

What is the Ten-Year Outlook 2026?

NESO's Ten-Year Outlook (10YO) looks across the whole energy sector, modelling Great Britain's supply and demand requirements. Previously, the 10YO has been produced annually alongside the Future Energy Scenarios (FES). We know industry and policymakers value our analysis so we will continue to update this work yearly while FES has now moved to a three-yearly publication cycle. As the independent public corporation at the heart of the energy system, we provide access to our objective analysis of the energy landscape.

The 10YO acts as a key input for our annual energy security modelling activities, undertaken by publications such as the Electricity Capacity Report which supports the Capacity Market auction process, and the Gas Supply Security Assessment. The 10YO provides a well-evidenced view, based on known and planned projects, existing policies and reflects current trends in sector developments. For larger electricity generation projects, there must be a strong degree of confidence around timely delivery and availability to be factored in the 10YO.

Outside of NESO, gas and electricity networks use the 10YO for regulated activities and it is also used by a range of other stakeholders.

The 10YO is not designed to enable future electricity network planning or connections, minimise network costs or constraints, or to act as a future pathway. For future network planning, NESO and the wider energy sector use the FES Pathways and in future will also use outputs from NESO's forthcoming Strategic Energy Plans.

How we model the Ten-Year Outlook

Demand modelling occurs first and is then followed by supply modelling, with the full process running between October and May.

We begin by building a modelled demand data set for the current year for each sector. This will always differ from the outturn at the end of the year, due to factors such as in-year variance of sector demands, actual weather conditions, and network constraints and planned outages.

We draw upon a range of evidence and engagement to create the 10YO such as project lists, market statistics and stakeholder engagement. We publish our assumptions record as part of the modelling process, detailing the inputs used as part of our analysis. Due to the constraints of the modelling timescales and data handovers, we are not always able to incorporate industry changes into the final output if they occur during the period in which our analysis is being produced.

A high-level modelling process flow diagram for our 10YO is shown in Figure 1 below.



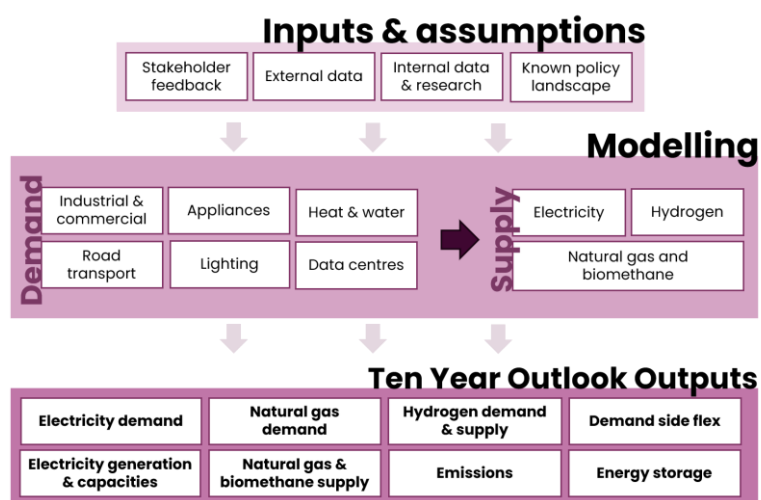


Figure 1: Ten Year Outlook modelling process

In context: How NESO considers future trends in energy

NESO's 10YO is distinct in comparison to other forecasting activities by presenting a 10-year view of the current trajectory of change. Forecasting activities in NESO, looking up to a year ahead, largely rely on different modelling tools and approaches to those used in our 10YO. For example, day ahead forecasting has different needs and requirements when it comes to accuracy, as it directly feeds real time system operation. Day ahead forecasting naturally has access to different data – such as asset outage plans and accurate weather forecasts.

Approaches in NESO for forecasting in time horizons of up to a year are captured within our [Forecasting Strategy](#), published in March 2026.

Uncertainty in the Ten-Year Outlook

Over a 10-year window, a significant amount of change can occur to the energy sector, Great Britain, or the world as a whole, all of which could have a tangible impact on the trajectory of energy supply and demand. This could include factors such as the delivery timescales of major projects; changes to energy market structures, institutions and regulations; political change; economic headwinds; consumer engagement and behaviours; and significant global events. For example, we know that the UK Government is considering policies to attract data centre investment to Great Britain, as well as ongoing work to reform the connections delivery pipeline. This could mean potential for this area of energy usage to grow faster than is currently assumed.

Whilst some events or changes can be considered as very likely to occur over the next 10 years (e.g. the design and implementation of Reformed National Pricing), it is not possible to accurately predict the outcome, timing and full implications of all potential events based on what we know now. The 10YO is repeated every year, so that new developments can be captured and any changes in trajectory across the energy sector modelled accordingly.