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Unveiling the new project pipeline to deliver Clean Power by 2030



Connections - 8 Dec 2025 - 5 minute read



Today we confirmed a new pipeline of deliverable, shovel-ready energy projects that will be prioritised for connection to the electricity networks, unlocking £40 billion in clean investment annually and driving progress towards the government's Clean Power by 2030 target.

We have worked closely with government, investors, networks, Ofgem and the wider energy industry on a major overhaul of the connections process, after the old queue for grid access grew tenfold in five years, reaching over 700 GW, around four times Great Britain's projected

need by 2030.



From today, thousands of projects, from wind and solar farms to battery storage and hydrogen will learn whether they are part of the 283 GW of generation and storage capacity and 99 GW of transmission-connected demand. This defined set of deliverable projects will form a new pipeline as the system moves from a first-come, first-served model to one that prioritises projects ready to meet Great Britain's energy and economic needs.

Our transformation of the connections process sends a clear signal to the energy industry on where new network needs to be built and by when.

Connections reform will ensure Britain has the power it needs post 2030, as electricity demand is projected to almost triple up to 2050. Following today's notifications, the first batch of protected projects scheduled to connect in 2026/2027 will begin receiving formal offers with confirmed connection dates throughout December and into the new year, with remaining offers to be finalised by Q3 next year.

Projects seeking to reapply for inclusion in the connections process will be able to do so from late 2026. To qualify, they must demonstrate both readiness to

progress and strategic alignment with the Government's Clean Power Action Plan.

Connections reform results

Kayte 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 Brearley, 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.”



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