

# Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP)

**30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

- Bridget Hartley, Head of Regional Energy Strategic Planning
- Sam Tickle, RESP Manager, tRESP / Policy, Governance and Regulation
- Tom Worthington, RESP Manager, Strategic Energy Need
- Jonny Sadler, RESP Engagement and Communications Manager

# Agenda

- Welcome, Housekeeping and Agenda Overview – Jonny Sadler
- Overview of NESO and RESP – Bridget Hartley
- Transitional RESP – Sam Tickle & Tom Worthington
- Full RESP and further information – Bridget Hartley
- Q&A – Jonny Sadler

# Key Terms

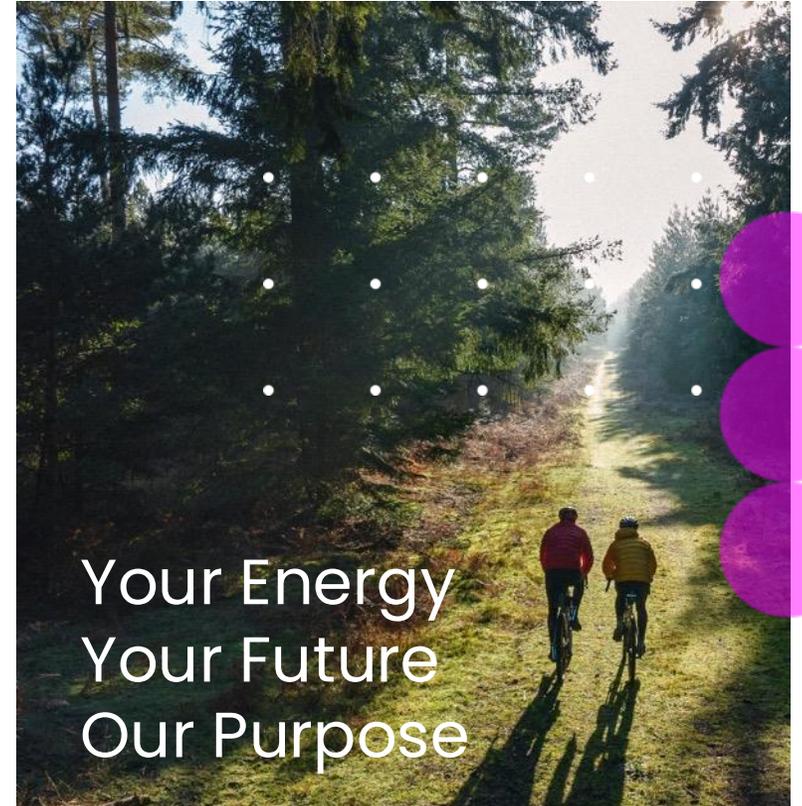
1. DNOs
2. Business Plans
3. Ofgem
4. Price Control
5. ED3

# Overview of NESO

# The National Energy System Operator (NESO)

NESO is an **independent, public corporation** at the centre of the energy system.

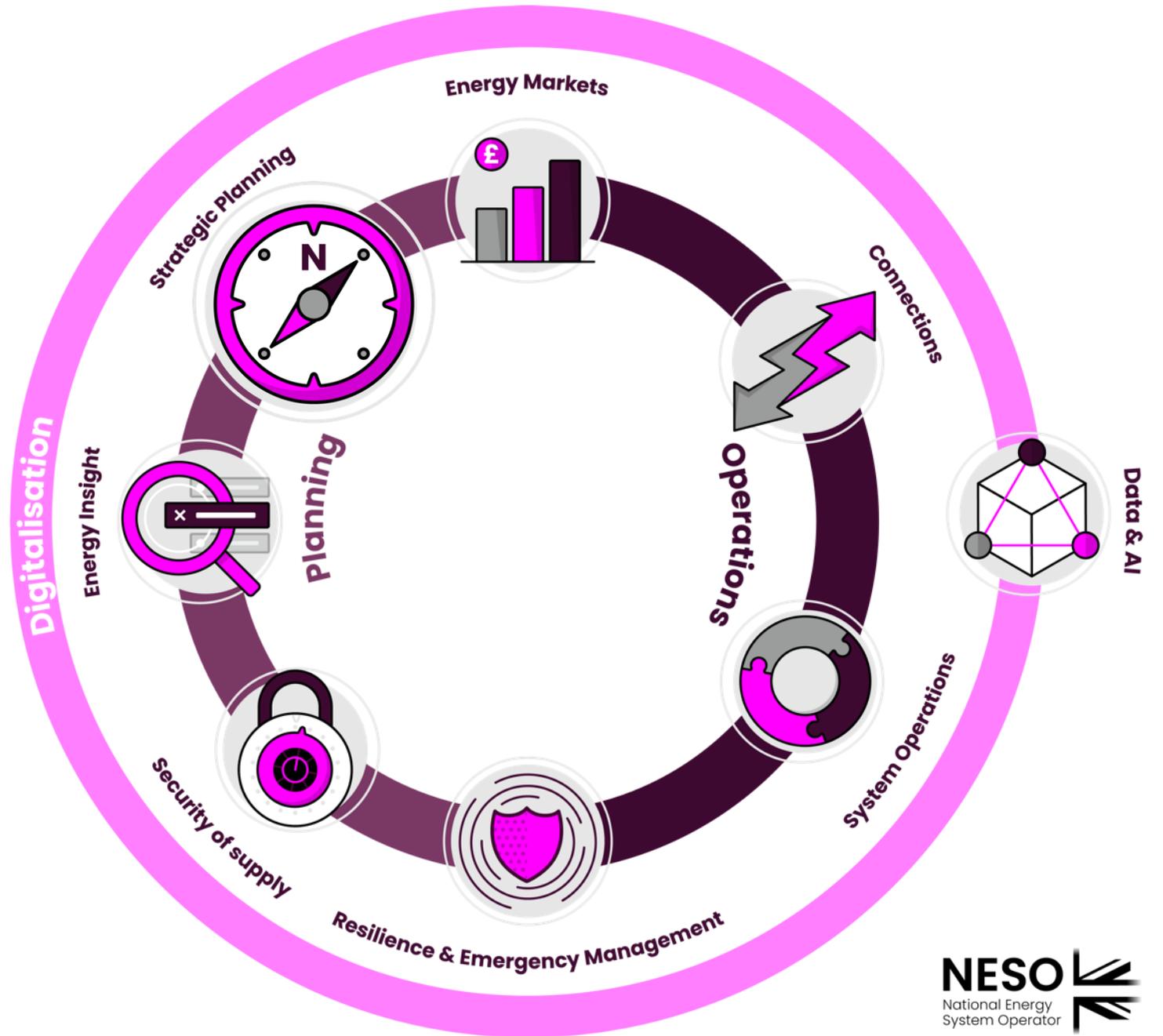
We take a whole-system view to create a world where everyone has access to **reliable, clean and affordable energy**.



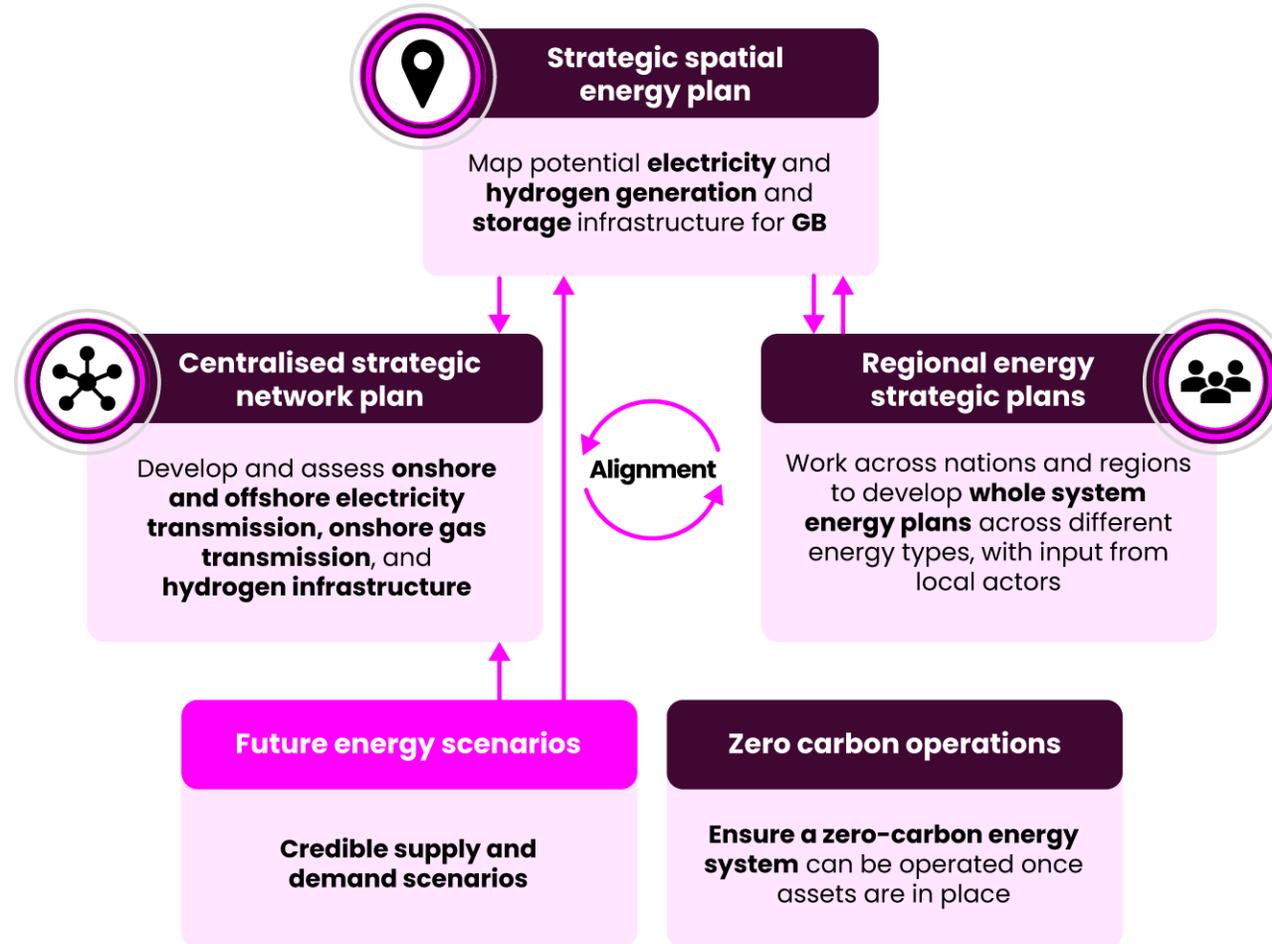
# What we do

## Strategic Planning

We take a long-term approach to planning, that identifies whole energy system needs and ensures that the system can be designed and built accordingly.



# Strategic energy planning (SEP)



Public

# What is RESP?

# Our role

Working with the GB nations and regions to produce **eleven Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs)**, to ensure that local areas get the energy infrastructure they need to help meet local and national goals.



# RESP Nations & Regions

The  
Where...

- Scotland
- North East and Yorkshire
- North West
- East Midlands
- West Midlands



- Wales
- Central England
- East
- Greater London
- South East
- South West

# RESPs – why do we need them?

The Why...

1

**Local voices and needs** – ensure that local voices and needs are at the heart of the way we plan the energy system, paving the way to a **sustainable energy future**

2

**To drive investment** – ensure local areas get the **secure energy system** they need to realise local goals

3

**Ensure efficient network investment** – that **drives consumer value** by keeping bills low by looking at the whole energy system



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# Transitional RESP (tRESP)

# Transitional RESP (tRESP) Executive Summary

tRESP supports Ofgem and the electricity Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) with the development and setting of upcoming electricity distribution price control for 2028-33



## First of a kind

**tRESP provides NESO's first GB-wide** strategic evidence base for ED3, delivering consistent regional insights, technology pathways and Strategic Energy Need assessments to support Ofgem's 2028-33 price control and address previous inconsistencies in DNO planning.



## Components

The three components (**Nations & Regions Contexts, Pathways with Consistent Planning Assumptions, and Strategic Energy Need**) form a robust foundation, offering a clear evidence base, technology trajectories to 2050, and early identification of areas potentially requiring proactive investment.

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## Driving value

To meet ED3 deadlines, NESO prioritised high-impact technologies (EVs, heat pumps, heat networks), and refined SEN to the most value-adding areas—ensuring timely, credible outputs despite tight timelines.

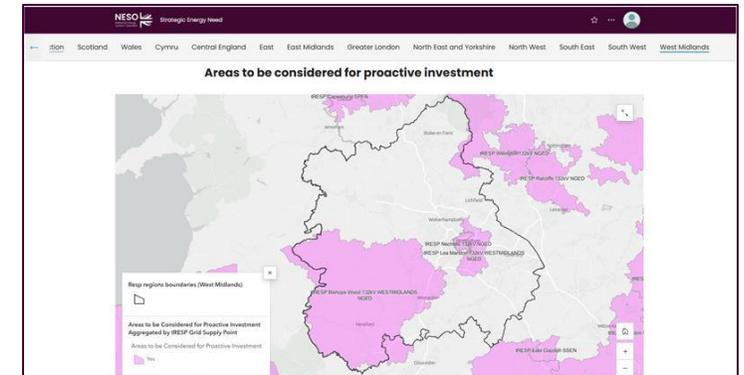
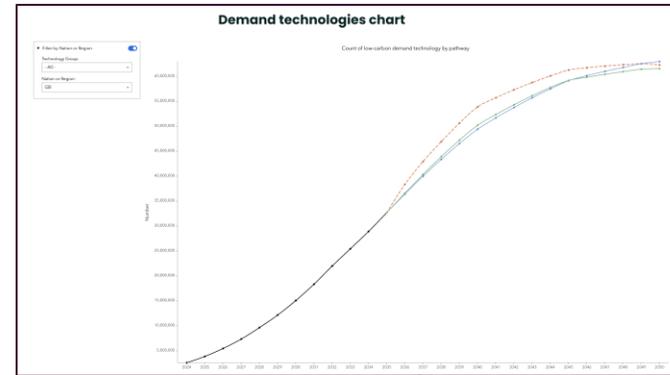
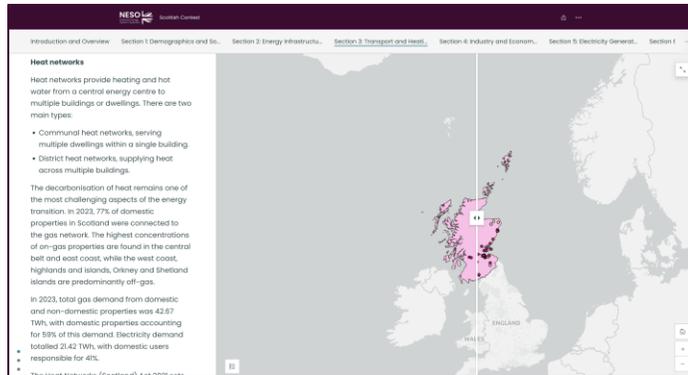


## Engagement

Engagement has been **extensive** and **iterative**, including a consultation with 151 responses, quarterly RESP forums (2,800+ attendees), Technical Working Groups, bilateral sessions and a national RFI, with stakeholder feedback directly improving data quality, methodology and usability.

# Transitional RESP (tRESP) Executive Summary

The three tRESP components:



## Nations and Regions Contexts

Our digital output for Nations and Regions Contexts provides a consistent view across key energy topics relevant to electricity distribution network planning for each nation and region.

## Pathways and CPAs

Our Pathways and Consistent Planning Assumptions set a consistent, strategic direction from which electricity DNOs will plan their networks.

## Strategic Energy Need

Strategic Energy Need maps out geographic areas where we have identified there is a strategic approach required to electricity network investment, ahead of certain need.

# Nations and Regions Contexts



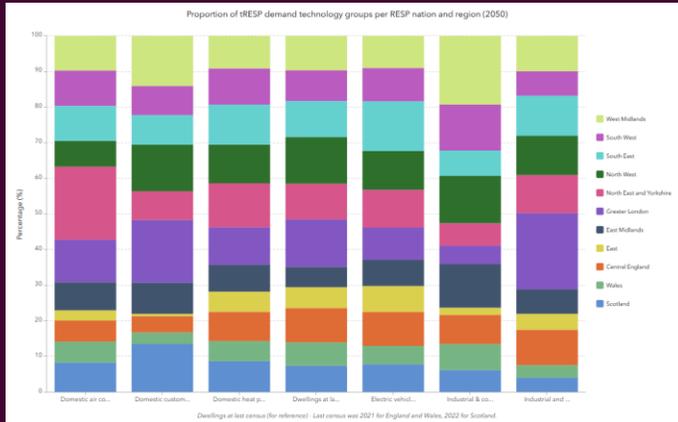
## What did we deliver?

**Nations and Regions Contexts** highlights key challenges, opportunities, priorities and ambitions, by providing a consistent view across key themes and topics outlining each nation and region's energy landscape, infrastructure, economic landscape, and role in the whole energy system across GB.

### What impact has this had?

- It provides a consistent baseline and view of trends and progress across key topics relevant to ED3 in the nations and regions.
- It situates nations and regions within the wider GB context, notably the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 Action Plan.
- Our digital output was built to contain data, insights and energy related information that matters to local communities

# Pathways and Consistent Planning Assumptions



## What did we deliver?

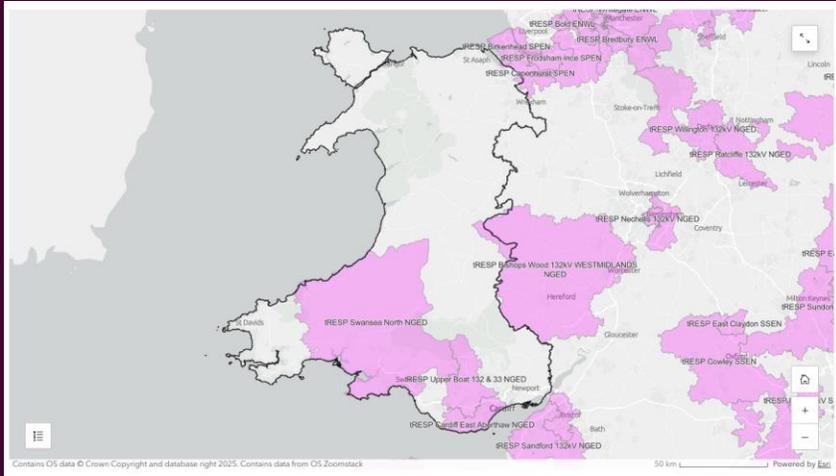
**Pathways** sets out the projected adoption of key electrical energy demand and generation technologies to 2050, across the RESP nations and regions.

**Consistent Planning Assumptions** deliver a set of assumptions to ensure a consistent approach is taken by the DNOs in the use of tRESP Pathways and translating them to network impacts.

### What impact has this had?

- The tRESP Pathways indicate the DNO networks will need to accommodate the following by 2036:\*
  - 28 million electric vehicles
  - 8 million domestic heat pumps
  - 1.7 million domestic customers supplied by heat-pump-sourced heat networks
  - 95 GW of additional generation and storage

# Strategic Energy Need



## What did we deliver?



**Strategic Energy Need** identifies geographic areas where a strategic approach to investing proactively ahead of certain need, may be required to enable key priorities across GB. This focuses on areas which aren't covered by our Pathways, such as major new industrial development, freeports and data centres.



### What has changed since the September 2025 consultation?

Following discussions with Ofgem, we've changed our language from **'Strategic Investment Need'** to **'Strategic Energy Need'**.

# SEN Assessment

Alignment of generation/ storage projects with connections reforms

Alignment of energy needs with tRESP Pathways

Assessed the energy need against our Strategic Value and Uncertainty assessment criteria

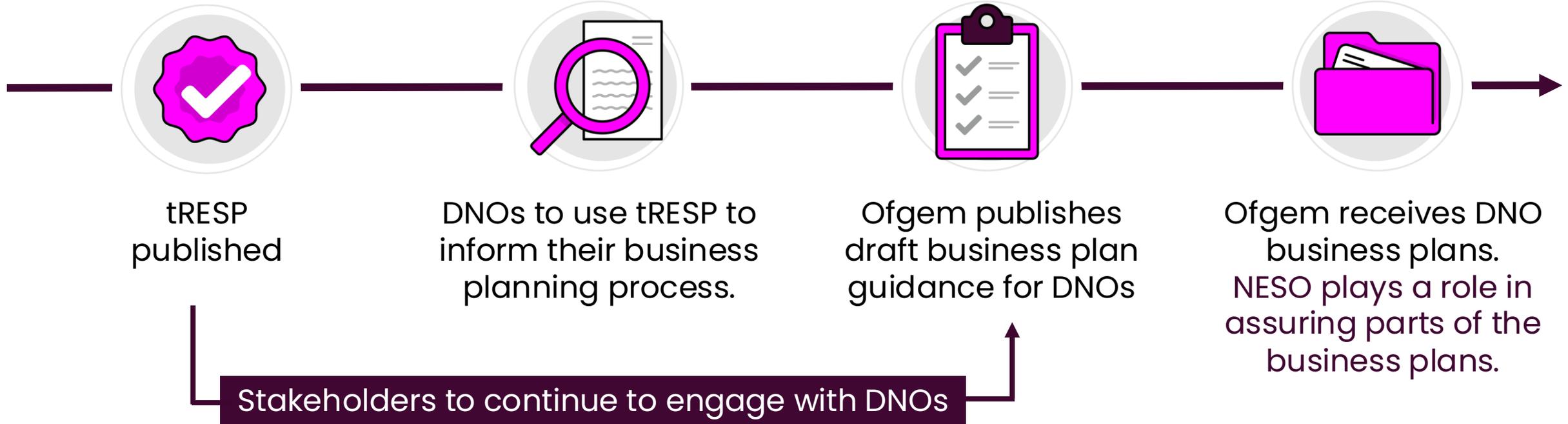
We have developed our assessment methodology to ensure alignment across tRESP as well as other NESO activities.

## **We have used three categories of energy needs:**

1. Needs that have been assessed as strategic to the nation or region,
2. GSP areas to be considered for proactive investment,
3. Early stage or needs within the scope of transmission connections reform;

# What happens next?

2026



The full RESP methodology has recently closed. We are incorporating lessons learnt from tRESP into the full RESP methodology.

Public

# RESP Methodology

# Methodology update



Draft methodology:



# Areas for further development

We are continuing to work on some areas of the methodology:



Network Planning Assurance for Gas



Whole System Optimisation



Spatial Context for Gas and Biomethane



Specification of Strategic Investment Need

## Engagement Timeline



**Late-Feb / early-March:** Methodology updates published  
**Early-March:** Online interactive workshops  
**Mid-March:** Deadline for stakeholder responses (2-week window)

These activities will support the development of the final RESP Methodology, due in summer 2026.

# Further information on RESP

## tRESP web pages



## RESP web pages



## NESO newsletter sign up



## Look out for future Forum dates



## Contact the RESP team



**General:**  
[box.resp@neso.energy](mailto:box.resp@neso.energy)

## Q&A

- Bridget Hartley, Head of Regional Energy Strategic Planning
- Sam Tickle, RESP Manager, tRESP / Policy, Governance and Regulation
- Tom Worthington, RESP Manager (Strategic Energy Need)
- Alastair Scott, RESP Technical Lead (Nations and Regions Contexts)
- Rita Shaw, RESP Projects Lead - Price Controls (Pathways and Consistent Planning Assumptions)

# Thank you and final thoughts



Find out more  
about RESP