

NET ZERO POLICY ROUNDUP MARCH 2026

HUB UPDATES	LINK
<p>The final two events of the Hub's Community Energy: Seeing is Believing programme - which showcases how local groups and the communities they serve are benefitting from generating clean heat and energy project to nearby organisations just like them – take place in the coming weeks. You can find out more and sign up on the link below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online networking event • Online energy project matchmaking event 	<p>Seeing is Believing</p>
STRATEGY/POLICY UPDATES	LINK
<p>The government and Great British Energy have published the Local Power Plan, a vision for accelerating the growth of local and community-owned energy aiming to support 1000 new projects by 2030.</p> <p>The Hub has produced a full-length briefing note on the Local Power Plan which can be found here.</p>	<p>Local Power Plan</p>
<p>The government published the Warm Homes Plan, setting out how it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deploy rooftop solar on up to 3 million more homes • Deliver over 450,000 heat pump installations per year • Upgrade up to 5 million homes • Double the amount of heat demand met via heat networks. <p>The Hub has produced a full-length briefing note on the Warm Homes Plan which can be viewed here.</p> <p><i>The Hub manages a consortium of 22 local councils and housing providers currently installing home improvements at 10,000 regional homes through the Warm Homes Social Fund – with the programme recently securing an additional £2.6m to support upgrades at almost 500 more social and low income homes.</i></p>	<p>Warm Homes Plan</p>
<p>The government has produced a factsheet on the impacts of the recent conflict in the Middle East - includes gas supply, energy security, and fuel prices.</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The energy price cap will fall by 7% in April, meaning a decrease of around £117 for the typical dual fuel household.</p>	<p>DESNZ</p>
<p>The National Energy System Operator has launched the transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) informing the strategic development of the energy network in the 2028-33 period.</p> <p>The North East, Yorkshire and Humber is one of the eleven RESP areas, and the tRESP regional context can be found here. The national Hub network has produced guidance for local areas in preparing for the enduring RESP which can be found here.</p>	<p>NESO</p>

<p>NESO has announced changes the timetable for Connections Reform which has been pushed back by several months across all offer categories.</p> <p>Revised timings now stretch from February 2026 through March 2027, with new sequencing and support mechanisms introduced to improve clarity and coordination.</p> <p>The changes are necessary as a result of technical and engineering matters discovered post-queue formation which require additional time to review and resolve.</p>	NESO
<p>The government has published a Northern Growth Plan setting out how it intends to support growth across the North through addressing productivity gaps, increasing economic growth and creating new opportunities. The plan recognises “huge opportunities” in Clean Energy.</p>	HM Treasury, DfT, MHCLG
<p>The Department for Transport has launched its new ‘Get that electric feeling’ campaign, highlighting how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home charging now costs as little as 2p per mile – or £5 to fully charge your car. • EV owners charging at home off-peak can save up to £1400 a year on running costs. <p>You can read more about the campaign on our website.</p>	DfT
<p>New statutory powers will allow energy generated from renewable electricity proposals across land managed by Forestry England to be both used on site and sold to the national grid – generating income streams for environmental projects.</p>	DEFRA
<p>Jonathan Brearley has been appointed as the new Permanent Secretary at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). Jonathan was previously CEO of Ofgem.</p>	DESNZ

CONSULTATIONS AND REVIEWS	LINK
<p>The government is seeking views on the proposed geographies over which spatial development strategies (SDS) should be produced – with proposals including geographies based on the six Mayoral Strategic Authority areas of the North East and Yorkshire.</p> <p>The consultation closes on March 26th.</p>	MHCLG

FUNDING ANNOUNCED	LINK
<p>100 schools and colleges have now installed Great British Energy (GBE) funded solar panels – saving schools an estimated combined £220m over the panel’s lifetime.</p> <p><i>Schools in Bowburn, Blackhill, Ebchester, Shildon, Westoe, South Shields, Bishop Auckland, Sunderland, Darlington, Middlesbrough, North Shields, Hartlepool, Hebburn, Newcastle, Bradford, Wakefield, Halifax, Hull, Sheffield and Goole have benefited from this funding, which has been supported by the Hub’s Public Estate Decarbonisation programme.</i></p>	DESNZ, DfE, GBE

A further £18m funding has been announced for the Plug-in Truck Grant. This means discounts of up to £120,000 on new electric trucks.	DfT
82 NHS sites, 8 military sites, and one prison are receiving £74m DESNZ funding – supported by £9m investment from GBE - for clean energy technologies and enhanced energy efficiency.	DESNZ
Northern Gas Network's Project VOLT has secured a further £500,000 of funding from Ofgem to demonstrate how hybrid dual-fuel microgrids can support improved energy resilience while reducing emissions.	Northern Gas Networks

RESEARCH AND STATISTICS	LINK
A series of videos aimed at upskilling operation and maintenance in the heat networks sector have been published by the government, covering a range of topics including temperatures and monitoring, procurement and contracting, and consumer information.	DESNZ
Edie, in partnership with Lloyds Corporate & Institutional, have produced a report on the barriers and solutions to Net Zero delivery, setting out how business and government can work together on place-based approaches to decarbonisation.	Edie
ADEPT and the Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission have published new guidance setting out practical approaches for communicating about climate and energy in ways that resonate with people's everyday lives	ADEPT

MISCELLANEOUS	LINK
Barnsley has been named the UK's first Tech Town acting as a national blueprint for how AI can improve everyday life	DfSIT
Around 175 students have attended a Clean Energy Jobs Fair at Barnsley College following the publication of the Clean Energy Jobs Plan	DESNZ, DWP
Fenwick Solar Farm near Doncaster, a scheme including ground-mounted solar panels and an on-site Battery Energy Storage System, has been granted development consent from DESNZ. The scheme will generate more than 50 MW and is expected to power approximately 75,000 homes.	DESNZ
The York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been given approval to install over 1000 solar panels on its buildings, which could save more than 72,638kg CO2 annually.	BBC News