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# RESP Methodology Consultation

## Frequently Asked Questions

# November 2025

Version 1.1



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## Please read:

The Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) Methodology Consultation is running from 17 November 2025 to 16 January 2026.

- This Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) document has been developed to support customers and stakeholders with the development of their responses to the consultation.
- This document references and should be read alongside the consultation document.
- This document will be updated every two weeks during the consultation period, so please revisit if you have any further questions. Alternatively, if you have a query that is not answered here, or within the consultation document itself, please contact the NESO RESP team, at [box.consultations.resp@neso.energy](mailto:box.consultations.resp@neso.energy)
- Please note, for fairness and consistency, we require you to use the [Qualtrics form](#) to submit your response to the RESP Methodology Consultation. We will not accept submissions by email.

The RESP team are likely to receive many questions throughout the consultation period. Response times may vary depending on the complexity of your query, but we aim to reply within two weeks. If you submit a query, we want to thank you for your patience whilst we assess your request and respond to you as soon as possible.

Regards,

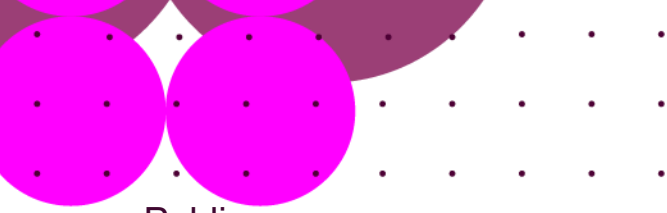
NESO RESP Team



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## Regional Energy Strategic Plan (RESP) Acronyms

<b>Component</b>	E.g. RESP component (Pathways, Common Planning Assumptions, etc.)
<b>CPA</b>	Consistent planning assumption
<b>DNO</b>	Distribution network operator
<b>EV</b>	Electric vehicle
<b>FES</b>	Future energy scenario
<b>GDN</b>	Gas distribution network
<b>GSP</b>	Grid supply point
<b>IDNO</b>	Independent Distribution Network Operator
<b>IGT</b>	Independent Gas Transporter
<b>Nations</b>	The nations of Scotland and Wales
<b>Regions</b>	The nine English RESP regions, as defined by Ofgem for RESP
<b>RESP role</b>	Regional Energy Strategic Planning role – as defined by Ofgem and delivered by NESO
<b>RESP team</b>	Regional Energy Strategic Planning team – the team within NESO responsible for delivering NESO’s RESP role
<b>RESPs</b>	Regional energy strategic plans – the bespoke plans that will be developed for Scotland, Wales and the nine English regions
<b>RFI</b>	Request for information





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<b>SI Need</b>	Strategic investment need
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<b>SI</b>	Strategic investment
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## Regional Energy Strategic Energy Plan (RESP)- Background and NESO’s work to date

### What is RESP?

NESO’s RESP role will introduce a new approach to energy distribution network planning in Great Britain. NESO will produce 11 plans, one each for Scotland and Wales, and nine English regions. The plans will be key inputs to support the DNOs and GDNs develop their business plans. [You can read more, here.](#)

### What else has NESO been doing towards the RESP before the consultation?

NESO has been engaging with groups nationally (Scotland, Wales) and regionally (nine English regions) since the beginning of 2025, following Ofgem’s decision on the future of local energy institutions and governance.

We have taken a collaborative approach to the development of RESP. We’ve been sharing our work and inviting, and taking on board, comments from customers and stakeholders since early-2025. Our three main channels for doing this have been: the 11 RESP Forums ([further information, including how to join, can be found here](#)), with over 2,800 people joining the Spring, Summer and Autumn meetings; the Technical Working Group, which is made up of the six DNOs, the four gas distribution networks (GDNs) and Ofgem; and one-to-one meetings with DNOs and GDNs.

NESO’s RESP team also recently launched and completed its [transitional RESP \(tRESP\) consultation](#). The final tRESP will be published in January 2026. Relevant insights gathered through the tRESP consultation will also be used to inform the development of the RESP methodology.

tRESP has been designed as a bridge between the current approach to energy distribution network planning and the full RESP approach. The transitional RESP is the first publication in the journey towards transforming and improving local energy infrastructure, developing bespoke plans for Scotland, Wales and nine English regions. The final tRESP will contain, like the full RESP, 11 bespoke Nations



and Regions Contexts (one for Scotland, Wales and each of the nine English regions) and other components.

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## The RESP Methodology Consultation – Overview

### What is the RESP Methodology Consultation?

The consultation gives customers and stakeholders the opportunity to understand the RESP components and their purpose, our work to-date, and to provide responses to specific questions. We will use the answers to help us develop the final RESP Methodology, which is intended to be published in Summer 2026, subject to approval by Ofgem and DESNZ.

### Why is NESO publishing the consultation now?

We are consulting now to enable us to publish the final methodology in Summer 2026, subject to approval from Ofgem and the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ).

We are currently working through the timescales for delivering the first RESPs and have ongoing conversations on this with both Ofgem and DESNZ to finalise the timeline. In this consultation we set out some of the challenges in delivering the Spatial Context element of RESP within the original December 2027 timeline. However, there are other influences on our delivery which are less within our control, such as the decision making of the strategic boards, policy decisions by Government and Ofgem and the dependency of the RESPs on other strategic plans and data. To inform the next gas distribution price control we will need to publish the full RESPs by December 2028. We expect any changes agreed to the delivery timescales to be reflected in NESOs licence.

### Who is the consultation for?





The NESO RESP draft Methodology Consultation is applicable to all NESO customers and stakeholders. The questions have been designed to enable those with a range of knowledge of energy planning to respond, from those with limited knowledge to those with extensive technical expertise.

### What happens after the consultation?

Following consultation:

- 23:59pm 16 January 2026: consultation closes
- January–March 2026: Post Consultation: Review and analysis
- March 2026: Finalisation – Send methodology to Ofgem and DESNZ for approval
- Summer 2026: Publication – Final methodology published (subject to Ofgem and DESNZ approval) alongside a ‘You said, we did’ consultation summary report.

### What is the RESP Methodology Consultation and full RESP delivery timeline?

The consultation on NESO’s RESP Methodology is open until 16 January 2026. Subject to approval from Ofgem and the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), the final methodology is expected to be published in Summer 2026. Following this, NESO plans to hold the first Strategic Board meetings later in 2026.

NESO is currently working with Ofgem and DESNZ to finalise the timeline for delivering the first full RESP plans. While the original target considered was December 2027, there are factors—some of which are outside of the NESO RESP team’s control—that may affect this date. Other matters, such as decisions made by Strategic Boards, government policy, and dependencies on other strategic plans and datasets, may also influence delivery.

To support the next gas distribution price control, NESO will need to publish the full RESP plans by December 2028. Any changes to the delivery timeline will be reflected in NESO’s licence.

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## General Methodology Queries

### Who is the RESP consultation for?

We use the term ‘customers and stakeholders’ throughout the methodology consultation document on the basis that every organisation and individual in Great Britain (GB) is a stakeholder in RESP. A smaller subset of these stakeholders has been identified as ‘customers’, as they will be direct users of RESP outputs and activities.

On that basis, the consultation is open to every organisation and individual in Great Britain. It is not limited to any group of stakeholders. From members of the public with no experience of local energy planning through to technical experts in the energy industry, all consultation responses are encouraged and welcome.

### How will NESO use the information submitted by stakeholders?

We will follow the six-step process set out in the methodology consultation document:

1. Gather insights and views from our customers and stakeholders i.e. the consultation responses
2. Log insights and views in a digital system compliant with relevant data protection law
3. Identify common insights and views using digital tools, including AI, where appropriate
4. Seek additional information to better understand insights and views, where appropriate
5. Determine the most appropriate route(s) for the common insights and views to be actioned
6. Provide a summary of the insights and views we have gathered, the actions we have taken, and why i.e. the methodology consultation ‘you said, we did’ report that will be published alongside the final version of the methodology



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Confidential responses will not be published in an identifiable form, but all feedback will be shared with Ofgem and DESNZ.

### **How are stakeholder priorities represented in the RESP process?**

The engagement section of the methodology consultation sets out our proposed approach to engaging with our customers and stakeholders. It is integrated with the sections on local actor support and external governance. This is to enable customers and stakeholders to engage in the development of RESPs through a range of structured, transparent and accessible routes.

### **How does RESP relate to other NESO plans?**

RESPs are a fundamental part of NESO’s ambitions to deliver an integrated, whole energy system approach to strategic energy planning. NESO will develop a single strategic whole-energy plan for Great Britain (GB), consisting of the SSEP (Strategic Spatial Energy Plan), the CSNP (Centralised Strategic Network Plan), and the RESPs (Regional Energy Strategic Plans).

These components will be developed as distinct but interconnected parts of one coherent plan and will each operate on a 3-year cycle. Each plan will contribute a unique perspective – SSEP for electricity and hydrogen generation and storage infrastructure, CSNP for national transmission networks, and RESPs for more localised distribution level planning.

### **How do RESP, SSEP, and CSNP interact?**

RESP informs the next SSEP cycle with grassroots and nation- and region-specific insights. SSEP provides spatial energy Pathways that feed into RESP Pathways. CSNP uses SSEP outputs and RESP insights to guide transmission-level planning.

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## **Interaction with wider SEP**



### How will RESP navigate the transmission/distribution interface?

RESP will navigate the transmission/distribution interface by coordinating with the Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP) to ensure upstream transmission investments are considered where they unlock capacity for distribution networks. The methodology includes feedback loops between RESP, CSNP, and the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) to maintain coherence across planning levels. RESP Pathways will be developed with inputs from SSEP and CSNP, and any material differences will be transparently justified through governance structures like the GB Steering Committee.

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## External Governance

### What governance structures support RESP development?

There will be three tiers: Strategic Boards (in the Nations and Regions), Working Groups (thematic, technical and roundtables made up of participants across the technical groups), and GB Steering Committee (GB-wide coherence).

#### 1. Strategic Boards (Nation & Region)

The Strategic Boards oversee and guide RESP development for each area, acting as the main forum for collaborative decisions, uniting key stakeholders such as networks, governments, and cross-sector actors, and approving the final RESP to reflect local priorities and whole-system planning.

#### 2. Working Groups (Thematic, Technical and Roundtables)

The Working Groups advise the Strategic Boards and NESO during RESP development by testing content, gathering insights, exploring options, surfacing trade-offs, supporting sector alignment, and reviewing inputs to flag issues, while remaining advisory only without approval authority.

### 3. GB Steering Committee (GB-wide Coherence)

The GB Steering Committee ensures strategic oversight and national coordination by aligning with national plans and policy, maintaining coherence across nations and regions, and providing expert advice to support a whole-system view and consistency across boundaries without approving RESPs.

#### Have the GB Steering Committee, Strategic Boards and Working Groups already been established?

The GB Steering Committee currently exists in an interim form to support the development of the transitional RESP, as well as the full RESP methodology. It is currently composed of NESO, Ofgem, the UK Government (Department of Energy Security and Net Zero – DESNZ), the Scottish Government, and the Welsh Government. We are consulting on the full GB Steering Committee and have proposed that membership is expanded to include energy network companies, a consumer representative and other cross-sector organisations representing the breadth of the energy system.

Strategic Boards and Working Groups have not yet been established, and we plan to begin recruitment for these in early 2026 to enable them to be in place to support full RESP development during 2026.

#### How do I join the GB Steering Committee, a Strategic Board, or a Working Group?

The recruitment process for external governance will begin following the approval of the RESP Methodology. We will write directly to the Scottish Government and Welsh Government, local government and energy network companies to invite them to put forward nominations for Strategic Boards and Working Groups. For all other stakeholders we will publicly invite expressions of interest.

#### What happens if the Strategic Boards do not approve a RESP?



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If a Strategic Board is not able to approve a RESP, then the decision will be escalated to Ofgem. NESO will provide the evidence from the governance forums alongside the RESP in question, for consideration by Ofgem. NESO expects most issues to be resolved at Working Group or Strategic Board level, as these forums are closest to the subject matter for their nation / region.

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## Developing the RESPs

### **What are the core components of each RESP?**

Nations and Regions Contexts, Strategic Investment Need, Pathways, Consistent Planning Assumptions, and Spatial Contexts.

### **How does RESP ensure alignment with other NESO strategic plans?**

RESP is developed in coordination with the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) and Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP), with feedback loops to ensure coherence.

### **How often will RESPs be published?**

Every three years following publication of the first full RESP.

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## Methodology Consultation Categories (Components)

### Nations & Regions Contexts

#### **How will the Nations and Regions Contexts be used, how does it relate to the other RESP products, and who is the audience?**



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The Nations and Regions Contexts are a foundational component that underpins the RESP in each nation or region. It sets the scene by enabling an understanding of the existing landscape and future priorities, ensuring that other RESP outputs are grounded in the specific national or regional contexts. Ideally, the development of Pathways should align with the Context. Strategic Investment (SI) Needs will be identified through the Contexts, although not exclusively. It can be used by stakeholders to gain insights into the energy and related sectors within their nation or region. Additionally, technical stakeholders may incorporate outputs and data from the Contexts into their work.

### **How will you ensure me, and my stakeholders' priorities are represented in the Contexts?**

The Contexts draws on local data from within each nation or region – sourced from local actors. This input will be consolidated to identify common ground or areas of inconsistency. To achieve this, we will analyse and compare stakeholders' priorities, identify shared themes, and highlight any differences. We will also develop processes to transparently and equitably manage any trade-offs or conflicts that arise. Working groups and strategic boards will be engaged to review and provide guidance, ensuring that the consolidated priorities reflected in the Contexts are representative of the nation or region. While our focus will be on building consensus and reflecting common ground, in cases where consensus is not possible, we will take direction from the strategic boards.

### **What will the Contexts component output consist of?**

The Contexts component will include interactive geospatial visualisations and charts, accompanied by a written narrative. It is intended to build on the tRESP, incorporating feedback from the consultation and maintaining a similar look and feel. A key difference from the tRESP Contexts will be the inclusion of forward-looking priorities and a greater emphasis on local data inputs from within the nations and regions. The underlying data will also be made available.

### **How have LAEPs and LHEES been considered throughout the methodology?**



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Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) and Local Heat and Energy Efficiency Strategies (LHEES) have been considered as key data sources for developing the Nations and Regions Contexts. These plans inform local priorities, provide local data, and support the development of RESP Pathways and Strategic Investment Needs. NESO will draw on LAEPs and LHEES to ensure RESP outputs reflect local ambitions and conditions, and to identify spatial context. The methodology outlines that data credibility from these sources will be assessed and integrated into RESP’s modelling and analysis processes.

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## Strategic Investment Need

### **What criteria are used to assess Strategic Investment Needs?**

Criteria include alignment with national and regional priorities, system value (net zero, economic, technical, societal), and the degree of uncertainty or risk.

### **How have IDNOs and IGTs been considered throughout the methodology?**

#### **Where will they be involved in the processes and engagement?**

As potential providers of solutions to meet local energy needs, Independent Distribution Network Operators (IDNOs) and Independent Gas Transporters (IGTs) are expected to engage with NESO’s consultation processes, contribute to data collection and validation phases, and support the identification of strategic energy needs that require network investment.

IDNOs and IGTs have been included as part of one of the five stakeholder groups set out in the engagement section – ‘energy distribution networks’. Their involvement is facilitated through structured stakeholder engagement.

### **Are IDNOs and IGTs considered a solution to meet energy needs and if so, in which process does this take place and what would they need to do?**





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They are considered within the whole energy system planning, particularly where their infrastructure may support decarbonisation, economic growth, or unlock system-wide value.

They are explicitly included in the RESP Methodology as part of the scope for identifying Strategic Investment Needs.

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## Pathways

### How will Pathways be approved?

In the methodology consultation document, we are suggesting that NESO will create multiple Pathways from the offset. For the short-term Pathway, Ofgem have stated that NESO should select a single Pathway and multiple long-term Pathways. The methodology document sets out how we will do that. We'll present the draft single Pathway and multiple long-term Pathways to the strategic boards for review.

Once the strategic board approves the drafts, they will go out for public consultation. We expect there will be feedback during the consultation period that we will need to consider that could alter the Pathways. Once the consultation is finalised, and feedback has been incorporated into the draft Pathways, then they will go back to the strategic board for the approval process in line with the other RESP products.

### What is the RESP Pathways archetypes?

As we continue to develop the methodology, we will develop our framework which will shape credible routes to net zero in each nation and region. The FES and SSEP already have methodologies for framing Pathways that we will use as a starting point. We will develop these methodologies to enable RESP to create a set of Pathways that use the same framework methodology in each nation and region but will differ based on the local ambitions and bottom-up data identified in the Nations and Regions Contexts.



### **How do we handle uncertainty in the short-term Pathways?**

We recognise that uncertainty needs to be accounted for from the beginning. To do that, we propose to model a range of Pathways from the offset, mainly as a basis to allow us to make some clearly justified decisions on what this single short-term pathway needs to be. NESO will select a single short-term Pathway from those modelled.

Internally, we also expect to consider information on uncertainty as we determine and categorise Strategic Investment Needs.

We expect to be transparent on these uncertainty considerations through the working groups and relevant governance.

### **How has RESP considered flexibility?**

Flexibility has been considered in both the Pathways and Consistent Planning Assumptions components of the RESP Methodology. RESP will model electricity flexibility across both demand and supply, including technologies such as heat pumps, EVs, industrial demand-side response, and batteries. Flexibility assumptions will be documented in the Consistent Planning Assumptions, with standard half-hourly profiles for technologies under both normal and flexible operation. Contracted flexibility will not be included in RESP, as this remains the responsibility of electricity distribution network operators.

### **How will RESP (NESO) create the optimal energy network?**

RESP aims to create the optimal energy network by integrating local and national priorities taken from the Nations and Regions Contexts, identifying Strategic Investment Needs that unlock system-wide value, modelling multiple Pathways to reflect uncertainty, using Consistent Planning Assumptions to ensure coherent network impact assessments, overlaying Pathways with network capacity data to identify Spatial Context, and engaging customers and stakeholders through structured governance, engagement and consultation to ensure plans are credible and inclusive.

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## Consistent Planning Assumptions

### What are Consistent Planning Assumptions (CPAs)?

CPAs are shared assumptions for key technologies and sectors, ensuring consistent assessment of network impacts across all distribution networks. They're standardised assumptions and cover technologies like EVs, heat pumps, and flexibility.

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## Spatial Context (Spatial System Needs)

### What is the purpose of the Spatial Context in the RESP, and how will it support whole-system energy planning?

The Spatial Context is a digital geospatial mapping tool designed to visualise RESP Pathways (future demand and generation scenarios) alongside existing and planned electricity and gas distribution network capacities, as well as broader whole-system data. Its purpose is to enable customers and stakeholders to explore how future scenarios interact with infrastructure, identify system needs and constraints both spatially and temporally, and support more coordinated, transparent, and strategic whole-system planning across the energy sector.

### How will the Spatial Context geospatial tool be developed, and what data will it include?

The tool will be developed collaboratively with customers, stakeholders and network operators, integrating network capacity data with future energy Pathways for electricity, natural gas, biomethane, hydrogen, and heat networks. It will present data using both geographical and network asset bases, allowing users to interrogate system needs at various levels of granularity (e.g., LSOA/Data Zone). The tool will feature layers such as demand and supply Pathways, network

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assets, system needs/constraints, and geographical context, with visualisations like heatmaps and constraint hotspots.

### **How will data exchange and coordination be managed between NESO, DNOs, and GDNs for the Spatial Context geospatial tool?**

To ensure the Spatial Context geospatial tool is robust and up to date, NESO will work with all Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) to develop a formalised coordination process for network data exchange. This includes standardised processes for input data submissions, agreed timelines, and leveraging existing open data portals. Where additional datasets are needed, NESO will collaborate with DNOs and GDNs to establish formal data exchange and standardisation. The spatial context will be developed in collaboration with customers and stakeholders and approved by the strategic board alongside the full RESPs.

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## **Engagement**

### **What are the objectives of RESP engagement?**

To inform, consult, involve, collaborate with, and empower customers and stakeholders in the development of RESPs, ensuring plans reflect a broad range of views.

We use the term ‘customers and stakeholders’ throughout this document on the basis that every organisation and individual in Great Britain (GB) is a stakeholder in RESP.

A smaller subset of these stakeholders have been identified as ‘customers’, as they will be direct users of RESP outputs and activities. Examples of customers include local authorities and other local energy representatives who will use local actor support, and electricity and gas distribution networks who will use the RESPs in developing their network plans.



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### **Who are considered RESP stakeholders?**

Stakeholders include governments, local actors, wider actors, energy distribution networks, and the broader energy industry.

However, the consultation is open to every organisation and individual in Great Britain. It is not limited to any group of stakeholders. From members of the public with no experience of local energy planning through to technical experts in the energy industry, all consultation responses are encouraged and welcome.

### **How is customer and stakeholder feedback used?**

Feedback is logged, analysed (with AI as an aid), and used to refine RESP outputs, with summaries provided to customers and stakeholders on actions taken. You can read more about this in the Methodology Consultation document: 'The end-to-end process' (P.25).

### **Based on what is proposed, how do you expect different customers and stakeholders of NESO to get involved, perhaps using new ways of working and thinking?**

Different types of customers and stakeholders are expected to engage with RESP in various ways. Local authorities and actors should provide local data, participate in Working Groups and Strategic Boards, and contribute to the Nations and Regions Contexts and Strategic Investment Needs. DNOs and GDNs are expected to engage in Technical Working Groups, provide network data, and use RESP outputs in their business planning. Cross-sector customers and stakeholders should contribute to thematic Working Groups, provide insights into sector-specific energy needs, and help assess trade-offs. All customers and stakeholders are expected to respond to consultation questions, participate in governance forums, and help validate data and assumptions.

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## **Local Actor Support**



### Who is Local Actor Support for?

Local Actor Support is targeted at local government and for the first round of RESPs.

Local actor support is intended for organisations and representatives who are critical to delivering the Regional Energy Strategic Plan but may lack the capacity or capability to engage fully. This includes local authorities, who play a central role in aligning energy planning with wider local priorities, and energy representatives who provide technical and strategic input at a regional level. NESO prioritises these groups because their involvement is essential for ensuring that RESP reflects local needs and opportunities, yet they often face resource constraints that limit their ability to participate effectively.

### When will it be available?

Local Actor Support will be delivered in three waves:

Wave 1: early stages of RESP to support setting up of strategic boards and mobilising of the working groups. This is already in delivery, or for delivery early next year (2026).

Wave 2: during development of RESP to support technical aspects of RESP, such as modelling and energy forecasting associated with the Pathways.

Wave 3: towards the end of delivery of the first full RESP to support use of the RESP outputs.

Support for local actors will begin during the early stages of RESP implementation, following the publication of the final methodology and the establishment of governance structures. NESO intends to provide this support as part of its engagement process for developing regional plans, ensuring that local authorities and energy representatives can participate effectively from the outset. This means support will be available as NESO starts working with regional boards and stakeholder groups after the methodology consultation closes and before the first full RESP plans are drafted.

### How does my organisation access Local Actor Support?



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How to access to Local Actor Support will be confirmed once the final Methodology document is approved and published. Further information will be made available next year (2026).

### **Is NESO providing funding through Local Actor Support?**

It is not within the scope of Local Actor Support to provide funding or NESO personnel.

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## **Technical Coordination**

### **What is the role of Technical Coordination in RESP?**

To ensure coherence, consistency, and a whole-system approach across RESP components, nations and regions, and energy types.

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## **Network Planning Assurance**

### **What is Network Planning Assurance (NPA)?**

NPA is NESO's process for reviewing distribution networks' investment plans to ensure alignment with RESP direction. This is an Ofgem requirement.

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## **Societal Considerations**

### **How are societal considerations embedded in RESP?**





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Societal considerations—such as economic growth, job creation, health, and wellbeing—are integrated through the Nations and Regions Contexts and customer and stakeholder engagement.

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## Environmental Approach

### How does RESP address environmental impacts?

NESO integrates environmental considerations throughout RESP development, leveraging datasets the SSEP environmental assessments.

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## Data & Digital

To follow.

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## General Consultation Queries

### General – How to get involved

#### Why haven't I been involved before now?

NESO has been engaging with groups nationally (Scotland, Wales) and regionally (nine English regions) since the beginning of 2025.





Ofgem published its final decision on the details of the scope of RESP in April 2025. We have been working in the eleven nations and regions in a series of RESP Forums, organised locally, to introduce the concept of regional energy strategic planning and provide a channel for engaging stakeholders in RESP, enabling an opportunity for feedback and questions. Further, we have recently closed our tRESP Consultation, for which we received 16241 submissions.

### How can customers and stakeholders get involved?

If you have an interest in shaping the local energy system within your nation or region, let us know. Upon accessing the consultation, you'll be guided through the process and be asked questions seeking your feedback on NESO's RESP proposals. The consultation ends on 16 January 2026.

In addition, you can:

- I. RESP Forums: join the latest quarterly RESP Forum for your nation (Scotland, Wales) or English region (of which there are nine), starting with the next meeting in 2026.
- II. Contribute to this, the RESP Methodology consultation: 17 November 2025 to 16 January 2026
- III. NESO newsletter: signup for the NESO newsletter, here.

### What is the difference between a NESO 'customer' and a NESO 'stakeholder?'

A NESO customer is an organisation or individual that directly uses NESO's outputs and services to inform its planning and investment decisions. This includes electricity and gas network operators, who rely on NESO's regional energy planning to shape their business plans and ensure alignment with national and regional priorities.

Stakeholders represent a broader group of organisations and individuals who influence or are affected by NESO's work. This includes local authorities, energy representatives, government departments, regulators such as Ofgem, industry participants, and community organisations. These stakeholders provide data, insights, and feedback throughout the RESP process and play a vital role in ensuring that regional energy strategies reflect local needs and opportunities.



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NESO’s engagement approach ensures that both customers and stakeholders are actively involved in shaping the Regional Energy Strategic Plan, fostering collaboration and transparency across the energy system.

### **Why should customers and stakeholders get involved now?**

Our proactive approach to engagement includes listening to local customers and stakeholders to ensure that a wide range of priorities, insights and data are used to inform national and regional plans. If you have an interest in shaping the local energy system within Scotland, Wales, or one of the nine English regions, please respond to the consultation.

The Methodology consultation is open to all customer and stakeholder groups, at all levels of technical knowledge, and all levels of seniority. We need your input now, as your ideas could help integrate national, regional and local needs within the RESPs and wider GB strategic energy plans.

### **Can our organisation submit more than one response to the consultation, or can we submit as individuals?**

We can only accept one response per organisation. We ask that colleagues within an organisation collaborate to produce a single response.

If you wish to submit a separate response as a private individual, independent from any organisation or group you are associated with, you are permitted to do so. However, we would ask you identify any additional input you may have had with another consultation response.

### **Is it possible to request an extension to the 16 January 2026 RESP Methodology Consultation submission deadline?**

We cannot authorise an extension beyond the deadline of 16 January 2026 for the Methodology Consultation submissions. This is to enable us to submit the final version of the methodology to Ofgem and DESNZ in time for the final version to be published in Summer 2026, subject to Ofgem and DESNZ approval.



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**Can consultation submission supporting documents or attachments be made via email instead of the Qualtrics platform?**

For consistency and processing purposes, we require you to submit your response via the [Qualtrics platform](#). If you feel you are not able to submit your response via Qualtrics, please contact [box.consultations.resp@neso.energy](mailto:box.consultations.resp@neso.energy) by 9 January 2026, at the latest.

**My submission was accidentally made using email, and not the consultation digital platform (Qualtrics). What should I do?**

We appreciate your organisation submitting a response and contributing to the consultation. However, to ensure your feedback is fully captured in our analysis and review process, please resubmit your response via our [online form](#).

**How do you suggest my organisation agrees our consultation response before submitting?**

To make it easier for your organisation to submit a response, you can use the PDF version of the questions to prepare your answers collectively and then copy and paste your final response(s) into the [online form](#) (Qualtrics).

**We do not intend to respond to every consultation question, but we do intend to make a submission. Is this okay?**

We understand your organisation may only wish to respond to one, or several questions, for example. This is perfectly acceptable. Simply write “N/A” for any questions where you do not have an answer. This will allow you to move through the form and submit, without being blocked by mandatory fields.

**We attempted to submit via the online form but encountered a technical issue: despite selecting an answer to questions, the form would not accept the response and flagged an error stating that text needed to be removed. Can you help?**



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Please try resubmitting your consultation response. Completing the Qualtrics form will ensure that your response is fully captured.

### **It is possible to complete the form whilst leaving some questions unanswered?**

Simply write “N/A” for any questions where you do not have an answer.

### **Is there a response form online for the consultation, or are we expected to write a document response?**

Yes, there is an online form. Once you click on the consultation form to submit a response, you will be able to see a PDF version of the questions included in the introduction section as well. This allows you to review all the questions before submitting a response.

For consistency and processing purposes, we require you to submit your response via the Qualtrics platform.

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## **General - IT/Accessibility (including Qualtrics platform)**

### **Do I need a Qualtrics account or password to complete the form?**

No, you don't need to sign in or create an account. Simply click the consultation link, and it will open directly in your browser. English and Welsh language versions are available when submitting responses.

Qualtrics is the platform NESO is using to receive customer and stakeholder feedback for the RESP Methodology Consultation. The platform enables us to gather and analyse data to inform the final RESP Methodology.

### **What should I do if the Qualtrics interface is not displaying correctly?**

This issue might be due to a browser compatibility problem. Ensure that you are using a supported browser version and clear your browser's cache. If the



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problem persists, try accessing Qualtrics in a different browser to see if the issue is browser specific.

### **How do I navigate through the consultation?**

You can navigate through the consultation by clicking the "Next" or "Previous" buttons at the bottom of each page.

### **Can I access the consultation questions before submitting online?**

Yes, once you click on the consultation form to submit a response, you will be able to see a PDF version of the questions included in the introduction section. This allows you to review all the questions before submitting a response.

### **Will my responses be anonymous?**

No, as part of the consultation, you are required to complete the mandatory "About You" section. This includes providing your name and group/organisation so that we can understand your response in that context. Your response will be linked to the details you provide.

### **Will our consultation response (submission) be made public? We will be able to share a greater level of data if unpublished.**

At the beginning of the form, you will have the option to mark your response as 'Confidential'. Confidential responses will not be published in an identifiable form.

However, all responses will be shared, in full, with Ofgem and DESNZ, even if marked as confidential.

### **How do I know if my survey response is confidential?**

You will be given the option to mark your response as confidential at the beginning of the form.

For confidential responses, we will not publish your response or your feedback in an identifiable form.



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All responses will be shared, in full, with Ofgem and DESNZ even if marked as confidential. If you have any questions about the consultation process, other additional comments or queries, please contact us at [box.consultations.resp@neso.energy](mailto:box.consultations.resp@neso.energy)

### **What should I do if I encounter technical issues while responding to the consultation?**

If you experience technical difficulties, try refreshing the consultation page or accessing it using a different browser. If the issue persists, please email our inbox at [box.consultations.resp@neso.energy](mailto:box.consultations.resp@neso.energy) with details of the problem, including any error messages or screenshots if possible, so we can advise on the best way to resolve it.

### **Can I complete the consultation on my mobile device?**

Yes, the [consultation platform](#) (Qualtrics) is mobile-friendly and can be completed on smartphones and tablets. Ensure that you have a stable internet connection and that your device's browser is up to date for the best experience.

### **How do I adjust the text size in the consultation feedback platform for better readability?**

You can adjust the text size by using your browser's zoom feature. On most browsers, you can zoom in or out by pressing "Ctrl" (or "Cmd" on a Mac) and "+" or "-" keys, respectively.

### **Can I edit my response after I have submitted?**

Once your [survey response](#) has been submitted, you can download a copy of your response, but you cannot edit. Please ensure all responses are complete and accurate before submitting.

### **How long will it take to complete the consultation survey?**



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The survey has 74 questions. The time it takes to complete will depend on the level of detail you choose to provide. Each text-based question allows up to 2,000 characters, so please allow enough time if you plan to give detailed responses. You can always return to the survey later if you don't finish it in one sitting by clicking on the original link you used to start the survey. See below on saving progress etc.

### **Can I save my progress and return to my consultation response later?**

Responses are saved as you progress through the form, so you don't have to complete all questions at once. However, please note your responses are only saved as you go to the next page of the survey. You will be able to download a copy of your responses as a PDF at the end.

### **Some consultations page could not be converted to PDF (using the three dots at the top of the page). Whilst it does put it into a print format, it does not convert well into this format. Is that something that could be looked at?**

Our digital team has investigated the issue and found that it may be related to a browser plugin. The PDF format works correctly in Google Chrome, but not in Microsoft Edge. Please be advised to try an alternative browser.

### **Will I get a reminder before the consultation closes to complete my survey?**

Yes. If you provided your email address in the "About You" section, we will be able to send you a reminder before the consultation deadline. You can return to your survey at any time by clicking the original link you used to start it.

### **Why am I unable to submit my consultation responses?**

If you're unable to submit your responses, ensure that all required questions are answered. Additionally, check if any response validation errors are displayed, indicating that your answers need to meet specific criteria.



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### **Can the consultation submission be made via letter, or must this be done online?**

To ensure your feedback is fully captured in our analysis and review process, you must submit all responses via the [online form](#).

Please note, for fairness and consistency, we require you to use the [Qualtrics form](#) to submit your response to the RESP Methodology Consultation. We will not accept submissions by email.

### **I've tried to use the Chrome browser to save my responses to PDF, or download, however, using the three dots, as described, the drop-down menu doesn't appear. Can you help?**

The three dots drop-down menu should provide an option for a 'Print Preview'. Click this, followed by the green/teal 'Print' button. Then, in the 'Print Options' box, change the 'Print Destination' to 'Save as PDF'.

### **Can we receive a Word version of the consultation, before we submit our response, to share the consultation questions with colleagues?**

A downloadable Word version of the tRESP consultation questions is available in the main [Qualtrics Consultation submission platform](#).

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## **General - Consultation**

To follow

## **General - Data**





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### **How can I be sure of my data security in responding to the consultation within the Qualtrics platform?**

Qualtrics employs various security measures, including data encryption and compliance with standards like General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). To further secure your data, ensure that you use strong passwords for your account and manage permissions carefully for shared responses.

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**Please note, the RESP FAQs will be updated every two weeks, so please revisit if you have any further questions. Alternatively, if you have a query that is not answered here, please contact the NESO RESP team, at [box.consultations.resp@neso.energy](mailto:box.consultations.resp@neso.energy)**

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