highlighting a partnership between Cambridgeshire County Council and Bouygues Energies on a ground and air source heat pump energy centre - soon to be powered by a solar farm - supplying hot water to nearby homes.	Full Story
BBC News investigates the use of heat exchange equipment which recovers energy from commercial kitchen fumes and uses it to heat other areas inside restaurant buildings.	Full Story
The European Commission has published its Net-Zero Industry Act which aims to ensure at least 40% of the European Union's energy demand is made domestically by 2030. Among the technologies designated as "strategic" are solar, onshore and offshore wind, battery and storage, heat pumps and geothermal energy, electrolyzers and fuel cells, biomethane, carbon capture and storage and grid technologies.	Full Story
The United States Department of Energy has also made \$250m available to support the acceleration of electric heat pump manufacture in America.	
Legal & General has invested £12.5 million across three companies with a focus on decarbonising residential buildings.	Full Story
Barclays and British Gas have announced a strategic partnership, focusing on helping customers explore ways they could make their homes more energy efficient – launching with a 50% discount on a Hive Thermostat for Barclays mortgage customers.	Full Story

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