

Public

NESO's transformational grid connection reforms approved today

Today's announcement

Today, Ofgem has approved NESO's transformational connection reforms, which will accelerate the **growth of British industry**, ramp up private **investment in clean energy**, and remove stalled and speculative energy projects from the connections queue. Our reforms are critical to get the energy we need connected to the grid, making sure we can meet demand in 2030 and further strengthen Great Britain's energy security.

The challenge

Reforming the connections process is a huge challenge. The current process is cumbersome and uncoordinated, and it is no longer fit for purpose. There is a backlog of projects waiting to connect to the grid which stands at more than 750GW; that is more than four times what we need to connect by 2030 and more than double what we need for net zero in 2050.

Our reforms

We need to move to a 'first ready, first needed' approach, meaning that projects that are **ready to connect**, and those that Great Britain **needs to meet demand** between now and 2035, are prioritised. Projects that are not currently required or that are not ready to connect will be removed from the queue. A new process will allow us to connect clean energy projects more quickly, create a better environment for private investment and growth, and ensure that new energy infrastructure is better coordinated.

Benefits of connections reform

Economic growth

Connections reform is a key enabler of faster economic growth. That is why the Government is supporting our reforms through the Planning and Infrastructure Bill, and it is why **businesses and investors have long called for significant reform**.

As things stand, a broken process means developers do not have certainty about when and where their energy projects will be able to connect.

Our reforms will create a predictable process, giving investors certainty about where and when their projects will be able to connect. Through our work to strategically plan the energy system, we can provide further certainty to investors about what we will need over the longer term too.

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A reformed connections process could bring forward **£40bn worth of annual investment**¹, we need in clean power projects and infrastructure across the country.

Delivering consumer value

Ensuring a **good deal for consumers** is at the heart of all our work and connections reform is perhaps the clearest example. Reforming the connections will ultimately mean a more agile and efficient system which should lower costs for consumers and expedite the delivery of new clean projects.

The current system has investors guessing where to build energy projects, leading to too many speculative applications across the country. If all these projects were connected, it could make our energy system less efficient due to the extra infrastructure needed. By clarifying where and when projects can connect, investors can avoid wasted efforts, focusing only on what's necessary.

These reforms will **benefit consumers** because it will mean they shoulder the cost of less new infrastructure. Getting more clean energy on the system will also mean consumers are insulated from volatile, international gas prices with **more of our energy produced here in Great Britain**.

What does this mean for your constituency?

Now that Ofgem has approved our reforms, we will shortly begin the process of implementation. We will assess which projects are ready to connect and needed to meet demand in 2030 and beyond. This will mean a much shorter queue of projects waiting to connect, clean energy connected to the grid more quickly, and more investment in Great Britain.

This will **benefit your constituents** by supporting economic growth, protecting them from volatile, international gas prices and reducing wasted investment.

These reforms, along with our work to strategically plan the energy system over the medium and long term, will mean a much **more coordinated approach to where energy infrastructure is located**. A less coordinated approach has meant an oversupply of applications to build new energy projects, particularly battery storage and solar farms. Projects that are not ready to connect and that we do not need will be removed from the queue.

¹ NESO Clean Power 2030 <https://www.neso.energy/document/346651/download>