



Our ref: RE/418/2024

David Clubb  
Chair  
National Infrastructure Commission for Wales

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19 December 2024

Dear David,

Following the helpful work the National Infrastructure Commission for Wales has done in relation to energy over the last year, I wanted to update you on our thinking on the National Energy Plan.

The commitment to this plan followed the deep dive into renewable energy back in December 2021. The Government committed to “...scale up local energy plans to create a national energy plan by 2024, mapping out future energy demand and supply for all parts of Wales to identify gaps to enable us to plan for a system that is flexible and smart - matching local renewable energy generation with energy demand.”

I am pleased to say that our work to help local authorities in Wales develop local area energy plans across Wales was completed in spring 2024, with authorities taking various routes to finalising and publishing their plans. We are therefore in the enviable position of being the first UK nation to have full coverage of local energy plans. Since then, we have worked with the Energy Systems Catapult, our technical advisor on these plans, to bring together the data from across Wales, to understand what this means at both regional and national levels. We have also carried out a “lessons learned” exercise on the plan development process and my officials and our Welsh Government Energy Service have shared our learning to enable others across the UK and internationally to build on our experience.

Our intention is to continue to use this evidence base, incorporating it into Datamap Wales to support action. We also need to recognise that the industrial nature of Wales provides place-based opportunities that need to be explored further, incorporating data from industry where available into the local energy plan landscape where appropriate.

However, since we committed to delivering a National Energy Plan, the situation across the UK has changed significantly. Where Wales has led the way on strategic whole system

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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spatial energy planning, through Future Wales: The National Plan, regional and local energy strategies, there has been a growing recognition that we will only reach a low carbon energy system at least cost and impact through a planned approach.

The co-commissioning of the Strategic Spatial Energy Plan (SSEP) for Great Britain by Welsh, Scottish and UK Governments, to be delivered by the National Energy System Operator, is a significant development. We also await clarity from Ofgem on the role of the Regional Energy System Planner, having worked with stakeholders across Wales to develop and provide a national response to the autumn consultation. The publication this month of the UK Government's Clean Power 2030 plan is a further development that broadly supports the commitments the Welsh Government has made. There is also a major programme under way to develop plans to transform the energy networks in Great Britain to better meet the needs of a low carbon and more distributed energy system.

We have therefore paused activity on the National Energy Plan in the latter part of this year. This has allowed us to work with the NESO and the UK Government to understand the array of changes under way and provide insight into Welsh policies in devolved areas. Once the timescales and outputs for the GB system plans are agreed, we will be able to judge whether a National Energy Plan is necessary to support delivery. Until then, we will continue to work with regions to understand and support their ambitions around energy and to deliver the economic opportunities across Wales from moving to a clean energy system.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio