

# Helping the North West achieve net zero

Making sure our network supports customers and businesses to achieve net zero



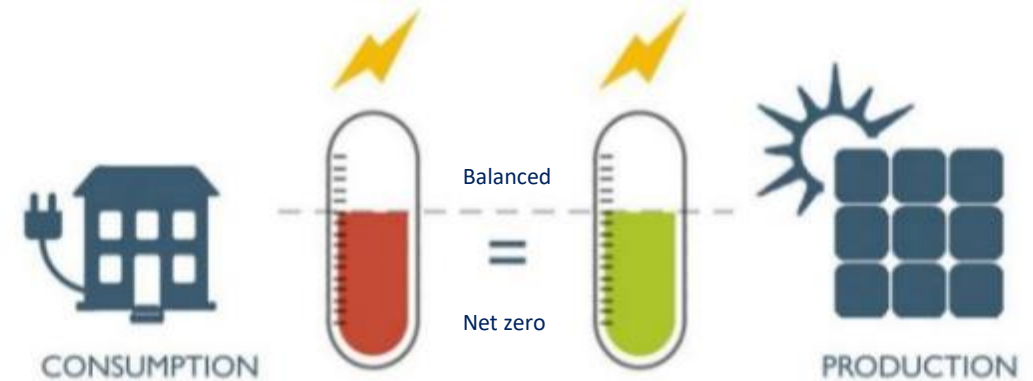
- The UK has set a legally binding target\* to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to **net zero by 2050**

\*Find out more [here](#)

- Net zero refers to achieving an **overall balance** between emissions produced and greenhouse gas emissions absorbed by the atmosphere.
- Like a bath with the taps on, an approach to achieving this balance can either be to turn down the taps (the emissions) or to drain an equal amount down the plug (removals of emissions from the atmosphere).
- Using this analogy, it is possible to 'turn down the taps' by using energy more efficiently (e.g. energy saving lightbulbs) and to 'drain an equal amount' by generating renewable sources of energy such as solar power.

## An example of a net-zero building

A building that generates (at least) as much energy as it uses on-site.



# Helping the North West achieve net zero

*Making sure our network supports customers and businesses to achieve net zero*



- Meeting the **UK's net zero targets by 2050** will mean everyone using more renewable sources of electricity instead of fossil fuels such as oil and gas.
- As part of this transition, the **demand on electricity networks is expected to double** because:
  - Cars will be electric rather than petrol fuelled
  - It is possible more homes and businesses will be heated by electricity instead of gas

Properties in the future are more likely to have electric vehicle charging facilities and solar power technology



**Electricity North West currently** helps organisations understand how they can do their bit to achieve and/or accelerate progress towards the UK's net zero targets by 2050 by **raising awareness** of how to use energy more efficiently and adopt new technologies such as electric vehicles and solar panels.



## A proactive or reactive approach?

**We are responsible for keeping electricity flowing to homes and businesses, therefore, we will need to invest in our network of cables and substations to make sure it can accommodate:**

1. Meeting the increased electricity demand of customers connecting technologies such as electric vehicles to the network
2. Enabling customers to generate their own electricity by connecting technologies such as solar panels

Electricity North West could take a **proactive** or **reactive** approach to enabling the North West region to play its part in achieving the net zero ambition.

- **Proactive:** investing in the network **early** to ensure that it can accommodate these technologies, possibly even before demand for them increases
- **Reactive:** investing in the network in **response** to increases in demand, which may prevent some customers connecting new technologies as early as they might like