



# National grid 20gw connection

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National Grid has accelerated engineering works to address a bottleneck in connecting low carbon projects to the electricity network in South West England and Wales.

Alice Delahunty, President at National Grid Electricity Transmission, said: "Accelerating grid connections for clean energy projects is a massive priority for us. We recognise the urgency which is why we have brought this project forward to make a real difference for our customers.

Graham Stuart, Networks Minister at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, said: "We recently announced the most radical grid upgrade since the 1950s. The plans will halve the time it takes to build power lines from 14 years to seven, and cut the average delay to connect projects to the grid from five years to just six months.

RenewableUK's Director of Future Electricity Systems, Barnaby Wharton, said: "This is a great example of the way the grid is being upgraded to enable everyone to benefit from the vast quantities of electricity we're now generating from renewables.

By connecting more clean, renewable energy from where it's generated out at sea to where it's needed by communities across the UK, the Great Grid Upgrade will also contribute to lower energy bills over the long-term, provide a catalyst for a green jobs boom and make the UK's energy more self-sufficient.

Our director of customer connections, John Twomey, shares insight into how Ofgem's new queue management rule change will speed up connections, and the role National Grid played in delivering it.

Ofgem has agreed a major change to the way the pipeline of projects wanting to connect to the electricity transmission network is managed, allowing non-viable or stalled projects to be removed to speed up the process.

We're keen that the principles established through the queue management changes are built on in the government and Ofgem's upcoming connections actions plan. Doing so will help deliver what we all want to see - a fit-for-the-future connections process that supports progress towards a clean, reliable and affordable energy system.

Within its transmission network, 19 battery energy storage initiatives, with a combined capacity of approximately 10GW, will receive earlier connection dates, allowing them to plug in around four years sooner than their current agreements stipulate. This acceleration is achieved through a novel approach that eliminates the requirement for non-essential engineering preparations before connecting the storage facilities.



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This new policy is a component of National Grid's broader initiative to reform connections, with a focus on enhancing transmission capacity. The effort is led by the Electricity System Operator (ESO), which holds the contractual relationships with these connecting projects. This initiative is being carried out in conjunction with National Grid Electricity Transmission (ET), responsible for designing and constructing the necessary transmission infrastructure in England and Wales to facilitate the integration of these projects.

In the Midlands, South West of England, and South Wales, National Grid recently unveiled an additional 10GW of untapped capacity. This announcement is poised to expedite the connection of numerous low-carbon technology projects, and in some cases, it will bring 'shovel-ready' schemes forward by as much as five years.

National Grid has proactively engaged with over 200 projects that express interest in fast-tracking their distribution connection dates in the initial phase of this capacity release. Of these, 16 projects aim to connect within the next 12 months, while another 180 projects are looking to establish connections within the two to five-year timeframe.

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