



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

Overarching National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1)

March 2023

alternative is first put forward by a third party after an application has been made, the Secretary of State may place the onus on the person proposing the alternative to provide the evidence for its suitability as such and the Secretary of State should not necessarily expect the applicant to have assessed it.

4.2.29 Through the Environment Act 2021 the Government has set 13 legally binding targets for England covering the areas of: biodiversity; air quality; water; resource efficiency and waste reduction; tree and woodland cover; and Marine Protected Areas. The Secretary of State must consider duties under the Environment Act 2021 in relation to environmental targets and have regard to the policies set out in the Government's Environmental Improvement Plan for improving the natural environment.

4.3 Health

4.3.1 Energy infrastructure has the potential to impact on the health and well-being ("health") of the population. Access to energy is clearly beneficial to society and to our health as a whole. However, the construction of energy infrastructure and the production, distribution and use of energy may have negative impacts on some people's health.

4.3.2 The direct impacts on health may include

- increased traffic,
- air or water pollution,
- dust, odour,
- hazardous waste and substances,
- noise,
- exposure to radiation, and
- increases in pests.

4.3.3 New energy infrastructure may also affect the composition and size of the local population, and in doing so have indirect health impacts, for example if it in some way affects access to key public services, transport, or the use of open space for recreation and physical activity.

Applicant assessment

4.3.4 As described in the relevant sections of this NPS and in the technology specific NPSs, where the proposed project has an effect on humans, the ES should assess