

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP NEW YEAR 2024

HUB UPDATES	LINK
<p>The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub is offering free Carbon Literacy training to Local Authorities and Community Groups in our region. Places will be allocated on a first come first served basis with one space is available per authority or group.</p> <p><i>Applications close on January 12th 2024 – Expressions of Interest and further information are available from the link on the right.</i></p>	NEYNZH
STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>A Freeport Roadmap has been published setting out the next steps for the 12 special economic zones within which businesses receive incentives such as enhanced capital allowances and relief from stamp duty and employer national insurance contributions to drive local economic growth.</p> <p>The roadmap states “Freeports can be at the vanguard of our journey to Net Zero, helping refocus critical, historically carbon-intensive economies like Teesside (and) the Humber ...towards green energy and industry.”</p> <p><i>There are two freeports in the NEY Hub region, who we are regularly engaging with the ensure they meet their Net Zero objectives. The NEY Hub is also chair of the national Net Zero Hub network workstream on Commerce and Industry which seeks to align the work of the Hubs with national regional economic development policy, including Freeports.</i></p>	DLUHC
<p>The UK will implement a new import carbon pricing mechanism - which will see goods imported into the UK from countries with a lower or no carbon price having to pay a levy - by 2027.</p> <p>The mechanism is designed to address ‘carbon leakage’ where emissions are displaced to other countries.</p>	HMT
<p>The energy National Policy Statements, which set out national policy for the delivery of major infrastructure have been updated.</p> <p>The revised statement states “<i>The government sees a need for significant amounts of new large-scale energy infrastructure to meet its energy objectives and... considers that the need for such infrastructure is urgent</i>”</p> <p><i>“The Secretary of State should assess all applications for development consent for the types of infrastructure covered by this NPS on the basis that the government has demonstrated that there is a need for those types of infrastructure which is urgent... substantial weight should be given to this need when considering applications for development consent under the Planning Act 2008.”</i></p>	DESNZ
<p>A Hydrogen Roadmap has been published, updating the 2021 national Hydrogen Strategy, which set the national ambition for 10GW of hydrogen production by 2030. The roadmap sets out how government expects the hydrogen production landscape to evolve towards 2035.</p>	DESNZ
<p>The government has published plans to create a competitive Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage market by 2035, which includes:</p>	DESNZ

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving to a competitive allocation process for projects from 2027. • Creating the conditions for projects that cannot transport CO2 by pipeline to enter the market from 2025 onwards, using other forms of transport such as ship, road and rail • Establishing a working group led by industry to identify and adopt solutions to reduce the cost of capturing CO2. 	
The government has made a business model update providing further details on the proposed commercial frameworks for the Greenhouse Gas Removal and Power BECCS business models. The update includes indicative Heads of Terms for the GGR Business Model providing a framework for the principal terms and conditions that are expected to be included in the GGR Agreement for initial projects.	DESNZ
The national zero-emission vehicle mandate has been published. The mandate requires 80% of new cars and 70% of vans sold in Britain to be zero emission by 2030, increasing to 100% by 2035.	DfT
<p>Changes to permitted development rights rules will mean more homeowners and businesses will be able to install solar panels without going through the planning system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homes with flat roofs will be able to install panels without planning permission. • Current rules that require businesses to apply for planning permission if solar panels will generate more than one megawatt of electricity will be scrapped. • Changes will make it easier for panels to be installed in canopies above car parks if they are over ten meters away from homes. 	DLUHC
The government has asked local authorities to publish their plans to promote improved energy efficiency in their areas by February 29 th .	DESNZ

CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
<p>The government has published a consultation outlining plans for achieving the Future Homes Standard and Future Buildings Standard. Under the plans, all new homes and buildings will have to be zero-carbon ready from 2025.</p> <p>A consultation on the plans is open until March 6th.</p>	DLUHC
<p>Views are being sought on the new Home Energy Model which will replace the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP) for the energy rating of homes.</p> <p>The consultation is open until March 6th.</p>	DESNZ
<p>The government has published a review of barriers to energy efficiency and low carbon heating in historic homes. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delays in the planning system and a lack of public awareness as to what approvals are required. • Skills gaps in both local authorities and the construction industry. • Affordability of interventions. <p><i>The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub is currently participating in a retrofit skills pilot designed to address regional skills gaps. The Hub is also co-ordinating projects taking place in the region as part of the national Local Energy Advice Demonstrator which is piloting seven</i></p>	DLUHC

<i>innovative approaches to energy efficiency advice in our region, including households in hard to treat properties.</i>	
Representations relating to the Spring Budget can be made to HM Treasury before January 24 th .	HMT

FUNDING ANNOUNCED	
<p>Funding has been announced for four two-way electric vehicle charging projects, designed to enable electricity stored in a vehicle's battery to return to the grid or to homes and workplaces to power other devices.</p> <p><i>One of the projects is Otaski Energy Solutions in Gateshead, which is aimed at charging EV fleets more flexibly.</i></p>	DESNZ
<p>Eleven projects have received funding from the Hydrogen Allocation round, designed to support the development of commercial hydrogen production.</p> <p><i>Successful projects include two in the North East and Yorkshire region:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tees Green Hydrogen • Bradford Low Carbon Hydrogen 	DESNZ
<p>The deadline for applications to the Rapid Charging Fund has been extended to February 28th. The Fund is designed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support provision of charging infrastructure at strategic locations • Provide grant funding to reinforce grid capacity where it is not commercially viable, leading to a greater provision of ultra-rapid charge points 	DfT
<p>The deadline for applications to the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund 2.2 has been extended to January 31st. The fund will improve the energy performance of social homes in England.</p> <p><i>The NEY Hub has been involved in previous successful applications to the fund and is available to offer advice to local authorities and housing associations on making bids.</i></p>	DESNZ
<p>The deadline for applications to the latest round of the Heat Network Efficiency Scheme has been extended to March 22nd.</p> <p>The fund supports performance improvements to existing district heating or communal heating projects.</p>	DESNZ
<p>Innovate UK's £25m Thriving Places programme has announced funding for new projects aimed at supporting local authorities, their partners and communities to overcome non-technical systemic barriers to Net Zero solutions.</p> <p><i>City of York Council have been awarded over £3m to address barriers to retrofitting properties, including engagement with residents, creating 'deep retrofit' demonstrator homes, developing supply chain skills and exploring innovative financing methods.</i></p>	Innovate UK

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
Research has been carried out into energy usage and energy efficiency of the UK manufacturing industry. The research found that:	DESNZ

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 36% of businesses regularly monitor their energy usage (but not energy efficiency), while 11% monitored both energy usage and energy efficiency. • Almost all (99%) large manufacturers monitor their energy usage, compared to 37% of micro manufacturers. • 66% of businesses have taken steps in the past five years to improve energy efficiency, ranging from 57% among micro businesses to 99% of large businesses. The most common improvements made were investing in building improvements (47%), implementing behavioural and cultural changes (27%), and replacing industrial equipment (24%) • Of those manufacturers who had acted, nearly two thirds (65%) stated that energy bills were an influence behind their decisions. • The key barrier manufacturers cited in improving their site's energy efficiency was financial. Around a half of all respondents (51%) agreed that their business could not afford to make the changes they needed to make. 	
Government research has been published into how climate change affects transport infrastructure. The research also considers the costs and benefits of adapting to climate change.	DfT
DESNZ commissioned research has explore the potential for resource efficiency to unlock carbon savings across a range of sectors, including steel, concrete and vehicles.	DESNZ

MISCELLANEOUS	LINK
The proposed hydrogen heating village trial in Redcar will not proceed as planned as the main source of hydrogen supply is not currently available.	DESNZ
A new 100-hectare forest will be planted in the Tees Valley by 2025 as part of a new government-backed competition to designate a new national forest.	BBC News

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