

Strategic Energy Planning explained

Our energy needs are changing. People need energy for daily living. Businesses count on energy for heating, lighting and transport, and to supply the goods we all need.

We will need much more clean, secure and affordable energy to meet these needs. Electricity, gas and low carbon fuels such as hydrogen all have a part to play. We must make changes to the energy system and move at a pace and scale that GB has not seen before. It's a big challenge, that demands a more coordinated approach.

A whole energy strategic plan

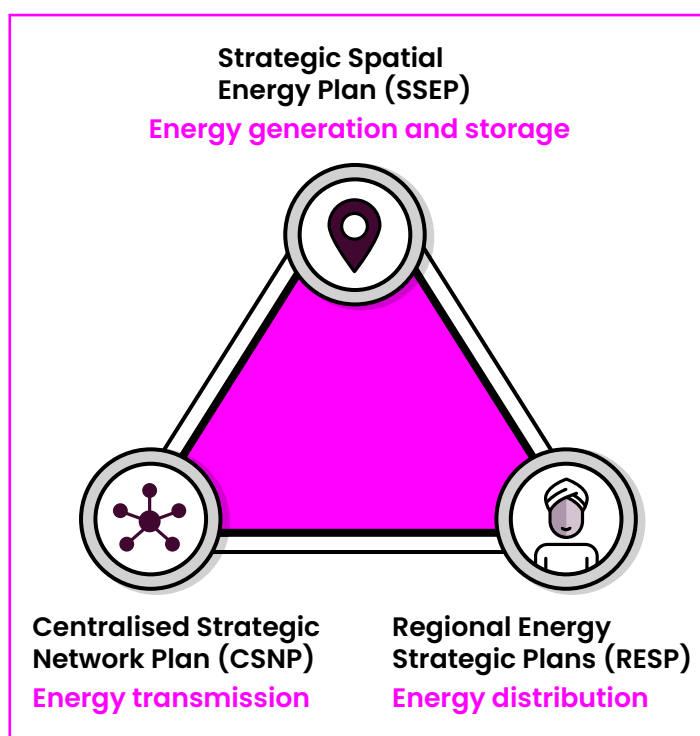
At NESO, it's our job to plan this change.

The UK, Scottish and Welsh governments and Ofgem have asked us to produce a whole energy strategic plan. We will build a full picture of the future energy system, that covers:

- Energy demand from households, businesses, industry and transport
- The right technologies to meet this demand, such as offshore wind, onshore wind, solar, gas, hydrogen and storage
- The electricity, gas and hydrogen networks we will need to move and store energy from where it's produced, to where it's needed.

There are three parts to our plan. These work together, but each brings a unique perspective:

- The **Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)** focuses on electricity and hydrogen generation and storage infrastructure
- The **Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP)** looks at GB-wide transmission networks, which are like energy motorways that carry energy long distances
- **Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs)** focus on the gas and electricity distribution networks that bring energy from the national transmission systems to our homes and businesses.



Our plans will ensure that **energy infrastructure is built when and where it's needed**, and **target investment in the right places**. This will help build investor confidence, avoid unnecessary costs and support long-term national and regional goals.

What each part does

Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP)

The SSEP will show **how to meet GB's future energy needs, and where new energy is needed** from 2030 to 2050 and beyond. It will focus on electricity and hydrogen generation and storage.

The plan will split GB into 19 areas called **zones** and suggest how much of each technology is best for each zone. This will give investors, communities and the networks more certainty about energy needs across GB and support long-term planning.

We will consider costs, the environment and other uses of land and sea and hold a full public consultation on the draft plan.

Centralised Strategic Network Plan (CSNP)

The CSNP looks at the transmission networks, or 'energy motorways' we need to move energy efficiently across GB. This plan sets out **how electricity, gas and hydrogen systems need to evolve together** over the next 25 years.

The plan will work out where we may need new or upgraded transmission infrastructure to make sure homes and businesses can access energy.

The CSNP will consider connections needs. It will make sure we get the right pipes, cables and connections in the right places at the right time.

Regional Energy Strategic Plans (RESPs)

RESPs focus on the gas and electricity distribution networks that bring energy from the national transmission systems to our homes and businesses.

The plans are being created for Scotland and Wales, and for nine regions of England. They will draw on national, regional and local data, and stakeholder and community feedback.

The RESPs will show **where and when investment in local distribution networks is required** and help network owners plan future upgrades.



Your views count

Stakeholder input is vital to strategic energy planning. We are involving people across GB in future energy discussions at an early stage. We want to make sure that our plans are visible and give people the chance to influence our work in a coordinated way.

As we develop the new plans, we will:

- Build relationships with people and organisations across GB – including governments, regulators, national and regional bodies, local authorities, industry experts and representative organisations across GB
- Work with stakeholders to access and use data that helps us make the best possible decisions
- Share information wherever we can to show how we've reached decisions
- Hold full consultations on all the plans.

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/strategic-energy-planning

Email us

box.sep-engagement@neso.energy