

Public

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) External Governance Quarterly Summary: Q4 October – December 2025

In the final quarter of 2025, the SSEP external governance groups reviewed refreshed energy generation cost data, released by DESNZ, and considered whether the timeline for the SSEP should be updated to allow for these data sets to be included in the SSEP modelling. The new data provided a significant step forward in transparency, enabling all stakeholders to see and understand the key inputs shaping national energy planning. However, to include the data some of the SSEP analysis needed to be re-run which extends the time required to develop the SSEP.

NESO has worked closely with our partners and through the SSEP external governance groups to assess the impact of the refreshed energy generation cost data on our modelling, delivery timelines and the impact on other projects including CSNP and RESP. The decision was made to re-run the SSEP modelling using this refreshed data to ensure our analysis and recommendations are based on the most credible and current information. While this will mean the timeline to develop the SSEP will extend by several more months, it will strengthen the quality and resilience of the plan. This decision was communicated to the industry via an [open letter](#) in November followed by a [response from DESNZ](#) and a further [update on the timeline](#).

A [SSEP transparency update](#) was published to increase transparency in developing the SSEP and assure stakeholders of the robustness of our modelling inputs.

During this period the analytical groups have also been working on the approach for developing the low regrets pathway, potential improvements to the process and ways of working for re-running the analysis and, building an approach for understanding how different types of future uncertainty can be considered in the pathway development.

The Expert Advisory Group (EAG) has continued to consider the feedback from across the stakeholder working groups, focusing this quarter on NESO's response. This process has allowed for reflection on the way information is communicated with external stakeholders, and for exploring methods to reassure them that the SSEP is being developed responsibly, even when detailed data cannot be shared. The EAG also aims to include representatives from a range of societal sectors, which will come from representatives from a new Societal Interest Working Group. Efforts to establish this group are ongoing, and it is promising that nine organisations from different societal forums have already shown interest in participating.

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