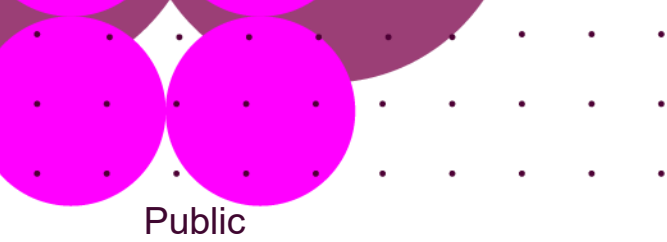


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RESP Forums Summer 2025 Report

June – July 2025



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1. Purpose of This Document

The purpose of this document is to provide a written record of the Summer 2025 RESP Forums, held during June–July 2025. This document provides a factual account of the Forums, capturing the details, what participants and NESO said, and what NESO will do next.

Within this document, we use the term ‘customer’ to recognise that we are a publicly owned independent corporation, with responsibility for planning an energy system that works for everyone across Great Britain. We consider that everybody who uses energy in Great Britain is a customer of NESO.

For details on the RESP Forum context, scope and purpose, please see Annex 1.

2. Summer 2025 Forums Summary

2.1 Insights and actions summary

Gathering feedback, understanding customer and stakeholder views, and taking action as a result of their input, is at the heart of our approach.

This table summarises the insights and actions NESO will take from the Summer 2025 Forums. For further details please see Annex 2.

	Insight (you said)	NESO Action (we will)	Timescale	How to get involved
1.	Attendees provided a wide variety of responses to ensure each of the eleven national and regional contexts reflect their nation / region. Responses covered demographic information, targets and information on	We will collate all feedback on the eleven national and regional contexts, across all qualitative and quantitative elements and look to either: feed into the document to be published for the tRESP consultation in mid-September 2025; feed	Either by the tRESP consultation (September 2025), final tRESP document (January 2026) or in the full RESP national and regional contexts (2027).	Through engaging with your national or regional RESP team or by responding to the September 2025 tRESP consultation

	Insight (you said)	NESO Action (we will)	Timescale	How to get involved
	transport, industry and energy generation.	into the final tRESP document to be published in January 2026, or; be considered in the development of the eleven national and regional Contexts when we move into full RESP from late-2026. .		
2.	For the Strategic Investment Need RFI (Request for Information) section, attendees responded to let us know whether they had already submitted an RFI response, were still working on their RFI response, they needed more details, or they weren't planning to submit a response	All attendees who provided contact details requesting more information will be contacted by the relevant RESP national/regional team.	All attendees who provided their details were contacted by the relevant RESP team prior to the close of the RFI deadline in July 2025.	Attend a r quarterly RESP Forum.
3.	31% of attendees responded that they understood how tRESP pathways will be created, 6% responded that they didn't understand and 63% responded that they understood somewhat	NESO will issue the tRESP consultation for Pathways and CPAs, together with the detailed methodology and data/visualisations.	September 2025	Respond to the tRESP consultation

	Insight (you said)	NESO Action (we will)	Timescale	How to get involved
4.	Attendees outlined the things that hinder them from getting involved or doing more in energy planning activity	We want to make Local Actor Support as targeted and effective as possible, both in enabling Local Actors to engage with the production of the eleven RESPs, and to embed knowledge and best practice within Local Actors' organisations.	We will be continuing to develop our proposals for Local Actor Support, as part of our development of the full RESP methodology, which will be consulted on in November 2025.	The consultation on the full RESP methodology will incorporate our proposals for Local Actor Support. This will explain our thinking to date, which has been influenced by Local Actors' responses to these questions as well as additional research we've undertaken.
5.	Attendees outlined the things that would help them to have greater involvement in energy planning	Therefore, we will use these points when designing our proposals for Local Actor Support, to help us focus the support on Local Actors' biggest obstacles and greatest possible enablers. This will also consider that NESO has finite capacity available to provide support.	Subject to the consultation, we anticipate establishing the first elements of Local Actor Support in 2026, to complement the initial RESP production steps.	Once the Local Actor Support is established, as local actors
6.	Attendees provided suggestions of things that NESO could do to help customers and stakeholders engage in RESP and the future of energy planning.	Input from Local Actors will be a vital means by which we ensure the RESPs comprehensively represent the nations and regions. At the same time, we want the RESPs to be a catalyst for change by enabling Local Actors to embed energy planning in their own organisations.		Local Actors will be able to benefit from the support offered.

	Insight (you said)	NESO Action (we will)	Timescale	How to get involved
		Therefore, we will use these points when designing our proposals for Local Actor Support to help us ensure the support enables Local Actors to engage in RESP and energy planning.		
7.	51% of attendees responded that they had not attended the first RESP Forum in March / April 2025, with 49% responding that they had attended the first Forum	We will continue to monitor these figures in future Forums.	Ongoing	Continue to attend and contribute within future RESP Forums
8.	28% of attendees found the Summer 2025 Forum more relevant to their organisation than the Spring 2025 meeting, 72% of attendees found it about the same, and no attendees responded that they found it less relevant	We will continue to ask this question and monitor responses. Where Forums are not deemed to be relevant, we will seek to understand why and act accordingly.	Ongoing	Continue to attend and contribute within future RESP Forums
9.	78% of attendees responded that they believe the RESP Forums are an effective engagement tool, 16% responded	We will continue to ask this question and monitor responses. Where Forums are not deemed to be an effective engagement, we will seek to	Ongoing	Continue to provide us with feedback both in the Forums

	Insight (you said)	NESO Action (we will)	Timescale	How to get involved
	maybe and 6% of believe they are not an effective tool	understand why and act accordingly. We will combine this with the free-text feedback for what we could improve.		and outside of the Forums
10.	The number of attendees who responded that they are interested in more than one RESP nation/region was 37% with 63% interested in one RESP nation/region only	<p>We will continue to provide national and region-specific information at Forums.</p> <p>We will also continue to provide channels for customers that are not focused on specific RESP nations/regions. This currently includes our 'Introduction to RESP' webinars (March 2025 Webinar & June 2025 Webinar), the NESO Strategic Energy Planning Industry Group and Societal Forums. We will also continue to use third party channels to reach our customers, including local authority networks we have established relationships with.</p>	Ongoing	N/A
11.	90% of attendees have responded that they will be joining the next Forum, with 10% of attendees responding maybe and no	Forums will continue to include a draft (subject to change) agenda for the upcoming Forum, with a view to providing customers planning to	Ongoing	Continue to attend and participate in Forums

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	Insight (you said)	NESO Action (we will)	Timescale	How to get involved
	attendees responding that they will not be attending	attend the next meeting with details on topics to be covered. We will also provide provisional dates for the upcoming Forum at the latest Forum.		
12.	Attendees provided a wide range of responses to what they thought went well in the Forum	We will review the feedback we have received to understand the themes and specific areas that attendees thought worked well. Where possible, we will incorporate this feedback into the design of future Forums. We will continue seeking this feedback at future Forums and improving our understanding of the things that our attendees have responded well to.	Considered when designing Autumn 2025 Forum content, agenda and details. Ongoing.	Continue to attend, participate and provide feedback on future Forums.
13.	Forum attendees provided a range of suggestions on what we could improve next time	We will review the feedback received to understand themes and particular issues that attendees felt could be improved upon. Where possible, we will consider these responses when planning future Forums, including agenda, timings and content. We will continue seeking this	Considered when designing Autumn 2025 Forum content, agenda and details. Ongoing.	Continue to attend, participate and provide feedback on future Forums.

Public

	Insight (you said)	NESO Action (we will)	Timescale	How to get involved
		feedback at future Forums and improving our understanding of areas our attendees would like to see improved.		

2.2 Forum promotion and dates

To help enable all attendees to participate in the Forums, an ‘Introduction to RESP’ webinar was held in June 2025, shortly before the Summer 2025 Forums began. A link to a recording of the June webinar can be found on our website [here](#). This webinar built on our earlier ‘Introduction to RESP’ webinar, which was held in March 2025, prior to the first round of Forums.

To help maximise attendance, we promoted the Forums through a range of channels. Please see Annex 3 for details.

Nation or region	Date of Forum
Scotland	26 th June
North West	2nd July
Central England	7th July
London	7th July
West Midlands	8th July
North East, Yorkshire and Humber	8th July
South East	9th July / 17 th July*
South West	9th July
Wales	10th July

Nation or region	Date of Forum
East Midlands	10th July
East of England	10th July
*Due to technical issues on the originally planned date, 09/07/25, the South East Forum was rearranged for 17/07/2025	

2.3 Forum Attendee Information

We had 767 attendees across the 11 Forums, highlighting the level of interest in RESP and the important role the Forums play in reaching a wide range of local customers.

Below is breakdown of attendance numbers at each of the 11 Forums:

Nation or region	Attendees
Scotland	189
North West	58
Central England	72
London	66
North East, Yorkshire & Humber	64
West Midlands	42
South West	65
East Midlands	46
Wales	65
East of England	51
South East*	49
Total	767

*Technical issues resulted in the South East Forum being unable to run on the day as scheduled, with the Forum being re-arranged for a later date

We saw a fall in the number of attendees from our Spring 2025 Forums, where we had 1,263 attendees. During the Spring 2025 Forums, we asked how many attendees were planning to attend our Summer 2025 Forums. 78% of attendees who responded, said they planned to attend (equating to 985 attendees), with 20% undecided (253 attendees) and 2% not planning to attend (25 attendees). Therefore, the drop-off rate from 1,263 attendees to 767 was unexpected. However, this could potentially be explained by a number of factors including the sharing of an agenda in advance, allowing customers to understand if this Forum would be of relevance to them, as well as the Forums taking place in the summer months, when some customers may have been on annual leave.

We also believe the drop-off in attendance could be at least partly due to technical issues which meant customers for some of our Forums did not receive an automated invite immediately after registering. We offer our sincere apologies to anyone impacted by these technical issues. A review of the issue has been undertaken and identified a setting on Microsoft Teams had been set incorrectly. We have updated our process for Forum planning to prevent a future reoccurrence. Unfortunately, disruption to the South East Forum was significant enough, with most unable to join the live event, that the decision was taken during the Forum to stop and re-schedule for the following week.

Confidentiality and privacy

As part of our commitment to confidentiality and privacy, we do not share details of customers who have registered for a Forum or joined a Forum, with any external party. We collect names and details of customers only for the purposes of monitoring attendance and understanding which sectors may require further engagement; these details are only shared internally within NESO where it is required. We do not collect the names or details of customers when they respond to polls or surveys. If a customer included their details for the purposes of being contacted, their details would not be shared, and they would be contacted by a

member of the RESP team. The tRESP transparency statement is available on our website here: [tRESP Engagement Transparency Statement](#).

2.4 RESP Forum Content

As with the Spring 2025 Forums, the Summer 2025 RESP Forums were held in all eleven RESP nations and regions and were delivered by the relevant RESP nation/region team. The core content was the same across all eleven Forums. However, there were variations accounting for the nation/region-specific work being done in each RESP area.

Each Forum also included insight sessions to enable attendees to contribute their views, which were displayed live on screen. The meetings concluded with a Q&A section.

The meeting content was written so that both those with detailed knowledge and those with less experience in energy planning could participate. The Summer 2025 Forum agenda was as follows:

1. Welcome and Introduction
2. tRESP Update – *an update on tresp, nation/region context and local data, an overview of the strategic investment request for information process, an overview of tRESP Pathways and Consistent Planning Assumptions*
3. Updates on wider RESP Activities – *an overview of our full RESP methodology, an overview of Local Actor Support*
4. Q&A
5. Next Steps and Close

2.5 How we gathered customer views during the Forums

During the Forums, we used a third-party engagement tool called Mentimeter (Menti).

We used Menti to gather insights and feedback from attendees, which was used to help guide the development and next steps for tRESP and RESP. Some

questions put to attendees were closed / multiple choice, and some questions were open / free text.

Nation or region	Attendees	Number & % of Attendees who interacted with Menti
Scotland	189	93 (49%)
North West	58	31 (53%)
Central England	72	40 (55%)
London	66	31 (47%)
North East, Yorkshire & Humber	64	37 (58%)
West Midlands	42	22 (52%)
South West	65	35 (54%)
East Midlands	46	26 (57%)
Wales	65	26 (40%)
East of England	51	29 (57%)
South East*	49	22 (45%)
Total	767	392 (51%)

As well as poll and survey questions, Menti enabled attendees to submit questions for the Q&A sections of the Forums. 268 questions were submitted in total, many of which were answered on the day. In the interests of openness and transparency, and as part of our approach to maximising opportunities for customers to engage with RESP, we will be updating our FAQ (frequently asked questions) document on our website. This document covers the common questions we received at the Spring 2025 Forums, as well as questions presenters were not able to answer due to time constraints. Its update will include the common and unanswered questions from the Summer 2025 Forums.

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2.6 Useful Links

- [RESP Forum 2 Slides \[change to 'RESP Summer 2025 Forum slides'\]](#)
- [Introduction to RESP webinar March 2025 recording](#)
- [Introduction to RESP Webinar June 2025 Recording](#)
- [RESP Forum 1 \(March-April 2025\) slides \[change to 'Spring 2025'\]](#)
- [Write-up of RESP Forum 1 \(March-April 2025\)\[change to 'Spring 2025'\]](#)
- [RESP FAQs](#)
- [NESO's RESP Website](#)

2.7 Progress against actions from Spring 2025 Forums

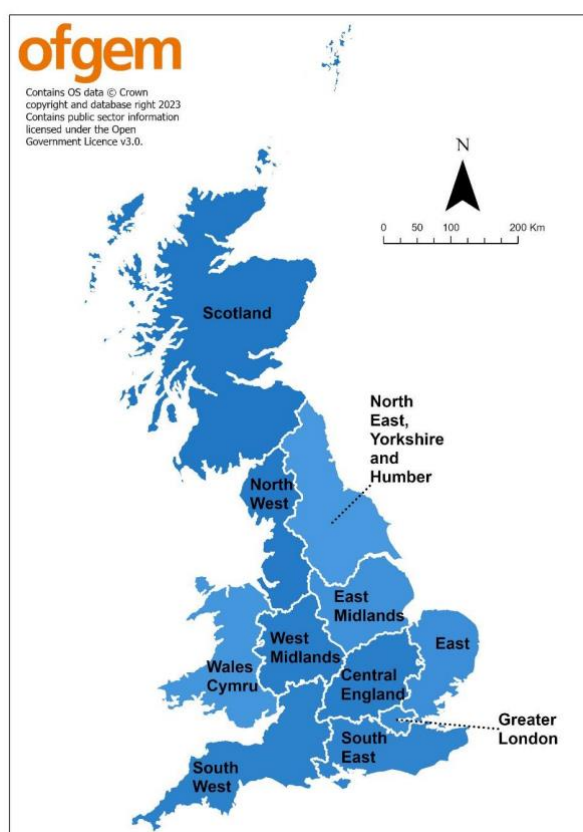
For details on how we have progressed against the actions from the Spring 2025 Forums, please see Annex 4.

Annexes

Annex 1 – Forums Context, Scope and Purpose

Context

In November 2023, Ofgem asked NESO to deliver a new RESP (regional energy strategic planning) role. The purpose of RESP is to ensure that local areas get the energy distribution infrastructure they need to support the delivery of local and national ambitions for economic growth and net zero. To help ensure this is achieved, NESO will be producing RESPs (regional energy strategic plans) for the eleven RESP nations and regions. The below map sets out the eleven areas, as defined by Ofgem:



Ofgem and NESO share the view that the RESP role can only be successfully delivered through NESO working closely with our national and regional customers

and stakeholders, ensuring their needs underpin the plans we develop. This view is embedded as part of the definition of the role, setting out that NESO's approach needs to be place-based, transparent and collaborative.

For that reason, NESO has established RESP Forums as one part of our developing programme of engagement activities. In concert with the other channels we'll be developing, the Forums provide us with an important space to build relationships with our customers, understand their needs, and ensure their views shape and underpin our approach to the delivery of the new RESP role.

The first round of Forums took place in March/April 2025. There were over 1,200 attendees and the Forums focused primarily on deep dives into the work that tRESP (Transitional RESP) was undertaking. The second round of Forums took place in June and July 2025, providing a broader overview of activities underway within RESP. The third round of RESP Forums are scheduled for October 2025.

Further details on the RESP role are set out on our website¹ and in the RESP Policy Framework, which was published by Ofgem in April 2025².

Forums Scope and Purpose

The scope of the Forums is set out below:

What

- Channel for engaging customers in RESP
- Provide an opportunity for feedback and questions
- Online meetings of up to 90 minutes
- Set format delivered in each nation/region, with place-based variation

Who

¹ <https://www.neso.energy/what-we-do/strategic-planning/regional-energy-strategic-planning-resp>

² <https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/decision/regional-energy-strategic-plan-policy-framework-decision>

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- Inclusive – open to all customers and stakeholders with an interest in RESP and strategic energy planning; all levels of seniority, and all levels of technical knowledge
- Transparent in approach but attendee lists not shared publicly and names not shared in Q&A

Why

- Introduce the concept of regional energy strategic planning
- Introduce the RESP national and regional teams to their customers, including contact details for further conversations
- Signpost what's next, what regional energy strategic planning will mean for customers and stakeholders, and how to get involved
- Gather feedback to help shape key aspects of RESP, including our engagement approach and the transitional RESP (tRESP) project

When

Quarterly, linked to key milestones within the RESP programme.

Annex 2 – Summer 2025 Forums Insights

767 people attended the 11 Forums over June and July 2025. In each of the Forums, attendees were presented with data and information from several key RESP activities and asked questions for their feedback and input to help develop those activities.

This section sets out the questions we asked and the insights we gathered from Forum 2 and the actions that NESO will take as a result.

For the below summary only, where questions allowed free text, the three most upvoted responses or the largest grouping of responses by AI has been used. Additionally, some answers below have been summarised and/or combined for the purposes of readability within this write-up. However, all responses we received will be reviewed by the RESP team and included when considering the planning of the project.

National and Regional Context

Q: Demographics & Targets – What have we missed that provides national and regional Context in your RESP nation/region

Nation and region	Three most upvoted/common answers (some answers have been combined and/or summarised)
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community wealth building Fuel poverty risk Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)
North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rail service and infrastructure pipelines New developments in the area during the tRESP term Industrial decarbonisation
Central England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New towns Growth forward projections that reflect latest government ambitions Real world intent to take up electrification (vehicles, heating, cooking, etc.)
London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing: types, prices, low carbon technologies (LCTs) and retrofits (including historical retrofit rates)

Public

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population information including age profile, workforce density and population density Utility and heat network development and works
West Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local area energy plans (LAEPs), including lack of consistency of LAEPs between areas Local Transport Strategies Demographic composition
North East, Yorkshire and Humber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Off-grid properties and rural areas where community energy projects could be most viable solution for meeting local energy need Transitioning of jobs as region decarbonises Net zero targets
South East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heat pump uptake and heat network zoning AI & data centre demand Domestic electric vehicle (EV) EV data
South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community energy and plans Housing; including energy efficiency, targets and associations Population demographic details and changes
Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Homeowner and housing supply data Impact of income on energy – fuel poverty and uptake of EVs Regional differences in Wales
East Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water availability to enable net zero ambitions and ongoing population growth Percentage of workers in sectors which will have high energy demand EV charging need and pricing
East of England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population growth and ageing population New housing developments and towns Fuel poverty

Insight:

The input from our customers has provided us with a better understanding of national and regional interests and data requirements, providing a clearer qualitative narrative for each nation and region. Through review of this input, we can extrapolate themes which we can incorporate into our work.

Q: Transport, Industry & Generation – What have we missed that provides national and regional context in your RESP nation/region

Nation and region	Three most upvoted/common answers (some answers have been combined and/or summarised)
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heat Networks • Community energy generators • Data centres with respect to AI
North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Industrial Decarbonisation requirements • District heat networks for flexibility • New development not in existing plans
Central England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • East West Rail • Fleet charging and hydrogen infrastructure • Stansted / Luton expansions
London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data centres • Large vehicle depot / bus electrification • Infrastructure and industry
West Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New transport infrastructure, including transport hubs • EV charging • Industrial emissions
North East, Yorkshire and Humber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private generation for overspill back to grid and offsetting growth in demand • Commercial business plans • Socio economic data
South East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Energy initiatives • Industries that have waste heat-mapping for heat networks • Data centre planning
South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data centres • Ports, harbours and maritime • Roads, carparks and carports
Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydrogen / green gas use for transport • Public transport infrastructure and networks • Access to EV charging points
East Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production, storage and distribution capacity for green hydrogenH2 • Reflect new housing growth targets which each LA area is now having to plan for • Analysis of industrial demand
East of England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects future energy generation in East of England • Thames crossing • Coastal; offshore generation and maritime decarbonisation

Public

Insight:

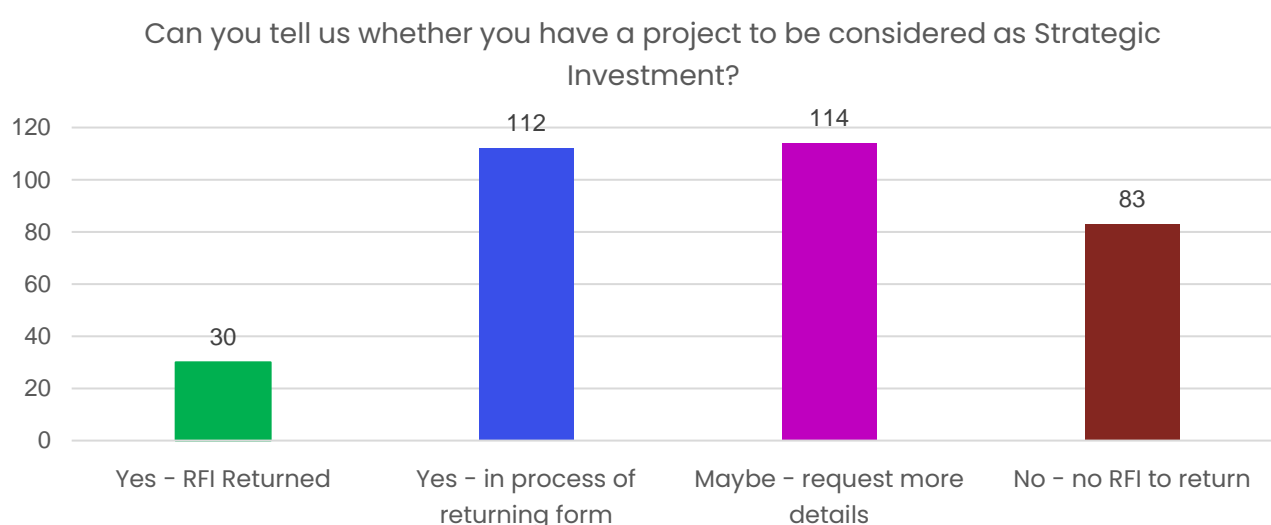
This data provides us with a clearer understanding of the elements which customers and stakeholders view as most valuable for their nation or region, in relation to transport, industry and generation.

Actions from National and Regional Contexts Insights:

From the insights we have gained, we will consider how to include customer and stakeholder priorities, across both quantitative and qualitative elements, in the product. We will consider the data processing and sourcing requirements for the responses received. This will help us to assess their viability for inclusion within National and Regional Contexts and whether to include it within tRESP or full RESP. The tRESP consultation was launched 23rd September 2025 and the final version will be published January 2026.

Strategic Investment

Q: Can you tell us whether you have a project to be considered as Strategic Investment?



Insight & Actions

Public

Strategic Investment Need is focused on identifying investment into the network in advance of certain need. This process looks to drive additional investment into the electricity network, help to accelerate delivery of projects, and mitigate prolonged connection timelines.

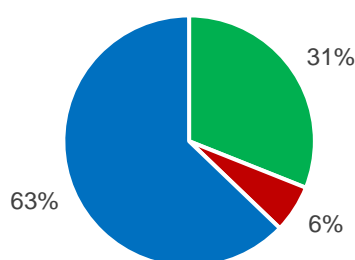
Without understanding your plans, we cannot look to integrate them into tRESP (Transitional RESP). We invited customers to complete a request for information so that we can understand strategic investment need across the energy networks within the different nations and regions of Great Britain.

This question has provided us valuable insight into how many responses to our request for information (RFI) we were still expecting to be returned. Additionally, all attendees who provided their contact information asking for more detail have been contacted by their local RESP team.

Pathways and Common Planning Assumptions (CPAs)

Q: Do you understand how tRESP pathways will be created?

Do you understand the purpose of Pathways and CPAs?



■ Yes ■ No ■ I understand somewhat

Insight & Action

Most attendees at the Forums either understood or understood somewhat the information that was presented on Pathways and CPAs. However, more is needed to be done to ensure that all customers are comfortable in their understanding so that they can contribute. The tRESP consultation is being released in September, and, alongside it, we will be sharing our methodology

document that will provide a detailed overview of the approach taken in the development of the pathways and CPAs.

Local Actor Support

Public

Q: What hinders you from getting involved or doing more in energy planning activity?

Nation and region	Three most upvoted/common answers (some answers have been combined and/or summarised)
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Resources • Capacity
North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity • Capacity • Data
Central England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Capacity • Lack of knowledge
London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity • Funding • Buy-in
West Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time • Data • Knowledge
North East, Yorkshire and Humber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity • Funding • Policy uncertainty
South East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity • Funding • Knowledge
South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time • Capacity • Knowledge
Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity • Time • Knowledge
East Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity • Understanding • Knowledge and training
East of England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time • Funding • Knowledge

Insight

These results are consistent with the feedback we received when we were undertaking our research into Local Actor Support. We will use these results to help us design the Local Actor Support function.

Q: What helps you have greater involvement in energy planning?

Nation or region	Three most upvoted/common answers (some answers have been combined and/or summarised)
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration • Knowledge • Engagement
North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data tools • Engagement • Clarity
Central England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordination • Mandate • Understanding
London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Capability and capacity • Information and data
West Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data • Guidance • Communication
North East, Yorkshire and Humber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear direction • Collaboration • Regular engagement
South East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement • Understanding and knowledge • Clear simple or standardised processes
South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration • Engagement • Access to data
Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration • Clarity and certainty • Engagement
East Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding • Knowledge and training • Transparency
East of England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement • Capacity • Funding and resources

Insight

These results support our understanding of how Local Actor Support could help customers to better embed energy planning. These results are consistent with the feedback we received when we were undertaking our research into Local Actor Support.

Q: What could NESO provide to help your organisation engage in RESP and energy planning even further?

Nation or region	Three most upvoted/common answers (some answers have been combined and/or summarised)
Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working groups Opportunities to share innovative data/research projects Summary of what to expect from NESO and when
North West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear division of engagement between different organisation types Membership of boards or support groups to share best practice and develop and apply common evidence Consistent data format and a focal point to coordinate and convene input
Central England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Less complicated forms and plain English Clear guidance on how this interacts with LAEPs Briefings for senior managers and politicians for why Local Authorities should participate
London	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional support: secondments / funded roles / supporting on prioritisation Training Leadership engagement
West Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data coordination and availability Collaboration Shared knowledge
North East, Yorkshire and Humber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guidance notes to help explain it to people outside energy sector Proactivity when co-developing asks, less surprises and transparency on engagement Regular dialogue with large, strategic project owners to capture complexity of developing energy plans
South East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples of projects submitted via RFI and how the submission has affected network investments Help us make the business case to senior management

Public

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Real world examples of the impact RESP will have
South West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular updates and enhanced engagement • Greater clarity • Greater support and coordination
Wales	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support and guides • Workshops and roundtables • Ongoing engagement
East Midlands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarity over what good looks like and examples • Engage with relevant organisations to reduce duplication • Two-way discussions
East of England	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrification and demand and generation detail • Collaboration with other customers – including discussions at events like the Forums • More advanced visibility of events and requests

Insight

We recognise the consistency in the answers across the 11 nations and regions, with similar trends and themes. These answers will help us to design the Local Actor Support function and will also help us prioritise what we deliver and when.

Actions from Local Actor Support Insights:

We will:

- Use input gained from Forum questions to supplement desk-based market research and in-depth interviews we've had with Local Actors during June and July. All of this input will be used to shape our initial thinking on Local Actor Support.
- The questions posed in the Forum will specifically help NESO teams to strengthen our understanding of Local Actors' barriers and support asks for getting involved in energy planning, plus Forum attendees' views of what support NESO could or should provide. Given that NESO has a finite capacity to provide Local Actor Support, this feedback will also help us to focus support on the most critical areas for Local Actors.
- We will utilise all of this feedback to design Local Actor Support in a way which addresses Local Actors' needs whilst enabling them to effectively engage with RESP production, and we will explain in the enduring

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Methodology consultation how we taken Local Actors' input into account in arriving at the proposals.

- We will test our thinking further in consultation with Ofgem ahead of consulting more widely as part of our enduring Methodology consultation in November this year. Subject to the consultation outcome, we anticipate establishing the first elements of Local Actor Support in 2026 to complement the initial RESP production steps.

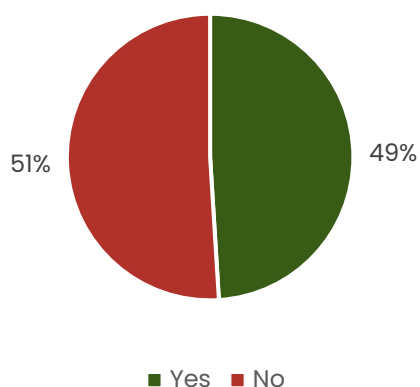
Summer 2025 Forum Feedback

At the end of the Forum, a feedback survey was shared with attendees asking the following questions.

Q: Did you attend our last RESP forum held in between March – April 2025?

This question was asked to understand how many of our attendees had existing

Did you attend our last RESP forum held in between March – April 2025?



knowledge and experience from the first Forum and how many newcomers we had to the second wave of RESP Forums.

Insight

The majority of those responding to the feedback form did not attend the first Forum that we held. This result signals that we are continuing to reach new customers or are now reaching the people within customers for whom the development of RESP is most

relevant.

Action

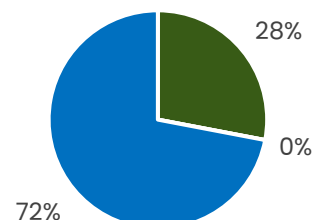
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We will continue to monitor these figures in future Forums.

Q: Did you find this forum more relevant to your organisation than the last forum?

We want to make sure that we are presenting information to customers in a way that makes it relevant to their interests.

Did you find this forum more relevant to your organisation than the last forum?



■ More Relevant ■ Less Relevant ■ About the same

Insight

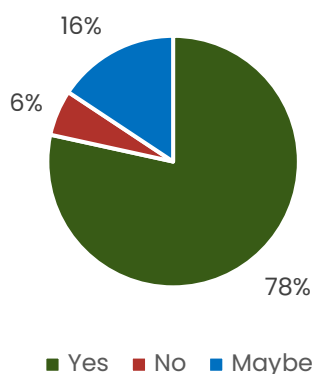
No attendees found Forum 2 less relevant than the previous Forum and nearly a third of attendees found the Forum more relevant. The content was deliberately pitched to make it as relevant to as wide a range of customers as possible.

Action

We will continue to ask this question in future Forums and use it as metric by which we can measure our own performance, compared to previous Forums, to ensure we continue to deliver relevant content, and adjust as required.

Q: Do you feel the forums are an effective engagement tool for RESP?

Do you feel the forums are an effective engagement tool for RESP?



■ Yes ■ No ■ Maybe

Within RESP, we are dedicated to engaging widely and transparently. However, due to the number of parties interested in RESP, we must be selective and realistic when choosing mechanisms to meet our engagement ambitions. The Forums currently provide a route to speak with, engage with and get feedback from a wide range of customers across all 11 nations and regions. We asked this question to ensure we are still meeting the

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needs of our customers and to understand whether we need to consider alternative engagement approaches.

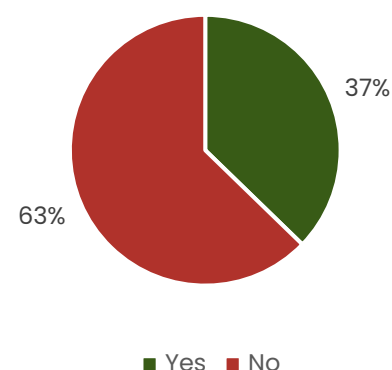
Insight & Action

The results show that most attendees find the Forums a good engagement tool for RESP. In the future, we will continue to monitor whether the Forums are still providing value to our customers, and we will combine this with the free-text feedback for what we could do better.

Q: Are you interested in more than one RESP nation/region?

We were keen to understand how many of our attendees were representing multiple nations or regions or whether they were based within a single nation or region.

Are you interested in more than one RESP region/nation?



Insight

Two-thirds of respondents are nation or region-specific.

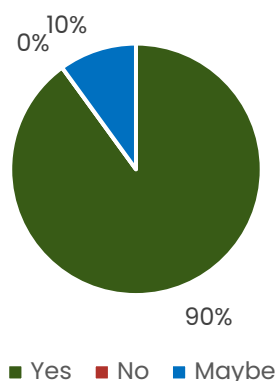
Action

We will continue to provide nation and region-specific information at Forums. We will also continue to provide channels for customers that are not focused on specific RESP nations/regions. This currently includes our 'Introduction to RESP' webinars ([March 2025 Webinar](#) & [June 2025 Webinar](#)) and updates to the NESO Strategic Energy Planning Industry. We will also continue to use third party channels to reach our customers, including a number of local authority networks we have established relationships with.

Public

Q: Are you planning to join the next forum?

Are you planning to join the next forum?



To continue ensuring the effectiveness of Forums and the value they bring, we are keen to understand whether attendees are intending to attend the next Forum we run. This question, as with all other questions in the survey, was only provided to Attendees once their Forum had concluded. This ensures that answers are provided once attendees have had the opportunity to assess the value the Forum provided them.

Insight

Most of the Forum attendees who responded to the survey are planning to attend the next Forum. We also note that no attendees responded that they are not planning on attending the next Forum.

Action

We will be reviewing the free-text feedback, as well as all other feedback to understand how we can ensure that the Forum is of relevance for those who have voted 'maybe'. We will also look at these statistics again following the third Forum to analyse how they compared to actual attendance and understand the value asking this question brings.

Q: What do you think went well?

We have provided all answers we received to this question in our feedback form, unedited. We have provided insights and actions beneath.

- Didn't shy away from direct questions
- Liked the Menti but would have been good if this could have been answered as we were going along
- It was useful to get an update
- Clear, concise and compelling
- New to RESP process so the background was very useful and methods to engage with the process
- Overview

Public

- Good amount of information and the start of identification of project sizes through regional maps
- Was very informative & engaging
- Nice slides
- The forum was highly informative and well-structured. We appreciated the clear explanation of RESP outputs and the alignment with regional priorities.
- Transparent sharing of progress made + the upcoming RESP activities. Very helpful to get questions answered in real-time and have the Menti polls along the way to provide input
- Great to see the new team as it develops and keep up to speed with what will be included in the tRESP / RESP and how CP2030 feeds in.
- It was a good introduction to what you are doing
- Good updates on timelines and some further detail
- Good information well facilitated
- Clear presentation of material, sufficient time provided for Menti polls, detailed explanation of tRESP process and links to other UK energy planning activities
- Lots of information
- Knowing more about what will come out of the tRESP
- menti
- menti
- Comprehensive information provided and well presented.
- Bears repeated viewing
- Presentations went well. Good to hear from all the team.
- the data and maps from Alistair Scott
- Timing. Identification of NESO personnel. Speakers' presentations. Identification of doors to engagement with and support from NESO.
- Overall the session was informative - there was a good overview of the stakeholders engaged, datasets used and the methodology. I presume clarity on how local governments can participate more effectively will improve at the consultation stage when the tRESP outputs are available
- Interactivity however I would like a full roundtable event that's face-to-face to really get everything on the table in the east midlands
- Useful information transmitted
- balance of amount of information given
- Great to have everything explained. The Menti polls are good too because it feels like you are asking us to engage as well as just telling us what you're doing.
- An explanation of how stakeholders can get involved in how the grid is developed to meet future needs
- Well timed, good presentations and good opportunity to respond via menti
- Good use on Menti to gather stakeholder input
- Information provision. Particularly on emerging technical analysis.
- Overall content, questions, voting
- Timing. Identification of NESO personnel. Speakers' presentations. Identification of doors to engagement with and support from NESO.
- All
- Concise summary of timeline/plans. Good to be able to input via interactive polls etc.
- The Menti board.
- Clarity of presentations
- Presentations - although still not clear what the ask is
- Good seeing data being used
- Interactive sessions - being able to engage was useful.
- Lots of information
- Good explanation of the process and methodologies
- Was jam packed but Team presented really well.

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Insight

There is a large amount of positive feedback attendees shared in the survey in response to the question. Some of the areas that were highlighted by attendees as things the Forums succeeded in included: transparency, facilitation, Menti, presentation and information sharing.

Action

We will review this feedback and build upon those items and themes that attendees responded well to in future Forums, including the autumn 2025 Forum. We will continue asking this questions on what went well to look for themes over multiple Forums to ensure the Forums continue providing our customers with value.

Q: What could we improve on next time?

We have provided all answers we received to this question in our feedback form, unedited. We have provided insights and actions beneath.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More engagement between meetings by email and call • Publish response to Q&As after the event • It really feels like this is tick box engagement. It's mostly one-way, with a few specific questions. We need a proper discussion. This needs to be deliberative. We don't feel like you really want to listen. • Thought it was very informative but think you may need more than every quarter. • Discussion rather than question and answer. • Direct links to how we can input into the process at the next stage. Local authorities have major capacity issues • Slightly longer time to answer the Menti polls (sometimes were very rushed) • Recordings • Some of the language used is technical and the pace of the meeting didn't allow time to digest what was being said. The in-meeting question | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove character limit from Q&A (or increase to 400) • Nothing yet. All very good so far. • Stop jargon and buzzwords. For people who don't work in service sector or local government it's really hard to work through the language barrier. • More on what grid expansion is required and the problems associated. • Visibility on current statues and short-term investment • Recording session and sending out after so it can be digested. A HUGE amount of vital information shared but a lot to take in in one go • More quantification of opportunities and threats on a regional and national basis. • Menti surveys and voting • More opportunity to feedback on the ongoing engagement activity (this time the SI RFI). Character limited in Menti text boxes although |
|--|---|

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sessions were also very quick and didn't allow any time for reflection.

- More opportunity for discussion - open the Chat function maybe? Would also allow sharing of pertinent links during the meeting so attendees can access items immediately.
- It would be great if you could open the group up at points for discussion. There are some interesting delegates it would be great to hear other's views in conversation.
- Questions. No real time for answers or discussion. So far engagement feels a bit one sided. Industry is key here and this expertise must be utilised.
- More time to absorb and participate properly
- All good, but just fast
- Give early notice of when the Menti polls were closing (I lost a fair bit of text because of this)
- More time on the Menti boards. Q&A are they getting vetted as long delay before appearing
- there is no reason to mute the chat it's better for engagement to see what everyone is saying and thinking
- The mentimeter engagement / polls were a bit rushed, which wasn't too useful to reflect and respond to the questions. The technical analysis overview would have been more informative if less acronyms & technical terms were used during the explanation.
- More examples when you answer questions to help people visualise what the strategic or technical elements look like in real life as outputs when you apply your methodology or theories. More examples about how those local actors can genuinely add value - again with real world outputs as a result of their input. Sorry - it sounds basic but it's hard to see how to move forward when everything is too conceptual.
- opportunity to feed in via this form is a good fall back. I did manage to provide input but had to edit it down.
- Perhaps be useful to counter / back up some of the other points raised. Appreciate that is difficult to achieve and keep to time! Perhaps be useful to have an open forum / side rooms for people to talk afterwards?
- It would be great to have more opportunities for networking and collaboration, especially for local actors and solution providers looking to support NESO's delivery.
- Slow the pace down - content moved very quick and there was a lot of time in Q&A but I think having a slower pace of delivery can help what is spoken of to have a bigger impact.
- No suggestions, useful Forum.
- timekeeping and giving time to questions
- Too many acronyms used which were not listed on the glossary issued.
- Always have something in full on a slide and not just acronym please
- Increase Forum length or reduce information. didn't get time to input properly or discuss the input.
- Remain open to the need to balance <maximising the push to electrify> with <minimising the pull to over-consume> in other words: full spectrum sustainable development is served by investment, not the other way round. I'm sure you have it straight.
- Go faster into the content (less housekeeping), to make better use of time. Don't spend so much time on polls and more on Q&A

Insight

Attendees have provided a range of items and topics where they feel that the Forum could have been improved. Of the feedback received there are some

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areas which require changes to content and delivery, including less jargon and buzzwords / technical language, more examples, and more time to answer survey and poll questions. There are also requests for more transparency and more open discussion and communication.

Action

We will use the feedback we have received to help us plan future Forums including our next Forums in October 2025. We will continue to request and record this feedback from attendees to identify themes or trends or areas where we are making insufficient progress. Future write-ups will continue to address what feedback we received, including the feedback above, and how we have acted upon it.

Annex 3 – Channels used for Summer 2025 Forums Promotion

The following external methods / channels were used to promote the Summer 2025 Forums:

- Email invites (sent via RESP national and regional teams)
- News article on the NESO website [Link](#)
- Energising progress – NESO news article (external newsletter)
- LinkedIn social media posts
- Colleagues within NESO's Strategic Energy Planning directorate shared the email invite and website article with their contacts
- The Forums were added to the NESO website events calendar [Link](#)

Annex 4 – Progress on Actions from Spring 2025 Forums

This section includes the You Said, We Did table from the [Spring 2025 Forums write-up](#), and includes the progress so far for each action.

	Insight (you said...)	NESO Action (we said we will...)	Timescale	Progress so far
1.	Forum 1 attendees were from across a range of sectors (local government, energy industry, and consultancy being the most represented), with a broad range of experiences in energy planning, and with 31% new to NESO	Continue to promote Forums through a range of channels to maximise the opportunities for stakeholders to sign up	Promotion for Forums 2 will start in June 2025	We promoted the Summer 2025 Forums through a range of channels to maximise awareness (see Annex 3). With awareness of the broad range of customers in attendance and number of customers new to NESO, we minimised highly technical detail and provided a clear agenda to maximise accessibility. In a post-Forum survey, 28% of attendees found Forum 2 more relevant to their organisation than Forum 1, 72% found it about the same, and no attendees found it less relevant.
2.	91% of Forum 1 attendees felt the purpose of tRESP was clear, 9% felt it wasn't	At future Forums, continue to ask attendees if the content is clear and ask for suggestions to further improve clarity	June/July 2025 (Forum 2)	For the Summer 2025 Forums we detailed how some of the elements of tRESP came together as a whole, as well as detailing how customers could input into these areas. We included a section on tRESP pathways and Consistent Planning Assumptions, providing further detail on the development of tRESP, and asked attendees 'Do you understand how tRESP pathways will be created?'. 31% of attendees understood

	Insight (you said...)	NESO Action (we said we will...)	Timescale	Progress so far
				the section, 61% felt they understood it somewhat and only 6% didn't understand it; within the insights section of this document, we have detailed our actions in response to these results.
3.	55% of attendees felt the Forum purpose was clear, 39% somewhat, and 6% felt it was not clear	Make the purpose of the Forums publicly available and provide recaps in meetings where relevant, with a view to maintaining high levels of stakeholder understanding	June 2025 – include as part of Forum 1 write-up	The write-up was published on NESO's website in June 2025 (Link), which included purpose, insight and next steps. In addition, the agenda was shared in advance of the Summer 2025 Forums to provide attendees with sight of the topics for discussion. Additionally, slides were included which visualised how the different RESP components that were discussed fit together.
4.	Forum 1 attendees outlined a number of areas that they would like tRESP Strategic Investment, to contribute to	Provide an open opportunity for any stakeholder to submit further details of energy needs to inform NESO's assessment for areas of Strategic Investment need	May-June 2025	tRESP Strategic Investment was included as a section within the Summer 2025 Forums, with the RFI (Request for Information) discussed as well as detailing our approach to this activity and how to get involved or request more details.
5.	Forum 1 attendees suggested a number of	tRESP will look at how to incorporate additional bottom-up data into its pathways,	April 2025+	Ongoing

	Insight (you said...)	NESO Action (we said we will...)	Timescale	Progress so far
	additions for inclusion in the tRESP plan	as well as give greater clarity on investment need. Further suggestions will also be considered as part of the design of enduring RESP		
6.	43% of attendees feel their comments will be taken on board, 51% feel they may be, and 6% feel their comments will not be taken on board	Provide 'you said, we did' updates at all Forums, with a view to increasing attendee confidence that their comments will be taken on board	From Forum 2 (June/July 2025) onwards	In the write-up of the Spring 2025 Forums (Link), we included how we would use the insights and feedback we gained, as well as including the You Said, We Will section which detailed how we would use that insight to develop our activities and the Summer 2025 Forums. This write-up includes a progress against these 'we wills'. This report sets out how the comments and insights from the Summer 2025 Forums will be used in the development of the relevant RESP activities.
7.	78% of attendees are planning to attend the next Forum, 20% are undecided, and 2% are not planning to attend	Forums to include a draft (subject to change) agenda for the upcoming Forum, with a view to providing attendees planning to attend the next meeting with	From Forum 2 (June/July 2025) onwards	The agenda for the Summer 2025 Forums was shared in advance to allow attendees to have a clearer idea of whether the Forum would be relevant for them. Additionally, the provisional dates and draft agenda for the Autumn 2025 Forums, were included in the Summer

	Insight (you said...)	NESO Action (we said we will...)	Timescale	Progress so far
		details on topics to be covered		<p>2025 Forum, to provide forward visibility.</p> <p>Unfortunately, there was a drop in number of attendees for the Summer 2025 Forums that was higher than the survey from the Spring 2025 Forums suggested. However, the post-Forum survey for the Summer 2025 Forums revealed: 28% of attendees found the Spring 2025 Forums more relevant (with 72% saying it was about the same) than the Spring 2025 Forums, 90% of attendees plan to join the next Forum and 78% of attendees think the Forums are an effective engagement tool.</p> <p>We will continue to ask this question to measure interest.</p>
8.	Attendees scored Forum 17.5 out of 10 for relevance to their organisation / group / community	Provide a range of opportunities for stakeholders to engage in RESP, including but not limited to, Forums	From Forum 2 (June/July 2025) onwards	<p>We have sought to improve upon this score by acting upon feedback, as detailed in this table and throughout this Forum write-up.</p> <p>We also asked Summer 2025 Forum attendees if this Forum was more relevant to their organisation than the first Forum; 28% found the Summer 2025 Forum more relevant, 72% found it about</p>

	Insight (you said...)	NESO Action (we said we will...)	Timescale	Progress so far
				the same as the Spring 2025 Forums and no attendees found it less relevant. We will continue to ask this question moving forward to track progress, which can be shared in future Forum write-ups.
9.	68% of attendees (854 of 1,263) used the interactive Menti tool to respond to poll questions, and to ask questions for the Q&A sections of the agenda	Share details of Menti in advance of the Forums to enable attendees to prepare to use it during the meetings.	From Forum 2 (June/July 2025) onwards	<p>We are continually reviewing our tools and engagement mechanisms. We found that attendees from the Spring 2025 Forums were widely able to access and use Menti and so for the Summer 2025 Forums we increased our use of Menti by using more of its features to improve engagement, feedback and insight. However, we note that there was a fall in the number of attendees actively engaging with Menti, dropping from 73% of attendees using Menti during Forum 1 to 51% of attendees using Menti in the Summer 2025 Forums.</p> <p>We will continue to evaluate the tools we use moving forward to maximise accessibility and inclusion within our Forums.</p>

	Insight (you said...)	NESO Action (we said we will...)	Timescale	Progress so far
10	N/A	Publish Forum 1 slides	April 2025	Spring Forum 2025 slides
11.	We were asked to publish the slides from Forum 1 and publish answers to the questions raised during Forum 1	Publish a RESP FAQ document, including questions asked at Forum 1	June 2025	<p>These documents have been published on RESP's website. We published the questions and answers on our website as an FAQ document, which is being updated with the Summer 2025 Forums questions and answers. We have also published the slides for both the Spring and Summer 2025 Forums on our website. These documents are available on our website:</p> <p>RESP Spring 2025 Forums Slides: https://www.neso.energy/document/358926/download</p> <p>RESP Summer 2025 Forums Slides: https://www.neso.energy/document/365316/download</p> <p>RESP FAQs: https://www.neso.energy/document/362761/download</p> <p>Additionally, the write-up from the Spring 2025 Forums can be found here: https://www.neso.energy/document/362766/download</p>