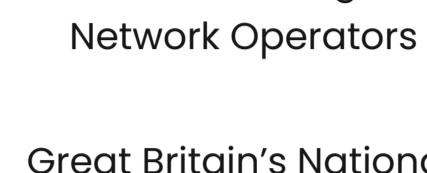


# NESO implements electricity grid connection reforms to unlock investment in Great Britain

8 December

Press release - 08 December 2025



## Key facts

- Following 18 months of collaborative design between NESO, network companies, industry, Ofgem and government, the grid connections process is being transformed to enable up to £40bn in annual investment and strengthen Great Britain's energy security.
- The new delivery pipeline has been confirmed today, and will align with the new Ofgem approved process, meaning energy projects which are most developed and aligned to national targets, can progress...
- ...unlocking 283 GW of generation and storage, and 99 GW of transmission connected demand.
- By moving away from outdated first-come, first-served rules, developers and investors with ready-to-go projects will have the certainty they need to get building, create jobs and strengthen supply chains.
- This process helps ensure that in the future only what is needed will be built, meaning consumers don't pay unnecessary costs.
- Transforming the connections process is not a silver bullet. Thousands of kms of new electricity lines and cables are required to ensure power can be delivered to homes and business, and planning reforms must be implemented to speed up decision-making.
- NESO will begin informing customers today of their status in the new delivery pipeline and Distribution Network Operators will similarly begin informing distribution level connecting customers of their status.

Great Britain's National Energy System Operator (NESO) has today [8th December 2025] confirmed the new pipeline of deliverable, shovel-ready projects that will be prioritised for connection to the electricity networks. This marks the biggest reform of the grid connections process to-date, with the potential to unlock £40bn of investment a year and helping deliver the UK government's target of Clean Power by 2030.

NESO has worked over the past two years with the UK, Scottish and Welsh governments, Ofgem, network companies and the energy industry to transform the connections process from the ground up. Around three thousand applications from projects wanting to connect have been assessed through the process.

The previous first-come, first-served model led to Great Britain's connections queue growing tenfold in five years, leaving more than 700 GW of generation and storage projects waiting for grid access – around four times what Great Britain requires to deliver secure, resilient, affordable and clean power in 2030.

Outdated rules meant that every project, whether it was ready-to-go or not, took up space in the queue.

Under the new process, projects are prioritised where they are aligned to national energy targets and are ready-to-build – such as those with planning permission or land rights.

From today thousands of generation and storage projects – from offshore and onshore wind to solar, battery storage and hydrogen – will be informed whether they are among the 283 GW of projects that move forward now.

In total, 132GW of projects are identified as aligned with the delivery of the UK government's Clean Power 2030 target. Together with the roughly 11GW of existing generation and storage already connected, these projects will support national targets for secure, clean and affordable energy.

A further 151GW of projects are identified as needed to meet Britain's needs by 2035 and strengthen our long-term energy security. This sends clear signals to those investors and developers with ready-to-go projects, enabling them to get building to serve the future needs of society and the economy.

The new pipeline also includes almost 100GW of new or expanded transmission demand connections – enabling industry and businesses to expand and grow.

More than 300GW of projects in the old connections queue will not move forward to the next stage at this time. Some of these projects were not ready or were not aligned to national targets.

NESO will begin informing customers today if they are part of the new pipeline of projects that are prioritised for connection. Projects may reapply in future application windows or if further space becomes available in the pipeline, subject to proving readiness and alignment to national targets.

This transformation of the connections process will accelerate progress, leading to jobs across Britain, strengthening supply chains and powering economic growth.

## Kaye O'Neill, Chief Operating Officer, NESO:

"Transforming the grid connections process is a vital first step in unlocking the capacity needs for a secure, affordable energy transition. These changes will cut grid bottlenecks by prioritising ready-to-build projects, giving certainty about when and where they can connect and unlocking billions in clean energy investment."

"These changes wouldn't be possible without the collaboration of our partners over the last two years. Together, we're laying the foundations for a resilient, efficient and future-ready energy system that delivers for British consumers and the economy."

## Energy Secretary Ed Miliband, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

"We inherited a broken system where zombie projects were allowed to hold up grid connections for viable projects that will bring investment, jobs and economic growth."

"To fix this we embarked on ambitious, once in a generation reforms to clean up the queue and prioritise the projects that are ready to help us deliver clean power by 2030."

"Every solar farm, wind farm or battery storage facility we connect to the electricity grid brings us closer to clean, homegrown, power that we control – so we can get bills down for good."

## Jonathan Brarley, CEO, Ofgem

"We are embarking on the biggest transition our energy system has ever undergone. The destination is clear: a more stable electricity system, a system that is secure, and a system that is ultimately affordable for customers. The way we use energy is evolving. From AI-driven technologies and power-hungry data centres to the surge of electric vehicles on our roads and heat pumps in our homes, demand has reached unprecedented levels."

"Together we've cleared the gridlock and created a new pipeline that prioritises the projects Britain needs most. We are building grids as fast as the sector possibly can, while ensuring generation gets connected. Every step is focused on delivering real value for customers and creating an energy system that works for the future."

## Chris Stark, Head of Mission Control for Clean Power 2030

"Queuing is a very British tradition, but the queue to connect to Britain's grid has held back our economy. This overhaul of the connections process is the single most important step we will take towards a clean power system. The energy projects our country needs now have the green light to deploy at a pace we haven't seen for decades. This unlocks the modern, clean energy system Britain needs for 2030 and beyond."

## Clare Jackson, CEO of Hydrogen UK

"We are pleased to see the results of NESO's Connections Reform. Hydrogen has an important role in the UK's Clean Power ambitions, supporting energy demand while driving industrial decarbonisation. The results open the door and free up space for further hydrogen innovation and accelerated project development."

"Hydrogen's standout advantage is its ability to store energy at scale, providing the flexibility and reliability needed to deliver power on demand and strengthen the resilience of our future energy system."

## Dhara Vyas, CEO of Energy UK:

"A stable, secure energy system depends on ensuring that we can connect more clean power generation to our grid in the coming years. Addressing the issues in the connections queue is critically important and today marks an important milestone with the announcement of a new project pipeline that will unlock investment across the country."

"The National Energy System Operator, Government, and the regulator have worked closely with industry to transform the connections process, and this reform is just the beginning. The energy industry is keen to see planning and environmental processes further streamlined to ensure projects and infrastructure are built out efficiently across the country. Continued efforts will drive investment and create jobs in communities throughout Great Britain, reduce our reliance on volatile gas prices and, ultimately, lead to stable, affordable energy bills for households and businesses."

## Lawrence Slade, Chief Executive of ENA:

"This announcement from NESO marks a pivotal moment for the energy sector as a whole. The complex task of reforming the connections queue has required deep collaboration across the sector. Networks have played a critical role by working closely with customers and industry, conducting detailed evidence checks and providing timely submissions to NESO. Ultimately, this reformed connections process will mean fair and faster connections for GB customers."

## Shevaun Haviland, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce:

"For too long, businesses have been impacted by lengthy queues to get connected to the grid, holding firms back as they look to expand or decarbonise."

"NESO's reforms to the grid will be enthusiastically welcomed by businesses. It is now critical that they lead to real-world delivery. Ensuring quicker connections to the grid and cutting queues are desperately needed so businesses can support economic growth across the UK."

ENDS

## About NESO

National Energy System Operator, NESO, is an independent, public corporation at the centre of the energy system taking a whole system view to help ensure where everyone in Great Britain has access to reliable, clean, and affordable energy.

For media enquiries please contact:

E: [pressoffice@neso.energy](mailto:pressoffice@neso.energy)

M: 07866 897151

## Notes to editors:

- Guidance on how the connections process has been reformed and how projects will now be held accountable for their future delivery and continued progress are set out in NESO's [Connections Reform design documents and methodologies](#).
- The next connections applications window will be held in the second half of 2026.
- Full details of the new connections project pipeline are published on NESO's website here – [https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connections-reform-action-plans#table\\_1](https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connections-reform-action-plans#table_1) page 32 – DESNZ 'Clean Power Capacity Range' that by 2030 Great Britain requires 204GW-231GW by 2030.
- The following tables set out details of the new Connections delivery pipeline by technology.

\*These numbers do not include projects which self-selected to not be prioritised and those projects which did not apply to the connections reform process.

- Projects that enter the delivery pipeline will be offered Gate 2 connections by 2030 (phase 2) or 2035 (phase 3).
- Projects that support the delivery of electricity generation by 2030 or 2035 will be offered Gate 1 connections agreements and will need to meet contractual obligations as set criteria to join the project pipeline (Gate 2).

On 6th November NESO launched its Demand Connection Call for Input (CfI) [https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connections-reform-action-plans#table\\_1](https://www.neso.energy/industry-information/connections-reform/connections-reform-action-plans#table_1) page 32 – DESNZ 'Clean Power Capacity Range' that by 2030 Great Britain requires 204GW-231GW by 2030.

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