

Centralised Strategic Network Plan explained

Energy demand is changing in Great Britain. We'll need much more clean, reliable, and affordable energy in future to support industry growth and meet communities' needs.

We must make major changes to the energy system to meet this need and move at a pace and scale that Great Britain has not seen before. It's a big challenge that demands a more coordinated approach.

What is the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP)?

The CSNP is part of a new GB-wide energy plan. It will work out:

- What **electricity and gas transmission networks**, or 'energy motorways' we need to move energy efficiently across GB
- Where we may need **new or upgraded transmission infrastructure** to make sure homes and businesses can access energy
- How the **emerging hydrogen network** could help us to transport and store this energy in future.

There is a **big focus on electricity, gas and hydrogen**, as these parts of the system get more connected – decisions in one area strongly affect the others, so we must coordinate them.

Energy regulator Ofgem has asked us to produce the CSNP. The plan will provide a **25-year view of network needs across GB**, map the best places for energy infrastructure, and guide major network investment.

Why we need this plan

Homes, businesses, and communities need the right energy infrastructure to support everyday life and future growth. We must make sure that GB's energy networks are the right size to maintain a **reliable, clean, and affordable energy system**.



As our energy system changes:

- **Electricity networks** will need to expand
- **Gas transmission** will continue to support our energy system
- The **hydrogen system** will develop based on need.

Plan these elements together, and we can better manage impacts and avoid unnecessary cost.

CSNP links to other plans

The CSNP links to two other key plans:

- The **Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)** will show how to meet GB's future energy needs, and where new energy is needed
- Our **Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs)** will show more local energy distribution priorities for Wales, Scotland and nine English regions.

Five steps to build the plan

We will work through five steps to develop the CSNP. Let's see what's involved at each step.

- **Drive** – collect data and analyse what energy networks GB needs to transmit electricity, gas and hydrogen in future
- **Identify** – look at current energy network limits and future needs, and we will publish our findings
- **Develop** – work with transmission owners and other stakeholders on possible options to meet identified needs
- **Appraise** – work out which options will work best for GB overall. We look at things like value for money, system impacts, and deliverability. At this stage we select a preferred network design for each energy type. We also conduct environmental assessments to look at possible effects on wildlife, landscapes, and communities and how to minimise these
- **Deliver** – publish the draft CSNP and supporting environmental information and invite views from stakeholders and the public. We will refine the plan after feedback as appropriate and ask Ofgem to approve it. We will then publish the final approved plan on our website.



How we will consult on the plan

Stakeholder input is key to the CSNP. We want to make sure our plans are visible, and give people the chance to shape this work at every step.

We will also:

- Continue to seek input from energy industry stakeholders
- Continue to seek input from environmental stakeholders
- Seek input from other people who could participate in the CSNP, such as community and society interest groups
- Continue to raise awareness of the plan across GB's nations and regions.

Key dates

We will **consult on the draft plan** in spring 2028.
We will **publish the final CSNP** in winter 2028.

We will update the plan **every three years** to make sure it stays relevant and effective. Our updates will reflect expected network changes to meet GB's future growing energy needs.

Any questions? Contact us

We hope you find this factsheet useful. If you have any questions, please contact our team.

Visit our website
neso.energy/network-planning

Email us
box.sep-portfolio@neso.energy

