

Industrial Decarbonisation

Policy News Update

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1.UK Policy

Energy Independence Bill Signals Major Shift in UK Energy Policy

BBC

4th November 2026

The UK Government has introduced the Energy Independence Bill, which would remove the North Sea Transition Authority's ability to grant new oil and gas exploration and production licences in the North Sea. Existing projects, including the Rosebank and Jackdaw developments, would not be affected by the proposed changes as they were licensed under previous arrangements. The Bill would introduce Transitional Energy Certificates, enabling additional production from areas adjacent to existing licensed fields and extensions of current developments.

More info here.

INEOS Inovyn Secures Future of UK's Last EDC Production Facility

INEOS

3rd November 2026

INEOS Inovyn has completed the acquisition of the UK's only remaining ethylene dichloride (EDC) production facility at Runcorn, securing domestic production of a key feedstock used in PVC manufacturing. The facility plays a strategically important role in UK infrastructure, supplying

approximately 98% of the chlorine used in drinking water treatment across the country. Products manufactured at the site support a range of essential sectors, including construction and critical infrastructure. INEOS Inovyn has described the acquisition as an important step in improving UK industrial resilience and reducing dependence on imported essential chemical products.

More info here.

Veolia Secures First Full-Scale Carbon Capture Contract in HyNet

Energy Digital

30th October 2026

Veolia has secured its first full-scale carbon capture contract, supplying CO_2 purification and dehydration technology near Ellesmere Port in Cheshire in the HyNet North West decarbonisation cluster and is expected to become the UK's first full-scale carbon capture facility integrated with an energy-from-waste plant. The facility is expected to process up to 500,000 tonnes of non-recyclable waste annually while generating approximately 50 MW of baseload electricity for the grid as the carbon capture system is expected to capture around 370,000 tonnes of CO_2 each year.

More info here.

AI and Smart Inspection Tools to Support North Sea Production Improvements

North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA)

29th October 2026

The NSTA reports growing adoption of advanced technologies across the UK Continental Shelf, with operators using innovative tools to improve production, reduce costs and enhance operational performance. Multi-diameter intelligent 'pigs' are being deployed to inspect complex pipeline networks more efficiently and AI is increasingly being used to analyse large volumes of well and asset data, helping operators make faster and better-informed decisions on production optimisation. New technologies are also helping to reduce emissions, including solutions that minimise flaring and lower methane releases from offshore operations.

More info here.

New NSTA Report Highlights Growing Role of Technology in Offshore Energy

North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA)

29th October 2026

THE NTSA has published their Technology Insights Report, highlighting how innovation is helping operators improve production, extend asset life, reduce costs and lower emissions across the UK Continental Shelf. The NSTA has identified 1,320 innovative solutions in use across the sector, including 189 newly reported technologies, demonstrating continued adoption of advanced operational and digital tools. AI is becoming increasingly important for analysing well and asset data. Operators expect to spend approximately £186 million on technology development and deployment during 2026. Read the full report here.

More info here.

New £2.5 Billion Agreement Supports Jet Engines and Aerospace Innovation

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

28th October 2026

The UK Government and Rolls-Royce have agreed a joint £2.5 billion, 10-year research and technology programme to develop next-generation jet engine technologies for both civil and defence aerospace applications. The programme is expected to support around 3,300 jobs by the end of 2029, with the potential to create tens of thousands more jobs across aerospace manufacturing and supply chains in the decades ahead. The programme will focus on cleaner, more efficient gas turbine technologies, supporting the development of lower-emission aircraft propulsion systems and advanced aerospace manufacturing capabilities.

More info here.

Government Approves Production at Jackdaw Gas Field

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, HM Treasury, Scotland Office and North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA)

23rd October 2026

The UK Government has approved the next stage of development for the Jackdaw gas field, allowing the regulator to grant consent for gas production to begin as Jackdaw is expected to begin supplying gas from late 2026. The project is forecast to increase UK domestic gas production by around 6% at peak output and operate for up to 11 years with The Government estimating the development could contribute approximately £2.9 billion to the UK economy. Alongside the announcement, the Chancellor unveiled a new Energy Wealth Fund with an initial £2 billion allocation, intended to reinvest revenues from North Sea oil and gas into renewable and low-carbon energy projects.

More info here.

£135 Million Fundraised for South Crofty tin mine Project, including £41.7 million Backing from the National Wealth Fund

National Wealth Fund

22nd October 2026

The National Wealth Fund has committed £41.7 in Cornish Metals as part of a wider £135 million fundraise to support the reopening of the South Crofty tin mine in Cornwall. The fundraising will finance the development of one of the world's highest-grade undeveloped tin resources and support the mine's progression towards first production, targeted for mid-2028. The Fund outlines that investment has helped attract substantial private capital, including a further £93.3 million from investors and an £11.2 million strategic investment from Glencore, alongside a six-year offtake agreement for future tin production. The project is expected to create more than 300 direct jobs in Cornwall.

More info here.

£25 Million Fundraise Supports Invinity's Global Expansion

National Wealth Fund

22nd October 2026

The National Wealth Fund has committed a £12.2 million cornerstone investment in Invinity Energy Systems as part of a £25 million fundraising package to support the company's growth and commercial expansion. The fundraising includes £10 million from institutional investors and £2.8 million from retail investors. The proceeds will be used to expand manufacturing capacity, support research and development activities, and provide working capital to deliver the company's international sales

pipeline. The investment is expected to strengthen manufacturing operations in Scotland, helping commercialise British-developed energy storage technology and expand export opportunities.

More info here.

10,000 New Placements and New TechFirst Programme to Open Doors to UK Tech Careers

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade,

21st October 2026

The UK Government is launching 10,000 work experience placements across the digital and technology sector, aimed at helping young people gain practical experience and improve access to careers in one of the UK's fastest-growing industries. Major technology employers including Microsoft, Cisco, IBM, Cognizant and AtkinsRéalis are supporting the initiative. Alongside the placements, the TechFirst programme is being rolled out nationally, with every secondary school now able to access technology-focused skills and careers support. The Government aims for TechFirst to reach one million students by 2028.

More info here.

UK Nuclear Collaboration Programme, Alpha Resilience and Capability (ARC), Formally Concludes

Sellafield Ltd, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, AWE Nuclear Security Technologies, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Ministry of Defence

21st October 2026

The UK Alpha Resilience and Capability (ARC) Programme has formally concluded after bringing together organisations from across the UK's civil and defence nuclear sectors to address shared technical and skills challenges. The programme was established to strengthen resilience, capability and knowledge sharing across the nuclear industry, helping organisations collaborate on common priorities and avoid duplication of effort. Partners included the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), AWE Nuclear Security Technologies, Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), Ministry of Defence (MoD) and UK National Nuclear Laboratory (UKNNL).

More info here.

National Wealth Fund Reports £68 Billion Mobilised Through Investments

National Wealth Fund

21st October 2026

The National Wealth Fund reports that it has helped mobilise more than £68 billion of both public and private investment into the UK economy, achieving over two-thirds of its £100 billion long-term investment ambition. They also outline that the Fund has committed over £10.9 billion across 90 investments and investments backed by the Fund have created or supported more than 83,000 jobs across the UK, and expected to avoid 117 million tonnes of CO_2e emissions over their lifetime. Clean growth remains a key focus area, with more than £6.3 billion committed to projects supporting energy security, decarbonisation and industrial transition.

More info here.

Industrial Strategy Targets Skills and Workforce Development Aimed at Creating 100,00 Jobs Annually

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade and Department for Work and Pensions

19th October 2026

The UK Government has announced plans to create more than 100,000 job and training opportunities each year for young people as part of its Industrial Strategy Jobs Plans, aimed at supporting growth in priority sectors of the economy. The plan includes an initiative to support 40,000 construction placements each year, 22,400 new under-25 apprenticeships annually in professional and business services and additional sector-specific jobs plans are being developed for industries including digital technologies and defence. Local and regional delivery is a key part of the approach, with mayors and combined authorities helping shape training provision around regional labour market needs.

More info here.

Local Opposition Grows to £5 billion CO_2 Pipeline Proposal

BBC

15th October 2026

Cheshire East Council has now joined Derbyshire County Council, Wirral Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council to become the fourth local authority to formally oppose the proposed £5 billion Peak Cluster carbon dioxide pipeline project. The project proposes transporting captured CO_2 from cement and lime plants in Derbyshire and Staffordshire through a 121-mile pipeline to permanent storage sites beneath the Irish Sea. Councillors voted unanimously to object to the scheme and concerns have been raised relating to long-term costs and risks, safety, community disruption, local infrastructure and environmental impact on farmland and rural communities.

More info here.

Protium & Rux Energy Build on Partnership to Expand Green Hydrogen Supply

Protium

14th October 2026

Protium and Rux Energy UK have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate on the production, storage, transport and supply of green hydrogen, combining Protium's green hydrogen production capability with Rux Energy's hydrogen storage and logistics technology. They aim to develop a commercial model for delivered hydrogen that can serve customers beyond the reach of electricity grids and hydrogen pipeline infrastructure, targeted at hard-to-abate sectors such as energy-intensive manufacturing where electrification alone may be difficult or impractical. The collaboration has plans to expand beyond the UK into priority global markets, particularly the Asia-Pacific region.

More info here.

North Sea Transition Authority Reports Progress on North Sea Decarbonisation in New Report

North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA)

13th October 2026

The North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) reports that emissions from UK offshore oil and gas production fell for the sixth consecutive year in 2025, reflecting continued industry efforts to reduce operational emissions according to the NSTA's latest 2026 Emissions Monitoring Report. Current trends suggest the sector's target of halving emissions by 2030 remains achievable, although further action will be required to maintain progress. The NSTA warns that achieving the long-term goal of a 90% emissions reduction by 2040 remains uncertain, particularly where platform electrification faces practical constraints such as grid connection challenges.

More info here.

GE Vernova Turbine Delivered for CCS-Enabled Power Station

NZT Power

12th October 2026

Construction of NZT Power has reached a major milestone with the arrival of a GE Vernova 9HA.02 gas turbine, a key component of the UK's first gas-fired power station with carbon capture and storage. The turbine will play a central role in generating up to 742 MW of flexible, lower-carbon electricity. NZT Power is designed to provide dispatchable electricity to support the grid when renewable generation from wind and solar is unavailable. Around 95% of CO_2 emissions generated by the plant are expected to be captured and permanently stored, using transport and storage infrastructure being developed by the Northern Endurance Partnership (NEP).

More info here.

Government Invests £40 million to Accelerate Robotics Adoption

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade and Cabinet Office

9th October 2026

The UK Government has announced £40 million of funding to establish a network of Robotics Adoption Hubs across the country, helping businesses and public services adopt advanced robotics and autonomous technologies. The hubs will support applications across multiple sectors, including agriculture, logistics and public services, and provide expert advice, practical demonstrations and tailored support, to help organisations identify and implement technologies best suited to their operational needs. The programme forms part of a broader ambition to make UK organisations early adopters of robotics and autonomous systems

More info here.

RWE Divests Stake in Major UK Offshore Wind Development

RWE

8th October 2026

RWE has completed the sale of its 33.33% stake in the Five Estuaries Offshore Wind Farm to EDF power solutions UK and Ireland, transferring project leadership responsibilities to EDF. The transaction forms part of RWE's strategy to recycle capital and reinvest proceeds into its wider portfolio of consented offshore wind projects. The Five Estuaries project received development consent in December 2025 and is planned for construction in the southern North Sea across two seabed areas covering approximately 128 km². The offshore wind farm is consented to include up to 79 wind turbines with a maximum tip height of 370 metres.

More info here.

NSTA Issues £300,000 Fine for Offshore Venting Breach

North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA)

7th October 2026

The North Sea Transition Authority (NSTA) has fined CNR International (U.K.) Limited £300,000 for breaching its venting consent on the Ninian fields in the Northern North Sea, outlining that CNR exceeded its approved venting limit by 20.9 tonnes during the consent period from 15 June to 31 December 2024, and self-reported the breach to the regulator on 26 November 2024. The breach followed a series of operational challenges, including weather-related issues affecting flare operations and a production outage caused by third-party pipeline equipment failure.

More info here.

RenewableUK Highlights Long-Term Growth Potential for Floating Wind

RenewableUK

6th October 2026

RenewableUK's latest EnergyPulse Floating Offshore Wind Pipeline Report identifies a global pipeline of 152 GW of floating offshore wind capacity across 300 active projects in 26 countries, highlighting the scale of long-term market opportunity. 2026 has been the strongest year to date for floating offshore wind deployment, with 109 MW reaching full commercial operation. Despite recent project delays, cost pressures and supply chain challenges, the report concludes that the sector retains a substantial development pipeline and strong long-term growth potential. RenewableUK members or EnergyPulse subscribers can access the full report here.

More info here.

Applications for British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme (BICS) now Open

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

1st October 2026

Applications have opened for the British Industrial Competitiveness Scheme (BICS), an initiative designed to reduce electricity costs for more than 10,000 manufacturing businesses. Qualifying businesses are expected to start receiving support from April 2027 and the scheme expected to cut eligible manufacturers' electricity bills by up to 25%, equivalent to around £40 per megawatt hour in support. Support is targeted at frontier industries and foundational manufacturing sectors, with around 98% of eligible businesses expected to be small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The Government expects the scheme to save manufacturers hundreds of millions of pounds each year.

More info here.

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2. UK Parliament

Chancellor Announces Budget 2026

Chancellor John Healey has set out his first budget, signalling a growing emphasis on energy affordability and projects that can directly demonstrate reductions in consumer costs, energy security benefits, or industrial competitiveness.

Key announcements for industrial decarbonisation included:

- A £700 million reduction in support for hydrogen and carbon capture and storage (CCS) projects to increase defence spending. Read more about this here.
- A new Cost Control Framework to reduce pressure on energy bills and replace the planned Gas Shipper's Obligation levy with direct government funding for hydrogen projects
- New requirements for data centres, with future facilities expected to meet stricter environmental standards, with the possibility of onsite fossil-fuel power generation where required for reliability and energy supply
- A continuation of prioritising electricity infrastructure and strategic energy investment
- A £1 billion reduction from the Warm Homes Plan, with potential further reductions to Warm Homes funding
- The end of zero-rated VAT for solar panels

Alongside the Budget, the government launched measures relating to electricity network connections and wider energy system reform, recognising that grid infrastructure will be critical for electrification.

Net zero remains a strategic objective, however the budget suggests a shift towards supporting projects that deliver multiple benefits, such as lower energy costs, increased productivity, improved energy security, and regional economic growth particularly as public funding is more constrained.

Read the full 2026 Budget speech here.

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee Questions Current Approach to Fusion Planning in New Report

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee

3rd November 2026

The Energy Security and Net Zero Committee has questioned whether fusion energy is likely to make a meaningful contribution to UK energy security within the next decade in their new ' Planning for fusion' Report. MPs remain unconvinced that a standalone National Policy Statement (NPS) for Fusion Energy is currently necessary, arguing that wider planning system reforms may be a more effective way of providing certainty to emerging industries. MPs have called on the Government to provide clearer guidance on how local communities can benefit from future fusion developments and ensure that local benefits are considered during planning decisions.

More info here.

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee Calls for New Approach to Energy Bills

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee

21st October 2026

The Energy Security and Net Zero Committee report, 'The Cost of Energy'. The committee has called on the Government to move all remaining energy transition policy costs from electricity bills onto gas bills, arguing this would make electrification more affordable for consumers and that the cost of the energy transition remains one of the biggest barriers to achieving the UK's Clean Power 2030 ambitions. MPs recommend that future energy transition costs should not be placed directly on consumer bills and recommended greater transparency in energy billing.

More info here.

Public Accounts Committee Raises Concerns Over Sizewell C Financing Model

Public Accounts Committee

28th October 2026

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has warned that the financing arrangements for the nuclear power station, Sizewell C, expose UK taxpayers and consumers to significant financial risk. The project is currently estimated to cost between £40.5 billion and £47.7 billion and is expected to complete construction between 2039 and 2043. PAC argues that the project's delivery model places most financing and risk on the public sector and consumers, despite the project being controlled by a delivery company primarily owned by private investors, calling for more frequent reporting on project costs, risks, delivery progress, consumer bill impacts and investor returns throughout construction.

More info here.

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3. Scotland

SNP Calls for North Sea Revenues to Support Acorn Carbon Capture and Storage

Carbon Herald

2nd November 2026

The Scottish National Party (SNP) has called on the UK Government to allocate the forecast £5.1 billion of oil and gas tax revenues expected in 2026-27 to support the Acorn Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Project in Aberdeenshire. The intervention follows changes to previous UK Government funding plans, with the remaining support for Acorn expected to be delivered through loans and potential equity stakes rather than direct capital grants. According to reports, only £12 million of the £200 million originally announced grant funding package has been drawn down, with future support expected to follow a different financing model.

More info here.

£5 Million Environmental Aid funding to INEOS O&P UK Facility

Aberdeen & Grampian Chamber of Commerce

29th October 2026

Scottish Enterprise has awarded £5 million of Environmental Aid funding to INEOS O&P UK to support efficiency improvements at its Grangemouth chemicals manufacturing site. The funding supported the installation of a new high-efficiency furnace, known as Furnace 10, at the site's olefins and polymers production facility. The upgraded furnace is expected to improve productivity and operational performance while reducing the site's carbon emissions by up to 25,600 tonnes of CO_2e annually. The project is set to safeguard more than 100 skilled manufacturing jobs and strengthens the competitiveness of the UK's only ethylene manufacturing plant.

More info here.

Acorn CCS Left Awaiting Future Investment Decision Following UK Budget

Scottish Construction Now

29th October 2026

The Acorn Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) Project has been left without a confirmed government funding commitment following the UK Budget. Ministers have indicated that Acorn could instead be supported through alternative financing mechanisms, including private investment and government loans. The project is seen as a key component of Scotland's decarbonisation strategy, with plans to capture industrial CO_2 emissions and store them permanently beneath the North Sea. It is also closely linked to wider ambitions relating to hydrogen production, industrial decarbonisation and the future development of the Grangemouth industrial cluster.

More info here.

European Commission Gives Green Light to EURO-TIDES Project in Orkney

Marine Energy Wales

13th October 2026

Orbital Marine Power has received approval from the European Commission to proceed with construction of the EURO-TIDES tidal energy array, marking a significant milestone for the European tidal energy sector. The project will be deployed at the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) in Orkney and represents the next stage in the commercial development of tidal stream energy. EURO-TIDES will comprise four interconnected turbines, including three next-generation O2-X devices and one existing O2 turbine, operating together as a single coordinated tidal energy farm. This will be the first time Orbital's tidal turbines have been deployed and operated as an integrated array.

More info here.

Scotland Installs First Saltmarsh Carbon Monitoring Tower

BBC

6th October 2026

Scotland's first saltmarsh carbon monitoring tower has been installed at Caerlaverock on the Solway Firth, enabling scientists to measure how much carbon is being absorbed and stored by Scotland's largest saltmarsh ecosystem. The new flux tower will provide real-time measurements of carbon

exchange between the saltmarsh and the atmosphere. The project is a partnership between the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), NatureScot, the Scottish Government and WWF-UK.

More info here.

South of Scotland Identifies £31.8 billion Low-Carbon Growth Opportunity

Scottish Government

5th October 2026

New research commissioned by South of Scotland Enterprise has identified 202 transformational projects with the potential to unlock £31.8 billion of investment across the South of Scotland over the next 15 to 20 years. The investment pipeline spans sectors including clean energy, energy transition, advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, deep technology, natural capital and life sciences. If realised, the projects are expected to support around 73,900 construction job-years and around 7,900 long-term operational jobs.

More info here.

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4. Wales

Cardiff Capital Region Secures £30 million Innovation Investment

Cardiff Capital Region

5th November 2026

Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) has secured £30 million from the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Local Innovation Partnership Fund (LIPF) to support 16 collaborative innovation projects across South East Wales. The investment is intended to stimulate economic growth, create high-value jobs and strengthen competitiveness in two strategically important sectors: creative industries and compound semiconductors. Six projects will be delivered through the CSconnected 2030 programme, building on South Wales' internationally recognised strengths in compound semiconductor research, advanced manufacturing and technology development.

More info here.

Audit Wales Warns 2030 Public Sector Net Zero Goal Is Unlikely in New Report

BBC

3rd November 2026

Audit Wales has concluded that the Welsh public sector is unlikely to achieve its ambition of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2030 in a new report. Auditors found that decarbonisation has become a lower priority for many public bodies since 2022, largely due to increasing financial pressures and competing spending demands. The report also highlights ongoing challenges relating to emissions

reporting, data quality, skills shortages and cross-sector collaboration, all of which are limiting progress towards the net zero ambition. Read the full report here.

More info here.

South-east Wales Considered for £700 million Strategic Investment Programme

Nation.Cymru

2nd November 2026

The Cardiff Capital Region is being considered for support through a new £700 million UK Government Strategic Sites Accelerator, designed to unlock major industrial and commercial development opportunities across the UK. The programme aims to attract £2 billion in private investment and will target sites with strong investor interest that have been delayed by barriers such as planning constraints, grid connection challenges or limited access to finance. Potential projects span sectors including advanced manufacturing, technology, science parks, defence and innovation-led commercial developments.

More info here.

£1.2 Million Awarded to Community-Focused Energy Projects in Wales

Business News Wales

2nd November 2026

Two renewable energy projects in South West Wales have secured over £1.2 million in funding through the Ynni Cymru programme, supporting the expansion of community-focused infrastructure. The Renewable Power Pembrokeshire project in Pembroke Dock was awarded £997,566 to develop a 750 kW solar installation combined with a 400 kW battery storage facility. The Ynni Sir Gâr project at the Xcel Bowl in Carmarthen received £233,032 to install a 200 kW rooftop solar system, a heat pump and a 75 kW battery storage system. The projects aim to strengthen energy resilience and increase local renewable energy generation, while delivering long-term environmental and economic benefits.

More info here.

Ecodetect and Inyanga Partner on Marine Wildlife Monitoring for Welsh Tidal Energy Project

Marine Energy Wales

26th October 2026

HydroWing Ltd, the tidal energy division of Inyanga Marine Energy Group, has partnered with Ecodetect to deploy AI-powered environmental monitoring technology at its tidal stream energy project at Morlais in North Wales. The monitoring system will use artificial intelligence, underwater cameras and sonar technology to detect and identify marine wildlife in real time and will allow project operators to implement environmental mitigation measures immediately when required. The project is part of Inyanga's 30 MW HydroWing tidal energy development at Morlais, which is backed by both the Welsh Government and UK Government.

More info here.

Erebus Aims to Build Long-Term Offshore Wind Capability in Wales

Erebus by Blue Gem Wind

22nd October 2026

Blue Gem Wind has launched the procurement strategy for its Erebus floating offshore wind project, creating new opportunities for Welsh businesses to participate in the emerging Celtic Sea offshore wind supply chain. Erebus is a fully consented 100 MW floating offshore wind demonstrator project located approximately 35 km off the Pembrokeshire coast. Potential opportunities span a broad range of sectors, including manufacturing, fabrication, ports, logistics, vessel services, engineering, construction, electrical infrastructure, technology and operations and maintenance. The procurement strategy is intended to help Welsh companies build capabilities and secure a position within a long-term floating offshore wind market.

More info here.

Report Links Grid Expansion to Economic and Decarbonisation Benefits

RenewableUK

19th October 2026

A new report by BiGGAR Economics, 'The Economic Implications of Grid Infrasture in Wales', published by RenewableUK Cymru, finds that a proposed electricity transmission route through Wales could unlock an additional £1.3 billion of spending with Welsh businesses compared with an alternative route that bypasses Wales. The analysis compares two options identified by the National Energy System Operator (NESO): the MWNC route through Wales and the MWN1 route that bypasses the country. The analysis compares two options identified by the National Energy System Operator (NESO): the MWNC route through Wales and the MWN1 route that bypasses the country.

More info here.

Celtic Freeport Approves £18.4 million Infrastructure Investment Package for Four Projects

Celtic Freeport

16th October 2026

The Celtic Freeport has approved £18.4 million of seed capital funding for four strategic infrastructure projects across Neath Port Talbot and Pembrokeshire. The investment is designed to unlock development opportunities, improve critical infrastructure and attract additional private-sector investment into South West Wales. Three of the four approved projects directly support the floating offshore wind sector and Funding includes £5 million for Associated British Ports' Talbot Wharf development, unlocking 9.1 hectares of land for floating offshore wind supply chain activities at Port Talbot. The Port of Milford Haven will receive £7.2 million to restore marine infrastructure and create new laydown space for floating offshore wind deployment at Pembroke Port.

More info here.

National Grid and Welsh Partners Tackle Industrial Connection Challenges

National Grid

14th October 2026

National Grid Electricity Distribution, Net Zero Industry Wales (NZIW) and the Celtic Freeport have launched a joint innovation programme to accelerate electricity connections for industrial businesses across South Wales. The initiative aims to help businesses access electricity network capacity more quickly, enabling industrial growth, decarbonisation and inward investment within the South Wales Industrial Cluster (SWIC). The programme builds on work undertaken through the Energy Networks Innovation Taskforce (ENIT), which identified practical solutions to reduce connection constraints, lower costs and improve outcomes for industrial customers.

More info here.

£3 million Investment Strengthens UK's Floating Offshore Wind Capability

Marine Energy Wales

5th October 2026

UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) has awarded £3 million over 2 years to the European Marine Energy Centre (EMEC) to accelerate development of the DeepWind floating and deepwater offshore wind test and demonstration site. The funding will support the development of a national testing facility for next-generation floating offshore wind technologies to bridge the gap between innovation and commercial deployment by providing plug-and-play offshore infrastructure where technologies can be tested, validated and de-risked in representative deepwater conditions. The programme aims to prepare DeepWind for delivery by 2030.

More info here.

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5. Consultations and calls for evidence

- New inquiry on public spaces, Lords Built Environment Committee, closes on 13th November 2026
- Shape plans for a new clean energy company, owned by Wales, to benefit Wales, Welsh Government, closes on 30th November 2026
- Decommissioning offshore installations: revised derogation guidance, Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning and DESNZ, closes on 6th December 2026
- Draft legislation: Plastic packaging tax — chemical recycling and adoption of a mass balance approach, HMRC, closes on 21st December 2026
- Energy smart data legislative framework, DESNZ, closes on 8th January 2027
- Environment Agency consultation on a Resource Framework for Aggregate from Inert Waste,
- Environment Agency, closes on 8th January 2027
- Fisheries management measures within Scottish inshore Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and proposed Priority Marine Feature (PMF) management areas, Scottish Government, closes on 18th January 2027
- Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM): a consultation on sectoral scope expansion to include refinery products, HM Treasury and HMRC, closes on 20th January 2027
- New underground-first policy for 11-132 kV electricity lines in Wales, Welsh Government, closes on 27th January 2027

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6. Funding Opportunities

- **Investor Partnerships – Battery Innovation Programme - closes 25th November 2026**

  UK registered SMEs can apply for grant funding alongside private investment from selected investor partners.

  Apply here.

- **Battery Innovation– closes on 2nd December 2026**

  UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £25 million to support innovation in battery grade material technologies for electrification. This funding is from The Battery Innovation Programme.

  Apply here - Feasibility Studies Rd 3

  Apply here - Concept Development Rd 3

- **Growth Cohorts: Next-gen low carbon concrete cohort entry Round 2 – closes on 2nd December 2026**

  UK registered businesses can apply to join a cohort of ambitious businesses. These businesses will develop solutions to decarbonise concrete and access funding and sector specific support, to develop and deliver innovation and growth plans.

  Apply here.

- **BridgeAI Deployment Catalyst – closes on 8th December 2026**

  UK registered SMEs can apply for a share of up to £5 million to deploy Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning solutions that monitor, test, verify or evidence compliance with requirements, standards or controls. Funding is from Innovate UK.

  Apply here - AI for Assurance and Compliance

  Apply here - AI for Decision Critical Systems

  Apply here - AI for Operational Systems

- **Underground hydrogen storage demonstrator DEVEX support – closing 13th January 2027**

  UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £1.5 million for project development studies supporting underground hydrogen storage demonstrator facilities in the UK.

  Apply here.

- **Testing and validating underground hydrogen storage components – closes 13th January 2027**

UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £5 million for a collaborative programme to accelerate the development and validation of critical technologies needed for the safe, reliable and cost effective use of underground hydrogen storage.

Apply here.

- **Investor Partnerships - National Materials Innovation Programme 1 - closes on 19th January 2027**

  UK registered SMEs can apply for grant funding alongside private investment from selected investor partners.

  Apply here.

- **Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP): 2026-2027 Round 4 – closes on 27th January 2027**

  UK registered academic institutions, RTOs or Catapults can apply for a share of up to £12.5 million to fund innovation projects with businesses.

  Apply here.

- **DRIVE35 Scale-up Fund Drawdown 6**

  UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £150 million to create scale up manufacturing facilities for zero emission vehicle technologies.

  Apply here.

- **UK-Netherlands Co-Innovation for Quantum Technology 2026 – closes 9th February 2027**

  UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £1.5 million for projects in quantum technology. You must collaborate with at least one Netherlands based business applying under the equivalent Netherlands Enterprise Agency programme (RVO).

  Apply here.

- **EPSRC Advanced Materials: highlight notice - closing date TBC**

  EPSRC is seeking to support applications through **their** standard research grant scheme in advanced materials solutions for critical minerals and in-situ and in operando materials metrology and characterisation.

  Apply here.

- **Scotland's Heat Network Fund – Funding ongoing**

  Scotland's Heat Network Fund (SHNF) offers capital grants to businesses and organisations in the public, private and third sectors to develop heat network projects.

  Apply here.

- **Knowledge Transfer Partnership – no closing date**

  For businesses, research organisations and graduates to work on an innovation project partnerships between 12 and 36 months. Funding is provided to support the total cost of the project – businesses provide around one-third to half of the project costs depending on their size.

  Apply here.

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7. Europe / International

Turkey to Launch $6 billion Industrial Decarbonisation Investment Platform

Carbon Herald

5th November 2026

Turkey is set to launch the Turkey Industrial Decarbonization Investment Platform (TIDIP) at COP31 in Antalya, establishing a dedicated financing vehicle to support industrial emissions reduction projects. The platform aims to mobilise more than $6 billion of investment by 2030 and is targeting annual emissions reductions of approximately 20 million tonnes of CO_2 equivalent across major industrial sectors. The initiative will prioritise investment in carbon-intensive industries including steel, aluminium, cement and fertiliser production, sectors that face significant decarbonisation challenges. Five core technology areas have been identified for investment: green hydrogen, carbon capture, energy efficiency, renewable electricity integration and climate technology solutions.

More info here.

California Court Halts Major Carbon Capture Project

Carbon Herald

5th November 2026

A California Superior Court has overturned approval for Carbon TerraVault I, California's first commercial-scale carbon capture and storage (CCS) project, requiring a temporary halt to operations. The court found that the project's Environmental Impact Report (EIR) failed to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), citing shortcomings in environmental assessment and impact mitigation. Additional concerns identified by the court included insufficient analysis of atmospheric CO_2 leakage risks, greenhouse gas emissions impacts and cumulative effects associated with related CCS developments.

More info here.

European Commission Launches First Biomethane Matching Round

European Commission

4th November 2026

The European Commission has launched the first matching round of the Biomethane Mechanism, a new initiative designed to connect biomethane buyers and suppliers across Europe. The mechanism is intended to support the scale-up of biomethane production, trade and investment, helping strengthen European energy security, decarbonisation and industrial competitiveness. The Biomethane Mechanism forms part of the wider EU Energy and Raw Materials Platform, joining similar initiatives focused on hydrogen and critical raw materials markets.

More info here.

European Commission Launches T-MED, Clean Energy Investment Platform

European Commission

26th October 2026

The European Commission has launched the T-MED Investment Platform to mobilise investment in renewable energy and clean technologies across the Mediterranean region. The platform will provide up to €4.5 billion in guarantee capacity through the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+), helping reduce investment risk and attract private-sector capital. The initiative will support investment across a range of sectors including renewable electricity generation, renewable hydrogen, electricity transmission and distribution networks, energy storage, and clean technology manufacturing. The Commission expects the platform to strengthen energy security, deepen economic cooperation and support the development of local clean technology value chains

More info here.

European Commission Launches Bio-Based Europe Alliance

European Commission

22nd October 2026

The European Commission has officially launched the Bio-based Europe Alliance (BEA), a voluntary initiative designed to accelerate the market uptake of sustainable bio-based materials, products and technologies across Europe. The Alliance brings together buyers, suppliers, producers and public authorities from across the bio-based value chain to strengthen demand for bio-based alternatives and support commercial deployment. A primary objective is to reduce investment uncertainty by providing clearer market signals and increasing the visibility of demand for bio-based products.

More info here.

New Strategic Partnership to Support Sustainable Raw Materials Supply

European Commission

20th October 2026

The European Commission and the Government of New Caledonia have signed a strategic partnership on sustainable raw materials, establishing a framework for cooperation across critical mineral value chains. The agreement is intended to strengthen the resilience and diversification of European raw material supply chains as New Caledonia is one of the world's leading nickel producers, accounting for around 3.1% of global nickel production. The agreement aims to promote investment in the extraction, processing, recycling and sustainable use of raw materials while encouraging high environmental, social and governance (ESG) standards.

More info here.

€3.4 Billion Investment Across 23 Countries Supports Clean Industry and Energy Transition

European Commission

19th October 2026

The European Commission has selected 77 net-zero technology projects across 23 European Economic Area countries to receive a total of €3.4 billion in funding through the Innovation Fund. The funding is sourced from revenues generated by the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and selected projects span a wide range of sectors, including energy-intensive industries, renewable energy, energy storage, cleantech manufacturing, hydrogen, industrial carbon management, advanced fuels and critical raw materials processing and recycling. The Commission estimates that the projects could avoid approximately 290 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions during their first decade of operation.

More info here.

European Commission Awards €390m to Climate and Environment Projects

European Commission

19th October 2026

The European Commission has awarded more than €390 million to 135 new projects through the LIFE Programme, supporting climate action, biodiversity, circular economy initiatives and clean energy projects across Europe. The selected projects have a combined investment value of approximately €579 million, with additional funding provided by national governments, local authorities, businesses, public-private partnerships and civil society organisations. Forty-four projects have been selected to accelerate the clean energy transition, receiving more than €91 million in funding to support sustainable energy deployment and decarbonisation.

More info here.

European Commission Proposes Flexibility for Methane Import Rules

European Commission

14th October 2026

The European Commission has proposed a targeted amendment to delay the implementation of certain importer-related requirements under the EU Methane Regulation by one year. The proposal is intended to reduce pressure on European businesses and national administrations during a period of elevated energy prices and uncertainty in global energy markets. The Commission argues that the delay will help avoid additional risks to energy security and fossil fuel supply availability during a challenging geopolitical and market environment.

More info here.

European Commission Adopts Proposal to Reform and Align Standards with Industrial Priorities

European Commission

6th October 2026

The European Commission has proposed reforms to modernise the EU standardisation system, aiming to accelerate the development of technical standards and strengthen Europe's industrial competitiveness. Reforms are expected to reduce the average time required to develop a European standard from approximately six years to four years to keep pace more effectively with technological innovation. The reform package would strengthen participation from SMEs, academia, civil society organisations and public authorities, creating a more inclusive and representative standardisation process.

More info here.

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8. Policy reports

A selection of recent reports, briefings and other publications with relevance to industrial decarbonisation policy. To suggest publications to be featured here, please contact us at policy@idric.org

POLICY REPORT: Recommendations for Policymakers to Accelerate Industrial Decarbonisation in the UK

IDRIC

The UK must be at the forefront of industrial transformation to enhance economic and social wellbeing while also ensuring that this growth is environmentally sustainable. By drawing out insights from IDRIC's 14-part Frontiers Reports series, this document sets out priority recommendations for policymakers that can help achieve industrial growth while also fulfilling UK's decarbonisation goals.

Since the Modern Industrial Strategy (MIS) is now the guiding framework for industrial progress in the UK, this report organises the recommendations around the four goals of the MIS, demonstrating how decarbonisation can be integrated with the industrial ambitions of the UK.

Download

POLICY REPORT: Decarbonising UK Glass and Ceramics: Building an Evidence Base

IDRIC

The UK glass and ceramics sectors are critical to the UK's industrial base but face significant decarbonisation challenges due to their energy-intensive, high-temperature processes. While both sectors have made progress in energy efficiency and plans for decarbonisation, high energy costs, infrastructure constraints, long asset lifecycles, and international competitive pressures continue to limit deployment and investment. Participants highlighted the need for lower industrial energy costs, targeted financial support, clear long-term policy signals, and continued research and innovation. Without coordinated government action, there is a risk of declining competitiveness and underinvestment despite clear pathways towards a lower-carbon future.

Download.

POLICY REPORT: Potential Of Consumer Led Flexibility in Industry

IDRIC

The report examines how UK industrial consumers could help balance a low-carbon electricity system by adjusting the timing, level or source of their electricity demand.

Drawing on a literature review, stakeholder workshop and interviews with industry, government, regulators and research organisations, the report assesses the practical potential for industrial consumer-led flexibility across energy-intensive sectors. Case studies of cement and steel demonstrate how process characteristics, storage capacity, production schedules and operational risks shape the flexibility that individual sites can realistically provide.

The report identifies a persistent gap between technical potential and commercial viability. It sets out recommendations for more stable incentives, improved data and digitalisation, process-aware measurement and settlement and closer integration of flexibility into industrial electrification and decarbonisation strategies. The report concludes that industrial flexibility should be designed around the realities of manufacturing, enabling industry to support a more resilient, affordable and low-carbon UK electricity system without compromising competitiveness or production.

Download.

JOURNAL: Relationships between milling input energy and chemical reactivity for mechanochemical activation of clays

Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne, University of Leeds, Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL), University of Bath

This paper investigates how grinding clays in a ball mill can make them more chemically reactive, a process being explored for producing lower-carbon cement ingredients. By modelling the energy of each grinding collision and testing this against real experimental data, the researchers identified how much energy is actually needed to boost reactivity. Some clay types responded better than others and increasing the ball-to-powder ratio or rotation speed proved more efficient than simply grinding for longer. These findings can help guide the design of larger-scale milling processes for cement production.

Download

JOURNAL: Price of greenness: Classifications and green bond premiums

Heriot-Watt University

This paper explores how financial markets signal support for green investments through the green bond premium, or “greenium”—the extra value investors place on environmentally friendly bonds. By comparing over 800 pairs of green and non-green bonds, the study finds that greenium varies depending on credit ratings and how bond proceeds are used. This suggests inefficiencies in the market, as certification costs remain flat despite these differences. Surprisingly, green taxonomies, which aim to provide clarity, may actually increase uncertainty and lead to poor selection of truly green projects. These issues could slow the transition to a low-carbon economy.

Download

JOURNAL: Feldspar alteration by disequilibrium CO2-H2O fluids in reservoir sandstones: implications for CCS

University of Manchester, Institute of Marine Sciences (CNR-ISMAR), CASP, Swedish Museum of Natural History, University College Dublin

This paper investigates how feldspar, one of the most common minerals in reservoir rocks, reacts when exposed to CO2-rich fluids during carbon storage. Using lab experiments on sandstone from the Captain Sandstone Member (the reservoir for the Acorn CCS Project), researchers tested a range of pressures and temperatures to mimic underground conditions. They found that CO2 causes feldspar grains to weaken, dissolve, and sometimes reform as new minerals, changing the rock's internal structure. These changes could affect how fluids flow through the reservoir and raise the risk of instability, highlighting the need for closer study of feldspar behaviour in CCS projects.

Download

JOURNAL: Structural controls on pressure communication across the Bunter Sandstone Formation, UK Southern North Sea

British Geological Survey

This paper looks at how large-scale CO2 storage in underground saltwater rock layers, like the Bunter Sandstone Formation beneath the UK Southern North Sea, can create pressure changes that spread far beyond the injection site. Using seismic survey data, researchers mapped major faults and underground salt walls to work out where these features act as barriers, dividing the rock layer into separate compartments, versus where pressure can travel more freely between them. The results, backed up by real pressure measurements, help identify which storage projects might affect one another, supporting safer planning and coordination as multiple CO2 storage sites are developed across the region.

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