

# Net Zero Seminar

Kerry Booth





RURAL SERVICES NETWORK

2024

## SEMINAR PROGRAMME

### Rural Net Zero

31st January 2024

11:00-13:00



### Rural Connectivity

28th February 2024

11:00-13:00



### Rural Fair Funding

27th March 2024

11:00-13:00



### Rural Economy

24th April 2024

11:00-13:00



### Rural Transport

22nd May 2024

11:00-13:00



### Rural Affordable Housing

26th June 2024

11:00-13:00



### Rural Planning

23rd October 2024

11:00-13:00



### Rural Health and Care

27th November 2024

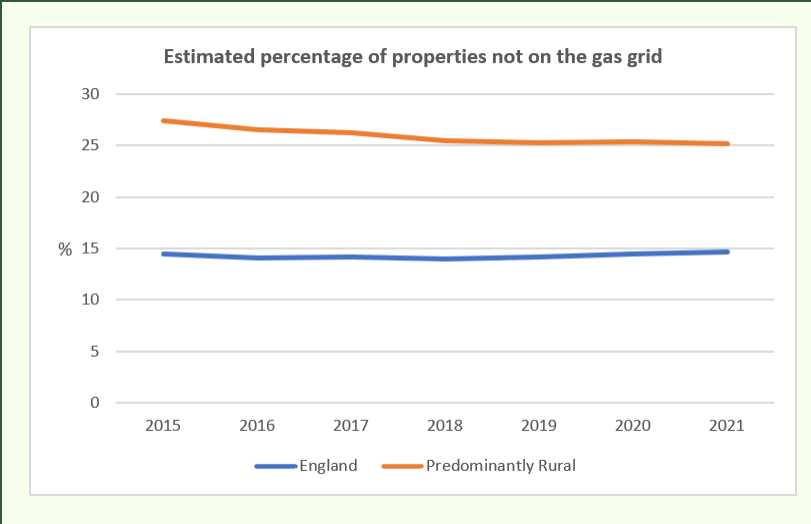
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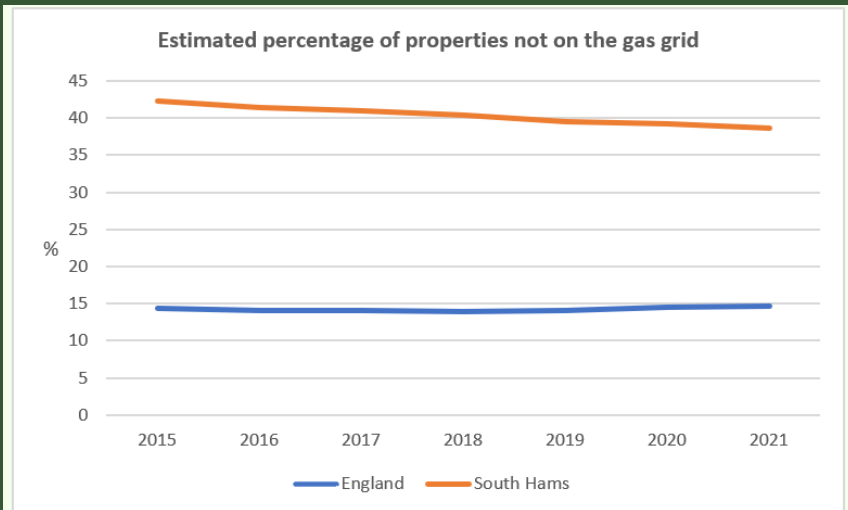
ONLINE SEMINARS

All member organisations of the RSN are able to join our free seminar programme.

Last year over 500 delegates attended these events!



**Members insights** contain a range of data available at a local level



You can select your local authority to see local information



**RURAL PLANNING**

**RURAL ECONOMIES**

**RURAL TRANSPORT**

**RURAL HEALTH & CARE**

**RURAL NET ZERO**

**RURAL SERVICES NETWORK**

**WINNING THE RURAL VOTE**

**A ROADMAP TO RURAL SUCCESS**

**RURAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

**RURAL CONNECTIVITY**

**FAIR FUNDING**

**40% of constituencies are rural**

**Their vote can swing the election**





**Rural households emissions are 19% higher than urban...  
...yet rural areas have the resources to contribute to Net Zero**



# Rural Net Zero

Rural communities want to embrace Net Zero but government policy needs to address the challenges they face



## Why it matters:

Rural areas with their abundance of natural assets are well placed to embrace the country's transition to Net Zero and tackle biodiversity loss, and with government investment can deliver jobs in green growth sectors. Rural communities must benefit from schemes that are based within their area and not just be a location for urban solutions. Many government actions proposed cannot be implemented until rural electricity supply networks are improved and reasonably priced sustainable energy alternatives are available. From energy production to unlocking digital potential to increase jobs, rural areas offer a range of opportunities that could benefit all.

### Calls for first 18 months in office:

- **Deliver** a 'fabric first' Energy Strategy which address rural needs. This means, ensuring rural is ready to embrace the move to a technology neutral approach to Net Zero so that individuals can choose the most appropriate solutions. Government should focus on funding and capability support to achieve low carbon homes including an emphasis on skills to support the roll out of schemes in rural areas.
- **Protect** rural communities and businesses by not increasing duty or taxes on vehicle fuel cost. Such duties/taxes disproportionately hit rural residents, business, and service providers until comprehensive electric roll out is implemented.
- **Ensure** that all economic growth programmes include explicit objectives to support low carbon and Net Zero growth. Specialist advice and related grant funding should be made available for existing rural businesses to help them reduce their carbon footprint and the UK meet its 2050 targets.

### Calls for first 3 years in office:

- **Address** the gaps in the network of public charging points across rural Britain. As many rural areas are tourist hotspots, increasing this network will boost the economy in rural areas.
- **Develop** rural communities which are self-sufficient by decentralising energy networks in rural areas. By building networks that are based on local renewable production, rural communities could retain money within their local economies and support local jobs.
- **Create** a Net Zero Rural Britain by working with the energy industry to ensure that the electricity distribution network is resilient, reliable and fit-for-purpose across all rural Britain before additional demands are put upon it.



**25% of rural homes are not connected to the gas network**

**Rural voters are more reliant on costly fossil fuels**