

Regional Energy Strategic Plans explained

Every home and business in Great Britain depends on clean, affordable and reliable energy.

Electricity and gas travel across GB through networks. **Transmission networks** are like energy motorways that carry energy long distances, while **local distribution networks** bring energy to our front doors.

Local distribution networks have evolved over time, but they must now change much faster and on a bigger scale. They will need to support **new homes** and **growing businesses**, as well as the move to **electric vehicles and heat pumps**. The networks also need to handle more **local renewable energy generation** and **batteries**. At the same time, **businesses and industry are shifting to clean technologies**; and new industries and technologies are starting to emerge.

These changes mean we must **plan and invest in local distribution networks differently**.

What are Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs)?

RESPs are a new way to plan local energy networks across Great Britain. At NESO, it's our job to lead these plans.

RESPs will:

- **give local voices a say** in strategic energy planning
- **coordinate planning across energy types** – electricity, gas and hydrogen
- use data, modelling and local insight to **show where investment is needed**.

Stakeholders in Scotland, Wales and nine English regions will help us develop plans based on their own needs and priorities. This will support local economic growth and the shift to a sustainable energy future.

Why we need these plans

As demand for electricity and gas changes, the energy system must change too. We need to plan all the separate parts as one integrated system. We also need to ensure consistency across the different energy network companies involved.



RESPs will help make sure that:

- local energy networks are built **where and when they're needed**
- communities can benefit from **clean, reliable and affordable energy**
- **energy will be available** to help businesses grow.

This helps deliver an energy system that works for **people, places and businesses across GB**.

RESP links to other plans

RESPs connect local priorities with national planning. They link to two other NESO plans:

- The **Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)** will show how to meet GB's future energy needs, and where new energy is needed
- The **Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP)** will explain GB-wide transmission network priorities.

Together, these plans create a joined-up view of our future energy system.

What each RESP includes

Each RESP will help network operators to plan their future network investments. The plans will include:

- **National and regional contexts** – to understand current energy use, local priorities and future needs
- **Pathways** – showing how energy demand and supply is expected to evolve with new technologies, like heat pumps and electric vehicles
- **Spatial context** – maps that show where needs on the networks may emerge
- **Strategic investment needs** – that outline where network investment may be required
- **Consistent assumptions** – to help network owners plan their networks in a consistent way.

How we will develop the plans

Stakeholder input is key to the RESPs. We want to make sure our plans are visible, transparent, and give people the chance to shape this work at every step.

We will:

- Work with local authorities, communities and energy networks
- Hold events, webinars and workshops
- Run public consultations on each draft plan so people can have a say.



Key dates

RESPs are about your area and your energy. Planning now means we can achieve benefits sooner. This supports local communities, helps growth, and will build a secure, sustainable energy future for GB.

We will **publish the first RESPs** in late 2028. The plans will be updated **every three years** to make sure they stay relevant and effective.

Any questions? Contact us

We hope you find this factsheet useful. If you have any questions, please contact our team.

Visit our website

neso.energy/national-and-regional-planning

Email us

box.resp@neso.energy