

ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

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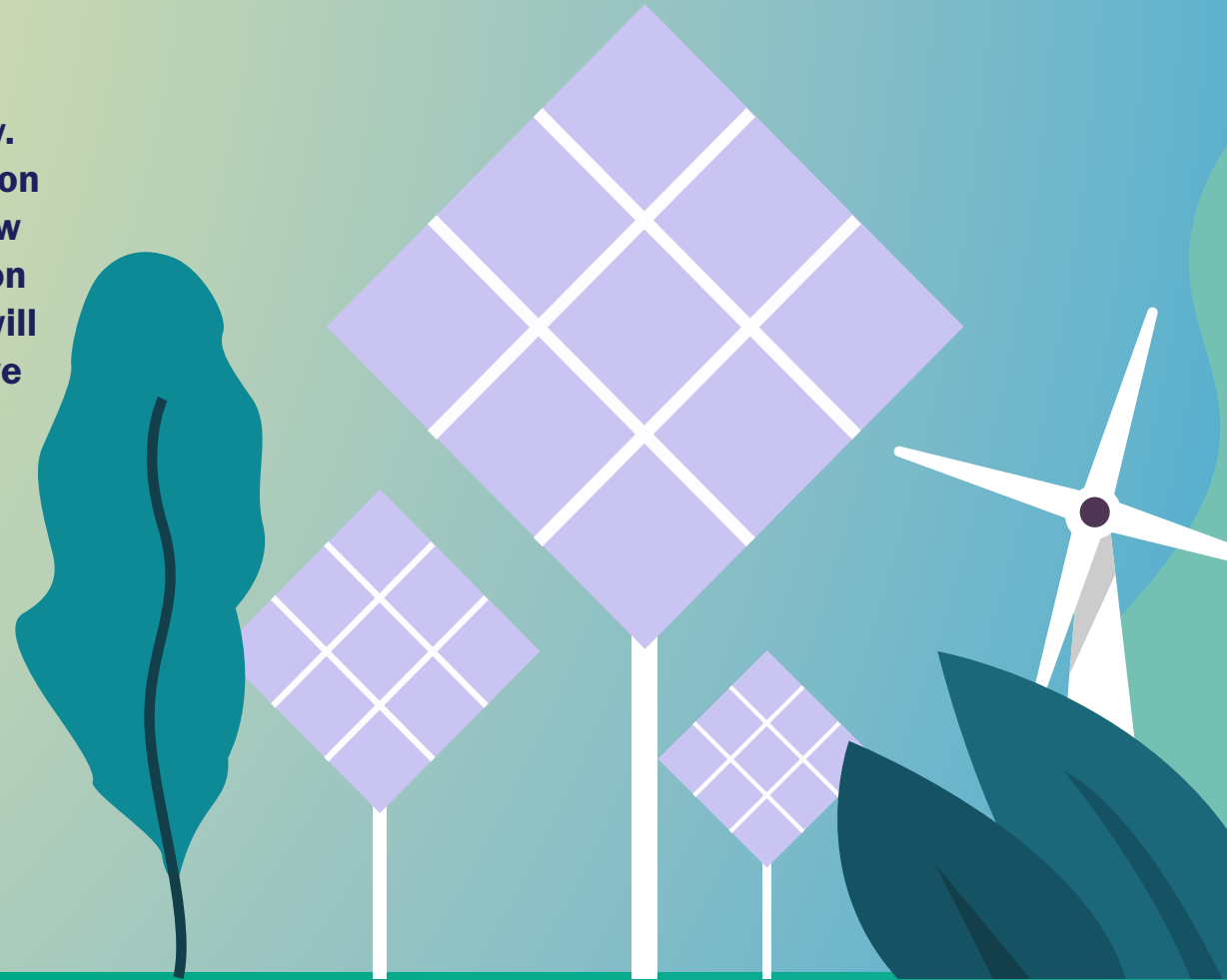
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WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

We have entered an exciting phase on the Path to Net Zero Energy. For the past two years, our focus has been on developing our Energy Strategy. Now attention turns to delivery, with the publication of our 2022 Action Plan. As we move into this new phase of the Energy Strategy, good communication and engagement remains a high priority and we will continue to provide you with regular updates as we progress through the year.

In this edition, we focus on the launch of the Path to Net Zero Energy Action Plan and the importance of working together to achieve our ambitions. We also have details of the recent NIE Networks jobs announcement and a reminder about the current consultation on the regulation of heat networks in NI.



PATH TO NET ZERO ENERGY - ACTION PLAN PUBLISHED

On the 20th of January, Minister Gordon Lyons launched the first Path to Net Zero Energy Action Plan. The plan contains 22 actions to be taken forward during 2022 by central government and our partners.

This follows the publication of our Energy Strategy, the Path to Net Zero Energy, in December 2021, which outlined a roadmap to deliver a 56% reduction in our energy-related emissions by 2030, and a pathway to deliver the 2050 vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy.

Speaking at W5's new Energise exhibition the Minister said:

"The action plan maps out the best route to ensuring people will live and work in more energy efficient buildings, whilst helping some of the most vulnerable in society to live in warmer homes, reduce ill-health and ultimately save lives. We understand people need information, advice and financial support to make some of these changes,

particularly with affordability in mind, and we will ensure that the appropriate help is available."

The action plan contains a suite of new initiatives including a £10m green innovation fund, a hydrogen centre of excellence and one-stop shop for energy advice.

It covers 6 areas:

- Placing you at the heart of our energy future
- Grow the Green Economy
- Do more with less
- Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy
- Create a flexible, resilient and integrated energy system
- Delivering the strategy

We will report in Q1 2023 on the progress achieved against the 2022 Action Plan.

To download the Path to Net Zero Energy Action Plan please click here. www.economy-ni.gov.uk/publications/energy-strategy-path-net-zero-energy-action-plan



WORKING TOGETHER ON THE PATH TO NET ZERO ENERGY

Collaboration and engagement has been central to the development of the Energy Strategy and at the launch of the Path to Net Zero Energy Action Plan, Minister Lyons highlighted the importance of continued collaboration in the delivery of the strategy, saying:

“A collaborative approach is vital to putting affordability front and centre of our new strategy and action plan. I am delighted that The Path to Net Zero has been endorsed by some of the most important organisations working in the energy sector.

The Strategy and Action Plan have received support from a number of organisations.

Housing Executive Chief Executive Grainia Long:

“I welcome the publication of the action plan for The Path to Net Zero Energy strategy, which is a very welcome step in Northern Ireland’s transition to net zero emissions. We’re determined that housing will play a critical part in this and we estimate that better energy efficiency in local homes could reduce emissions by 2.2 million tonnes per year. It is also fundamental in tackling fuel poverty.



As part of our own plans, we recently launched a research and development competition to quickly develop ‘Smart’ systems that help to reduce the carbon emissions from heating homes by using more local clean renewable energy and enable our tenants to keep their homes warm and dry, while saving on tenants’ energy costs.”

Noyona Chundur, Chief Executive of the Consumer Council of Northern Ireland:

“We are unambiguous in our view that achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions is essential for long-term consumer protection. It must come about through the development of a sustainable energy future that works for us all. It is essential that we achieve a just and fair transition by ensuring affordability, security of supply and consumer protection.



“We must avoid demands on consumers that are overly burdensome and unaffordable if our net zero goal is to be reached. Instead we must engage, empower, and mobilise communities and consumers to create a grassroots movement that can deliver net zero. We support the new energy strategy and are committed to working in partnership to deliver it, and the consumer education, support and empowerment needed to help our citizens through their changing energy future.”



Path to
Net-Zero

WORKING TOGETHER ON THE PATH TO NET ZERO ENERGY CONTINUED ...

John French, Chief Executive of the Utility Regulator:

“This strategy provides a real opportunity for Northern Ireland to contribute to the decarbonisation agenda goals whilst ensuring energy bills are affordable for everyone.”



Pat Austin of the energy charity National Energy Action:

“Many people living in fuel poverty are struggling this winter, particularly with soaring household energy bills. There are so many negative impacts resulting from living in a cold home – needless death, physical and mental ill-health, damaged life chances and further strain on our precious health services. These consequences affect us all.



“We support this new Energy Strategy and we hope that it will be the catalyst for change, ending fuel poverty and shaping a more equitable energy future in Northern Ireland.”

NIE Networks jobs announcement

NIE Networks is creating 110 new jobs as part of its plan to enhance Northern Ireland’s electricity network to help tackle climate change and boost economic recovery.

The new jobs will include craft and technical roles, people working ‘hands on’ on the network, including additional apprenticeship and graduate opportunities, as well as engineers, analysts and a number of roles in professional business support such as IT and digital, procurement, human resources and finance. As part of the recruitment drive, NIE Networks will also focus on increasing the skills base needed by the clean energy sector in the coming years. In conjunction with the Department for the Economy, it will provide world-class development and deliver traineeships and apprenticeships through its award-winning apprenticeship programme and training centre. The move will provide opportunities for both young people and existing workers seeking re-deployment.

For more information visit [Network company for connections, meter reading, outage updates | Northern Ireland Electricity Networks \(nienetworks.co.uk\)](https://www.nienetworks.co.uk)

Consultation on the regulation of Heat Networks in NI

DfE has launched a consultation on the regulation of heat networks in NI, proposing increased alignment with future UK regulation. This includes mechanisms to support the wider roll out of heat networks along with increased consumer protection for existing and future heat network customers.

Consultation documents can be found at [Heat Networks - building a market framework | Department for the Economy \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk)

All responses should be provided to DfEHeatpolicy@economy-ni.gov.uk.

The closing date for responses is **13th February 2022 at 17:00.**