

## Recent activity: National

Warm Homes Plan	Local Power Plan
NPPF	Future Homes Standard
Small renewables planning exemption	Land Use Framework
Consultation on grid queue reform	Expediting next CfD renewables auction (AR8)
Plug-in solar announcement	Digital tool for hospitality

## Warm Homes Plan

 [More here](#)

**£15bn of grants and loans** for **≥5m** households, including...

- **£5bn of grants for low-income homes**
- **£2.7bn for Boiler Upgrade Scheme and loans for able-to-pay**
- **£1.1bn for heat networks**

**Shift towards more Low Carbon Tech focus...triple rooftop solar** to 4.6m homes by 2030; **450k heat pumps** (250k retrofitted) by 2030

From next year, **consolidated pot** for ‘local’ and ‘social housing’, focused on **area-based/street-scale** interventions

Detail on **delivery/implementation due Spring** – but **£130m devolved funding** already announced for mayoral authorities

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## Local Power Plan

 [More here](#)

**≥£1bn (grants and loans) for local/community energy projects to launch in Spring – including a Partnership Fund for council/community projects**

To support with an initial 1,000 projects – with an **emphasis on underserved areas and those with historically low take up** of community energy. **EOI now open** on GBE's website! *Let us know if there's anything you want us to submit as a potential joint community/council project.*

**Summer pilots** expected then **Autumn launch of full portfolio and toolkit**. Plan includes commitments on local **capacity building, business model** development, and **regulatory** changes

**GBE activity so far...**£5m to 53 community energy projects; £16m to mayoral authorities; and £255m public sector estate (NHS, military & schools); partnerships with strategic combined authorities

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## **NPPF**

 [More here](#)

New draft NPPF released for **consultation** (now closed).

Now split into clear **‘plan making’** and **‘decision making’** sections.

Includes dedicated **sections on climate mitigation and adaptation**, clean energy and water infrastructure

Proposes (PM13) **limits to local discretion to set higher quantitative standards** on most things (excl. water, accessibility...) above Building Regs – including energy efficiency

Also seeks views on policies for onsite energy generation for **data centres**

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## Future Homes Standards

[More here](#)

New rules coming into force in **March 2027**, but 12-month transition until March 2028 for things already in the pipeline

Introduces **mandatory solar PV** for most new builds (equiv to ~40% floor area) and **mandatory low carbon heating** for most new builds

**Uplift to energy performance standards** compared to 2013, to deliver 75-80% lower emissions cuts – should be ‘zero carbon *ready*’ (i.e. operationally net zero *when the grid decarbonises*)

**Transition to new performance modelling** (SAP10.3 and Home Energy Modelling (HEM)) to better capture low carbon tech

\*FYI, EV chargers mandatory since 2022 under Part S

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## Small renewables planning exemption

 [More here](#)

Farmers, factories and public sector orgs to be able to install **small PV/turbines without planning permission, under new proposals.**

Would apply to **turbines  $\geq 30\text{m}$**

**Extends PDR** for small domestic turbines **to non-domestic premises.**

Consultation open until 10 June

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## Land Use Framework

[More here](#)

LUF now published as a long-term blueprint **balancing development, energy, food, nature, water, resilience, community uses**

The analysis shows **competing land uses can be met simultaneously** if choices are strategic

Sets **principles** for multifunctional land use, 'right use, right place', future-ready decisions, and adaptiveness

Sets **targets for better land use management and land use change** for carbon sequestration/storage and renewables

**Implementation** through digital/data tools; spatial plans; farming roadmap etc.

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## Grid queue consultation

 [More here](#)

**Consultation** launched on grid connection queue reforms.

Aims to further **cut speculative applications** that blocked the queue and move towards strategic prioritisation (e.g. for industrial decarb, AI growth zones etc.).

Aims to **strengthen conditions for joining and staying the queue** (including deposits and milestones that must be met)

The queues **already been cut by over half** over the last year by NESO.

Further announcements also due later this year on a **new 'Connections Accelerator Service'** for key projects.

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## Expediting next CfD auction

 [More here](#)

### Expediting Allocation Round 8 to July

**AR7 was the biggest ever:** record on/off-shore wind, solar and tidal – totalling **14.7GW** across 201 projects  
(AR6 was 9.6GW across 131 projects)

In AR7...

- Onshore **wind** was secured at **£72.24/MWh**
- **Solar** **£65.23/MWh**  
(c.f. new gas power is £147/MWh)

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## Plug-in solar PV

 [More here](#)

Plug-in solar PV to be available **within months**

Work to commence with consumer groups and industry on **standards and regulations**

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## Digital tool for hospitality

 [More here](#)

**525 SMEs** get support through **digital tool for real-time alerts on energy wastage.**

Following trial, it's now being extended to **hospitality** businesses more widely

**Applications now open:** [zerocarboncompany.org](https://zerocarboncompany.org)

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tRESP & LAEP	Clean Energy Super Cluster
Solar Together	Council estate
Homewise campaign	Ongoing delivery programmes
Community batteries	Engagement
Adaptation/Resilience	Next phase of procurement project

## tRESP & LAEP

[More here](#)

A new system of **strategic energy planning and regional governance** is on its way – led by NESO.

A **‘transitional’ plan** has been created to meet the next distribution investment timelines – which we’ve been helping shape. The **‘tRESP’ is now published**. Some gaps, but much stronger than the draft in its Dorset content.

Importantly: it **identifies Chickerell and Mannington as strategic areas** (only 179/231 areas were) and **Chickerell as priority for investment\*** in the next ‘ED3’ investment period (2028-33) (only 4 in the SW; 67 nationally)

Next steps: Progressing **LAEP + DNO Business Plans** + standing up **regional governance in Q4 (see section 4 in [here](#))**

*\*This is for investment needs above and beyond what they already model/forecast for (e.g. EV charger uplift)*

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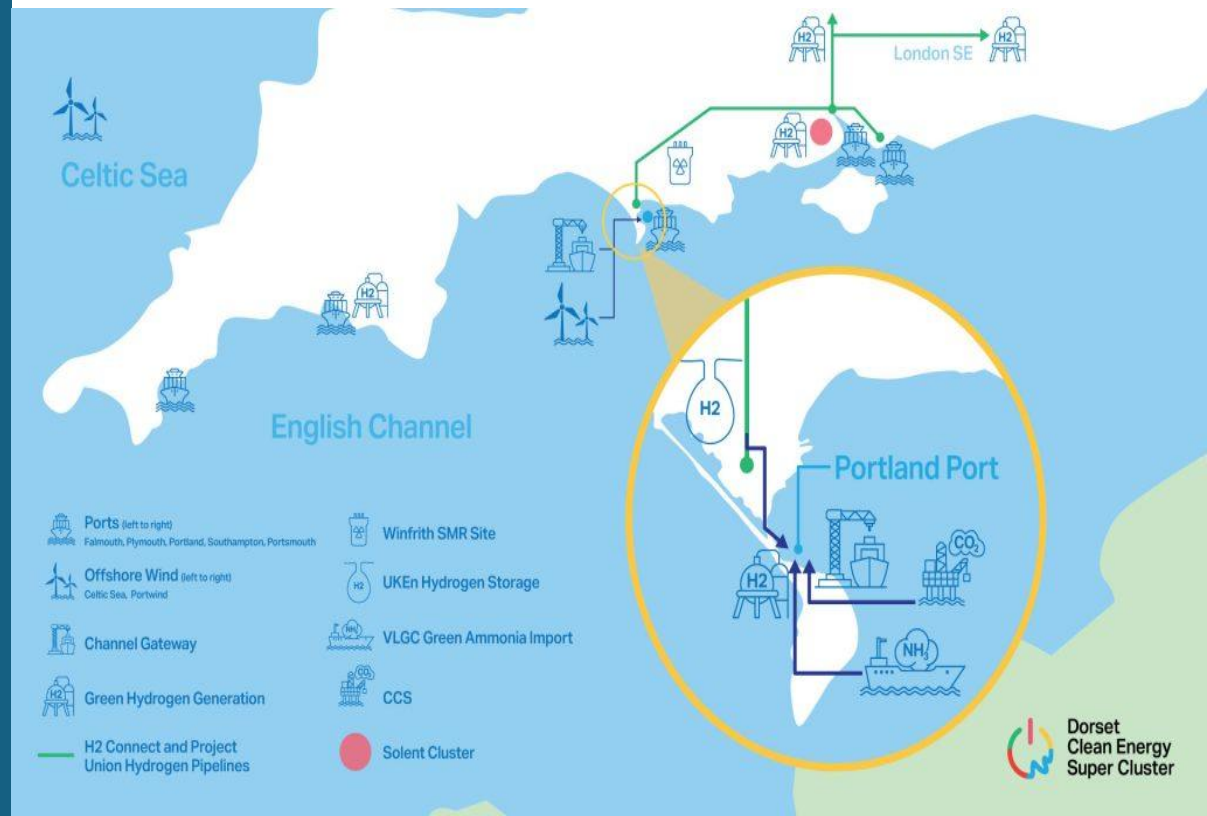
Adaptation/Resilience

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# Clean Energy Super Cluster

[More here](#)

Work progressing on DCESC – engagement and masterplanning – for the projects (offshore wind, wind manufacturing hub, green hydrogen, carbon storage, SMRs, smaller innovation projects)



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## Solar Together

 [More here](#)

National **group buying scheme** for low carbon tech (solar PV and batteries) at a reduced price with vetted installers through a reverse auction

Dorset is **participating in Scheme 4** (Autumn 2025 registration, mid 2026 installation)

**Very good response rate** from residents...

- **>1,600 EOIs**
- **>300 signups**
- **Many installations now complete** – all due by May/June

\*Sorry if these figures are a little out of date

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## Council estate

 [More here](#)

The **Council Plan** aims to **double** our estate **solar capacity** – building on the £18.2m programme that installed ~5MW and upgraded ~200 buildings

Work underway on around **2.2MW** more rooftop solar – now have approval (since Jan) for **£700k procurement** towards this next tranche

Work underway also exploring potential solar farm (≥50MW) on our **farm estate** – building on the commitments in the new farm estate strategy

Project also to explore options on our **leased and other assets on the estate** with the SWNZ Hub support

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## Homewise Campaign

[More here](#)

Launched a **Homewise** campaign, working with the Energy Saving Trust in January: facilitates free, tailored **retrofit advice for households**, through a bespoke plan – and gives us helpful metrics.

We've already seen excellent engagement...

- **>117,000** Viewed campaign videos
- **>22,000** social media reach
- **>4,200** Visited our webpage
- **3** press articles
- **>1,400** People have used the tool (our target was 1,000 for the whole year)

The videos have already been **our most viewed video's** – and EST have been very surprised by the scale of interaction. Great to be able to integrate Dorset Greener Homes too!

\*Sorry if these figures are a little out of date too

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## Community batteries

 [More here](#)

Working with Envol to try and identify potential sites for community batteries

No commitment yet – just exploratory, not fully clear on the strategic case myself just yet – will be one for the LAEP

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## Engagement

 [More here](#)

**Monthly Town and Parish Council sessions** about to begin:

- Tomorrow: Intro to climate change (me)
- April: Council climate programme (team)
- May: Energy! (*community energy content welcome*)

**Internal webinars/training** videos in development

**Schools** engagement programme ongoing

E-newsletter signup [here](#)

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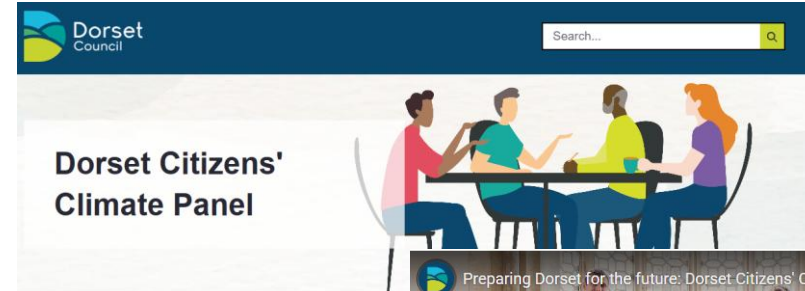
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# Adaptation/Resilience

[More here](#)

**Climate panel report** now published – The findings of the 20 resident panel on climate impacts



**Operational risk assessment** draft completed imminently

**New officer** due to start April!

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# Procurement project

Internal engagement on draft procurement toolkit underway – external engagement to follow

**Buy Greener**  
Dorset Council Environmentally Sustainable Procurement Roadmap

**Identifying environmental impacts**

Products, works or services go through a 'life cycle' - from sourcing materials they're made of through to disposal. Consider the environmental impacts, risks and opportunities across the 'whole lifecycle' from 'cradle to grave'. This is called a Life Cycle Assessment\*. You could engage end users, policy leads, procurement specialists, contract managers, and suppliers to help.

Understanding risks to delivery of the contract are particularly important, but you could think beyond that to refine your requirements. Pre-market engagement can help, particularly to identify unknown unknowns, or their magnitude, controls or KPIs - and where accommodation for a possible contract modification is wise.

**Production phase:** Materials sourcing, Manufacture & construction, Logistics & warehousing, Packaging

**Use phase:** Maintenance, repair & refurbishment, Operational transport, Use & Service Delivery

**End-of-life phase:** Deconstruction & Demolition, Waste Logistics, Recycling & Reuse

**Identify scope for improvement**

Once you've clarified where there might be an issue, consider how best to respond to meet **business** (helps you rank by how much money they're not making for you) and **planet** (helps you rank by how much money they're not making for you).

**Avoid** (Prevent impacts)

- Avoid emissions:** Prevent energy, fuel, materials use, or loss of natural carbon stores (e.g. avoid brown earth)
- Reduce emissions:** Optimise energy, fuel, materials and use efficiency (e.g. energy efficiency, reduce materials)
- Mitigate emissions:** Be switching to low-emission alternatives (e.g. green energy, better tools, better practices)
- Offset residual emissions:** Compensate through means like tree planting

**Reduce** (Prevent impacts)

- Reduce emissions:** Cut the frequency, duration or quantity of emissions (e.g. avoid building or road trip unless essential)
- Mitigate emissions:** Reduce vulnerability by being prepared through adaptation (e.g. building strength, flood barriers, and water retention)
- Boost resilience:** Be proactive through adaptation (e.g. building strength, flood barriers, and water retention)

**Mitigate** (Prevent impacts)

- Reduce harm to habitats & wildlife:** Cut the frequency, duration or quantity of emissions (e.g. reduce or restructure harmful activity)
- Mitigate harm:** Use design, technology, or operational measures (e.g. use of quieter machinery, better practices)
- Offset harm:** Create or offset by restoring or repairing any natural habitats (e.g. tree planting, habitat creation, and water retention)

**Compensate** (Prevent impacts)

- Recover waste outputs:** Reuse, recycle, or otherwise manage waste products, packaging, materials, and works
- Mitigate waste outputs:** Reuse and recycling of waste products (e.g. water or rubbish goods at end of life, circular economy)
- Recover waste outputs:** Reuse, recycle, or otherwise manage waste products, packaging, materials, and works (e.g. EPR, composting, pollution and capture, MRF, landfill gas recovery)

**Frequently Procured Categories**

Food and beverages

**Environmental Sustainability Impact (Risks & Opportunities)**

Energy consumption in production and storage  
Energy recovery potential from agricultural waste through anaerobic digestion  
Food waste from storage and construction activities  
Fuel consumption in long-distance transportation of agricultural products  
Generation of greenhouse gas emissions

**And as it came up in discussion....**

**Carbon brief does the great  
factchecks/mythbuster**

**[Factchecks - Carbon Brief](#)**