

Community and local energy strategy

Forging links with community and local energy groups

Read more at www.enwl.co.uk/communityandlocalenergy

Electricity North West Limited
Registered number 02366949

electricity
north west

Bringing energy to your door

Together we have the energy to transform our communities



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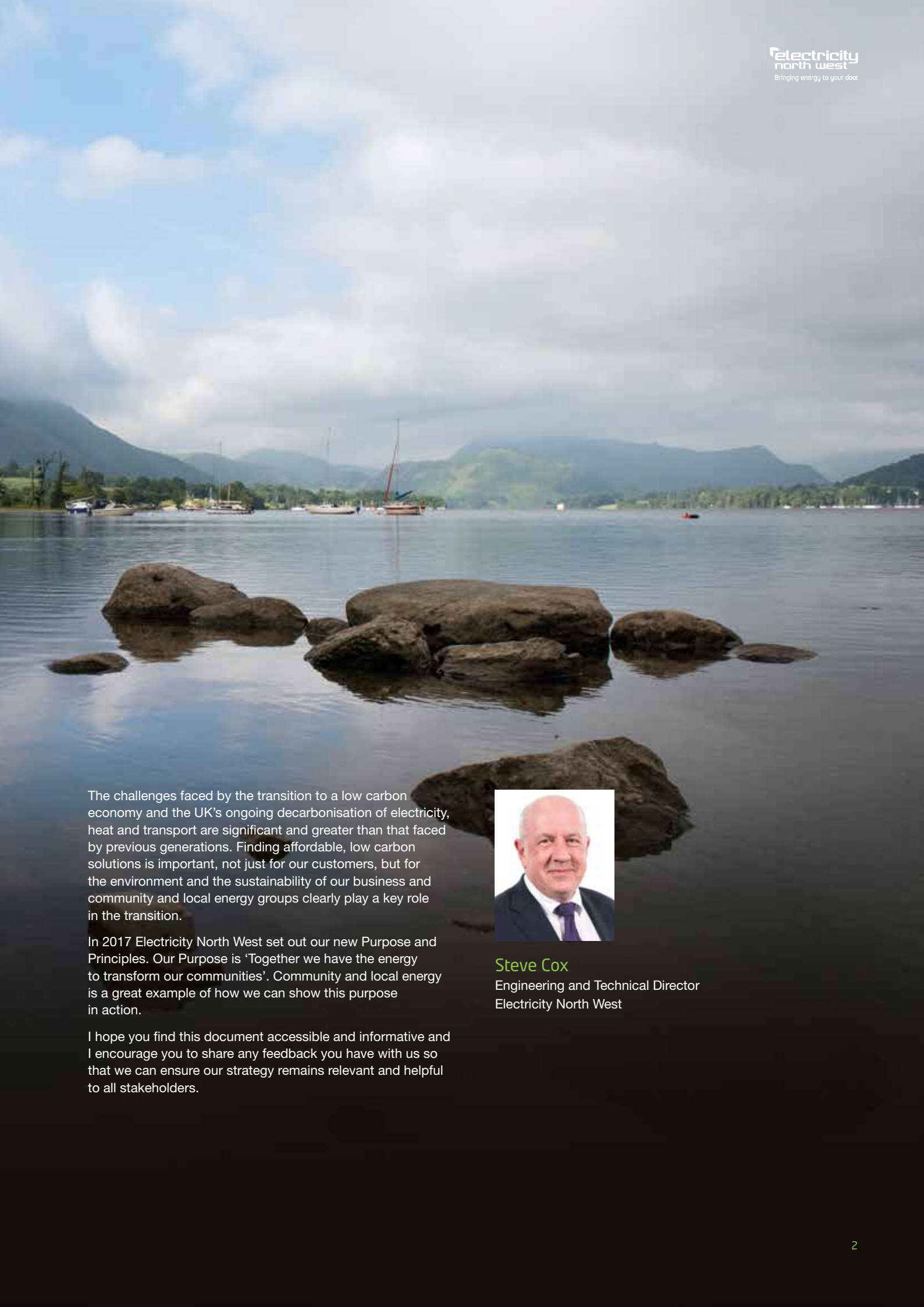
1. WELCOME

Welcome to our community and local energy strategy which sets out a clear commitment to our customers in this exciting and rapidly changing area.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has taken part in our engagement process so far; those that have attended our events, taken part in an interview or taken the time to complete our online call for evidence. We have been very pleased with the number of our community and local energy customers and stakeholders who have taken the time to talk to us and provide their valuable insight and whose views have contributed to shaping this document.

In this document we have set out what community and local energy means to you, what we have heard from our customers during our engagement process and how you want us to address the issues that have been raised.

However this is just the start and we hope that the actions we are putting in place will enable us to continue the engagement we have started and develop our relationships with community and local energy groups. It is our intention to develop our engagement to increase our understanding of the issues facing our customers and develop further opportunities to work together.



The challenges faced by the transition to a low carbon economy and the UK's ongoing decarbonisation of electricity, heat and transport are significant and greater than that faced by previous generations. Finding affordable, low carbon solutions is important, not just for our customers, but for the environment and the sustainability of our business and community and local energy groups clearly play a key role in the transition.

In 2017 Electricity North West set out our new Purpose and Principles. Our Purpose is 'Together we have the energy to transform our communities'. Community and local energy is a great example of how we can show this purpose in action.

I hope you find this document accessible and informative and I encourage you to share any feedback you have with us so that we can ensure our strategy remains relevant and helpful to all stakeholders.



Steve Cox

Engineering and Technical Director
Electricity North West

2. WHAT IS COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ENERGY

There are many ways to define community and local energy and we recognise that it means different things to different people. We want a broad and inclusive definition which brings clarity and is therefore useful to set the context for this strategy.

Our definition

To us community energy means community-led projects or initiatives to reduce, manage, generate or purchase energy. Community energy projects focus on engagement and benefits to their local area and communities.

Local energy encompasses community energy projects and also includes activities by a wider set of local partners such as local authorities, housing associations, intermediary or advisory organisations and local businesses. Local energy projects may have a commercial aspect to their delivery but are also likely to benefit their local area and community.

'87% of responses to our online call for evidence agreed with this definition'

We have included both community and local energy in this strategy. Although they have different characteristics we feel they will both benefit from the activity we are proposing and we also feel that there are benefits to be gained by both groups from networking together and learning from each other.

Community and local energy is a small but growing sector; in our area we are aware of a growing number of community and local energy groups with connected generation totalling about 20 projects and deploying just under 13.4MW. We know community energy is not just about generation and there are groups that focus on other activities such as energy efficiency.



We have noted a number of driving forces behind the commitment to community and local energy including the desire to tackle climate change leading to the desire to generate local economic benefit through ownership and control of energy generation assets and other parts of the supply chain. As well as the motivation to provide benefits to the local community beyond energy, many community energy schemes generate surplus for a “community benefit fund” which is used to reinvest into community schemes.

Electricity North West is committed to the transition to a low carbon economy and wants to play a central role in facilitating the transition in the North West and the UK. We have our communities at the heart of everything we do and therefore want to support activities which directly economically benefit our communities. We also have a responsibility to protect vulnerable customers and would like to play an ever increasing role in promoting energy efficiency. We outlined this desire in our response to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy’s 2017 ‘Building a market for energy efficiency’ call for evidence, and we see community and local energy groups as an opportunity to collaborate on activity in this area.

3. OUR ROLE IN COMMUNITY AND LOCAL ENERGY

As the electricity distribution network operator (DNO) for the North West of England, we do not generate or supply electricity. We own and operate a regional network to transport electricity from generators to customers. In simple terms our network is made up of overhead lines, underground cables and items of plant, such as switchgear and transformers, which are used to distribute electricity to customers' premises. This network is paid for by customers through their electricity supply bills.

Through this network we deliver over 25 terawatt hours of electricity each year to around 2.4 million customer premises across an area of 12 500 square kilometres. We are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the network and ensuring it is able to accommodate future changes.

Electricity North West has a number of roles in the development of community and local energy projects including new connections, accommodating new generation and innovating for the changes that are taking place. To be able to ensure we are delivering the correct service to our customers our first task is to understand their requirements.



Understanding our customers' requirements

Stakeholder engagement and understanding our customers' requirements is an important part of how we can deliver our aim of excellent customer service. The development of this strategy has been informed by a stakeholder engagement process which has included:

- eight interviews with community and local energy groups and support bodies;
- two independently-facilitated engagement events: Kendal and Manchester in November 2017;
- call for evidence via an online questionnaire; and
- presentations at events including all of our stakeholder panels, the "Greater Manchester community energy listening event" and "Power to the People" event in Cumbria.

We have developed this strategy in consultation with our stakeholders to ensure it addresses the issues they are facing and to make sure our response is well informed. However this is just the start of the process and we hope we can continue the conversations we have started to maintain our understanding and develop our relationships.

The community and local energy sector is supported by committed, knowledgeable volunteers and professionals. As a sector it is incredibly supportive and encouraging, this means resources and ideas are shared freely and support is on hand for new groups and volunteers. We want to enhance and complement the existing support networks and as part this aspiration we have listed local and national sources of information and support at the end of this document to act as a reference source and there are a number of useful guides on our website.

"Great that you are engaging and asking our views"

Greater Manchester Community Renewables

91% of responses 'agreed' or 'strongly agreed' we have understood the main challenges faced by community and local energy groups

4. THE CHALLENGES

We asked stakeholders **“what are the main challenges that are facing the community and local energy sector”**. Our initial stakeholder engagement led us to believe that financial and political issues are the primary challenges facing community and local energy groups. These issues are mainly due to the changing government policy in this area such as Feed in Tariff and tax breaks for investors and its impact on the viability of individual schemes and community groups’ business models. However, it also includes the desire for community and local energy to develop sustainable business models to become self-supporting as well as enhancing their returns to their local communities.

Other issues that affect community energy groups include technical issues – both those associated with the nature of the network in a particular area, or just simply understanding the issues and paperwork associated with applying for a grid connection. Regulation also features as an issue and the feedback is that the current regulatory model doesn’t suit community or local energy. There are also issues associated with the nature of the sector. As outlined above, it is largely volunteer-led and this presents both opportunities and challenges.

We have also received feedback requesting greater engagement on projects and more face-to-face time from us.

Our online call for evidence asked if we have understood the main challenges facing community and local energy groups.

We asked if there are any challenges we haven’t understood or missed out and we received clarification suggestions covering areas such as regulation, finance, the nature of the sector and access to Electricity North West which we have used to refine our understanding and response.



Where should Electricity North West take action?

We also asked, given the main issues that are facing the sector which areas stakeholders think we should prioritise.

The top priority that clearly emerged from the responses to our online consultation was that:

Access to Electricity North West is the main area in which we can and should take action.

This is closely followed by the inter-related actions of financial and regulatory issues as the next areas where stakeholders feel we should prioritise our attention.

Social and technical issues and the nature of the sector were the areas that were ranked joint fourth in order of importance. Social issues are related to community and local energy still being quite a new area so there isn’t a common understanding of what it is or what the benefits are. The nature of the sector is that it is largely volunteer led which means that projects are delivered by people with many competing priorities and there is a feeling that lack of staff resources is a limiting factor for some groups.

As already stated we feel that most of these areas are inter-related and we hope we have developed an approach that addresses the issues raised but more importantly will develop our relationships so we can build a foundation to identify and respond to future issues as they emerge.

Top three issues our stakeholders have said we should prioritise for support to community and local energy groups

01

Access to Electricity North West

- Early engagement
- More face-to-face time
- Collaboration
- Dedicated point of contact
- Help with understanding where connections could be easier



02

Finance

- Financial support for projects especially development finance
- Help to develop viable business models



03

Regulation

- Regulatory regime doesn't suit community and local energy
- Current solutions such as virtual private wires are a "workaround" and not a long-term solution





Issue 1: Access to Electricity North West

Stakeholders have asked for early engagement, more face-to-face time and opportunity to discuss their projects and future plans. This is to help with projects at an early stage; to help community and local energy groups understand the technical issues and process for getting a grid connection; and to help understand grid issues and where best to connect. Stakeholders have also asked for more contact time to develop collaborative relationships such as on innovation projects. See the finance section for more information on our ideas for collaboration.

Our response

We regularly hold surgeries to provide an opportunity for face-to-face time and early engagement on projects. However, we have heard that these services are not always visible to community and local energy stakeholders. Therefore we have developed a community and local energy engagement plan to make sure our communications are accessible to community and local energy groups and to respond to the request for greater access and more face-to-face time with us. We also aim to develop our relationships with stakeholders to increase our understanding of their issues and to increase the opportunities to develop mutually beneficial partnerships.

In 2017 we appointed a community energy manager as a new role and dedicated point of contact with responsibility for delivering this strategy.



Helen Seagrave, Community Energy Manager

We have launched a community and local energy section on our website which will contain up-to-date information and details of how to get in touch with us.

In 2018 we launched a community and local energy newsletter to help us keep our stakeholders up to date with our activity in this sector across the region.

We also aim to continually develop and improve the way we can be contacted and would welcome your views on this.

We will also be allocating additional engineer resources to enable us to engage meaningfully at an early stage with community and local energy projects. We will ensure one of our engineers will be available to speak to, and work with, community and local energy projects to help determine the best option for point of connection to our grid. The engineer will work alongside the community energy manager to help groups develop projects from the earliest stages. This will give us the ability to have more in-depth conversations at an early stage to help groups assess their options. We will develop a strategy to cover how we provide information about our networks.

We have launched a series of “Community Connects” workshops aimed at increasing the capacity and skills within the community and local energy sector. We have collaborated with local organisations to help support existing capacity within the sector with the aim of bringing high quality workshops informed by firsthand experience. They will be delivered by a partnership of organisations including Electricity North West, Quantum Strategy and Technology, DLA Piper, Carbon Co-op, Cumbria Action for Sustainability and The Tyndall Centre. Each partner brings their expertise from working with the sector and will deliver a workshop in their specialist area. The first two workshops will be held in Community Energy Fortnight 2018 starting with “How the grid works” delivered by us. Details of all our events are published on the community and local energy pages of our website (www.enwl.co.uk/communityandlocalenergy).

To maximise the reach of these workshops we will be producing a series of guides to explain the issues and the guides will be published in a range of formats such as video blogs as well as written documents to ensure they reach as wide an audience as possible.

These actions will also help to address the issues raised with the nature of the sector and technical issues such as help with understanding where to connect on the network, facilitating networking, and helping groups learn from each other. As always, we are happy to receive any other suggestions for activities.





Issue 2: Finance

The requests for support here included direct financial support as well as help to make business models viable by working together on issues such as virtual private wires. Since the decline in the Feed in Tariffs it has become increasingly difficult to build a business case for community and local energy generation projects where there is no co-located demand such as an energy user on the same site to guarantee an income through the sale of electricity at a sufficient rate.

This is where solutions such as virtual private wires, local supply models and peer-to-peer trading come in to try and make that link between projects and customers, which relates back to the issues raised with the regulation of the sector. This also helps to address some of the social issues by linking customers to their local energy source and increasing their understanding and buy-in.

We have carefully considered how we can best respond to these issues for the benefits of all of our customers. We are mindful that our spending directly impacts customers' bills and, that as well as protecting and developing the network's assets we also have to deliver value to customers. With that in mind we seek to develop a response to this issue which both addresses some of the financial issues community and local energy groups' face whilst also meeting our commitments to keep costs down for all customers.

Our response

We feel we can best support community and local energy groups in developing new ways of working which could inform the development of new business models and access other sources of funding.

In certain cases community and local energy may have a better business case than traditional network reinforcement or help avoid electricity losses. In these examples we may be able to provide financial support to projects however this is a new approach so we need to develop the business case on a project-by-project basis but, if successful, it might release further funding to support projects in specific locations.

We recognise that many community and local energy projects have finance and cash flow issues at the project development phase. Our support during this phase will focus around providing timely, accurate point of connection advice to help support the development of business cases. We will also work closely with projects, especially more complex projects to provide advice and guidance on how they will interact with the grid and their options for connection contracts.

We want to develop ways to collaborate on innovation. Innovation is one of the main ways we develop the grid to become a "smart grid" and it is also an important driver for reducing the need for investment by finding alternatives to asset replacement and upgrades. We also recognise that innovation will increasingly need to be done in collaboration and it is one of the areas that stakeholders have asked for our support.

To encourage and develop collaborative relationships we will:

1. Use our engagement activities such as events to create opportunities to talk to our stakeholders and identify opportunities to collaborate;
2. Be open about our innovation requirements and the opportunities for community and local energy both through our innovation strategy and in conversations with stakeholders;
3. Provide clear and accessible channels to encourage stakeholders to communicate with us about innovation ideas such as via the website and email Communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk;
4. Launch a "call for innovation" which will offer funding for community and local energy projects that meet the call criteria. Details will be published on our website by January 2019;
5. Provide pre-application support to projects that would like to apply for the "call for innovation" but may not have the resources to respond to the call;
6. Explore the opportunity of collaborating on innovation projects funded by external bodies where either Electricity North West or a community or local energy group is the lead applicant.

We are also going to explore the option of enabling community or local energy groups to develop projects on our land or assets as well as the option to buy energy from community and local energy groups. If either of these options proves viable it would enable us to enter into a commercial arrangement and provide support to the sector in this way. We aim to report back on the viability of this approach by December 2018. Sign up to our newsletter for updates on this and all of our community and local energy activity.



Issue 3: Regulation

There is a feeling amongst our stakeholders that the current regime doesn't suit community energy models. We have heard that regulatory issues are a barrier to developing community and local energy projects and understand this influences the potential of project income and the ability to develop viable business models.

This is partly a function of the fact that community and local energy is at the forefront of developments in the energy sector and to do things differently you have to explore regulatory issues because a system that works for one model won't necessarily work for another. Ofgem are continually working to make sure regulation is fit for purpose and they are currently running a regulation sandbox process to give stakeholders a mechanism to test new ideas and understand issues better. They also offer an Innovation Link (www.ofgem.gov.uk) service which offers support on energy regulation to community and local energy groups who want to introduce new ideas.

Our understanding is that the main issue being caused by the current regulatory regime is that it is difficult for generators to sell directly to customers. Only licensed supply businesses collectively known as "energy suppliers" can sell electricity to customers. The system was set up this way to protect consumers by ensuring customer choice, however it has the side effect that small generators such as community and local energy groups can be in a situation where their only choice is to export the energy they generate to the grid which receives a much lower price than a customer would pay for it. The Feed-in-Tariff (FITs) used to make this option financially viable but it doesn't anymore. The other impact is that local communities do not have the direct financial link to the energy generated by their local project which, if it was there, could help increase local engagement. There are number of projects being undertaken to explore this issue. At least 7 of the 11 Ofgem sandbox projects that have been funded so far explore the issues of local supply.

Our response

We are proposing to work with community and local energy groups to further develop our collective understanding of these issues with the aim of identifying a number of actions that could be undertaken to address them. We will use our understanding of the regulatory regime and combine it with community and local energy groups' experience to identify actions that could help tackle the issue. Our collective action will be defined by our future conversations but we are proposing to hold a workshop or meeting with interested and informed stakeholders to develop our shared understanding. Potential outcomes from that meeting could be:

- a shopping list of changes that are required to the regulation to facilitate greater take up of community and local energy. This could be presented to Ofgem to inform their development of regulations and it could be used by Electricity North West in the development of our business plan, in particular for the next price control period;
- identification of projects or business ideas that could be referred to Ofgem's Innovation Link for advice or developed into a sandbox submission; or
- sharing experiences and discussing the issues may lead to homegrown solutions which could be implemented straightaway.

We appreciate community and local energy group's don't always have the capacity to engage in policy and regulation change, but they do have the firsthand experience that should be used to inform it, so through collaboration we aim to support this. Changing regulation is slow, but collectively we have a stronger voice and we will keep communities updated as we work on this area. Sign up to our newsletter to receive updates and information about future events (www.enwl.co.uk/advice-and-services/community-and-local-energy/newsletters).

We hope these actions will start to address the issues facing our community and local energy customers and we encourage your ongoing feedback and engagement.

"The proactive engagement of the local DNO is absolutely key for community energy groups, and it's great that Electricity North West recognise this and are committing time and resources to making community and local energy a success."

Oldham Council

5. OUR STRATEGY

Our strategy for working with community and local energy groups covers our approach, our strategic objectives and our actions.

Our approach

Electricity North West wants to work closely with community and local energy groups, organisations and developers to support the development of their projects.

We understand that community and local energy projects can be volunteer led and complex and therefore need more time support to engage with Electricity North West services.

We would like to engage early with community and local energy groups to support them with the process of connecting to the network.

We would like to develop our relationships with the communities we support to explore other ways to work together such as on innovation projects and what role they may play in the future.

“95% of responses to our online consultation strongly agreed or agreed with our approach.”

Our strategic objectives

1. We will be responsive to customers’ needs
2. We will create new mechanisms for community and local energy groups to engage with us
3. We will search for locations on our network where community and local energy can be deployed for multiple benefits

Our actions

1. We will be responsive to customers’ needs.

At the heart of our strategy is a stakeholder engagement plan which sets out how we want to work with stakeholders and what we hope to achieve.

We want to:

- **Reach** new stakeholders and raise the profile of community and local energy activities
- **Inform** stakeholders about our activities and deliver regular communications to maintain and enhance our relationships with stakeholders
- **Listen** to stakeholders and provide opportunities for feedback
- **Engage** groups and individuals in an interactive and collaborative ways to ensure we build an effective working relationships with our stakeholders
- **Collaborate** on projects or programmes to deliver mutual benefit to stakeholders, the network and Electricity North West

We want to create new mechanisms for collaboration however we don’t think we have all the answers for how this will work yet. We hope our engagement strategy will help us develop the relationships to define collaboration more clearly and we have also suggested a number of ways we can start to work together, to create new mechanisms for engagement with community and local energy groups.

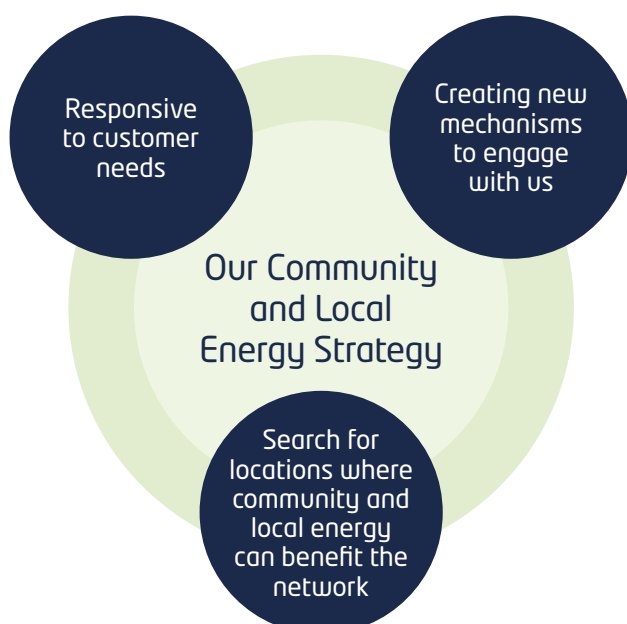
“This strategy clearly demonstrates how Electricity North West has listened, and is acting on the feedback they have received.”

Regen

2. We will create new mechanisms for community and local energy groups to engage with us.

We will develop ways of working with community and local energy groups that are new to Electricity North West. We will engage on specific topics that have been highlighted by our consultation process as being significant to the sector and we will focus on these with a view to developing positive outcomes for both us and the community and local energy sector.

The initial priorities for our new ways to engage are innovation and regulation. Using our engagement activities to focus on conversations in these areas, making it easy to get in touch with us and being clear about our requirements, we are hoping to identify a number of new ways of working together. This might include innovation projects we fund, joint applications to external funds or supporting applications to the Ofgem sandbox. We hope this approach will benefit community and local energy groups as it could enable them to access funding, identify new business models or verify new ways of working. It should also benefit Electricity North West by helping us to identify new ways of working with our customers and supporting the deployment of low carbon technologies or energy efficiency on our network.



3. We will search for locations on our network where community and local energy can be deployed for the benefit of the network.

As well as responding to inbound requests from community and local energy groups we will try and identify where on our network may benefit from an increased amount of local generation. This proactive network-led approach is very much a trial to see if we have the mechanisms to encourage appropriate community and local energy projects in those locations. Network-led reasons for developing community and local energy may include:

- reliability;
- resilience;
- avoiding network reinforcement; or
- supporting fuel poor or vulnerable customers.

The benefits of this approach for community and local energy groups is that it might help identify additional support for projects in certain areas and help identify suitable locations. It could also support the delivery of some community and local energy group aspirations that are more difficult to deliver such as energy efficiency or helping people out of fuel poverty.

This approach could benefit Electricity North West as it might help find a more affordable way to address an issue we need to tackle and therefore represent better value for money for the customer.

This approach has not yet been tested so as a first step we will investigate its validity. The first output will be a report back to stakeholders as to how it might work. We aim to report back on the viability of this approach by March 2019. To receive updates please sign up for our newsletter.

This strategy is just the start of the process and we hope this approach will develop meaningful relationships which will respond to the immediate issues raised and start to develop the relationships that will help us all prepare for the future.

6. THE FUTURE

Community and local energy groups have so far largely developed business models based on generation assets, with a few notable exceptions. The future offers opportunities to explore non-generation based business models. These opportunities arise from new technologies as they become more financially viable such as battery storage and EV charging points and new business models that will open up as the distribution market changes at a local level.

The changing role of the DNO to DSO

We feel the future will provide significant opportunity for community and local energy groups as Electricity North West transitions from a distribution network operator (DNO) to distribution system operator (DSO). The change from DNO to DSO is happening, driven by changes in how the networks are used with corresponding European and national changes to policy reflecting the need for a new operating model for the future “smart grid”. These changes potentially open up new commercial arrangements that community and local energy groups could benefit from.

All electricity network operators are currently in discussion with Ofgem and central government and are collaborating through the Energy Networks Association as part of the Open Networks project as to how they can adapt and develop to accommodate the technological challenges that are coming whilst at the same time protecting and benefiting customers.

One way to describe the change is that in the future there will be a lot more need for local services to help manage the demand and supply of electricity at a local level. The role of the DNO therefore needs to change as this change will take place on its network. What is still to be decided is what role the DNO will play and how they will operate. As a regulated industry we have to operate for the benefit of all customers so our role is likely to be as a neutral market facilitator – making sure all the new services work for the effective operation of energy markets and deliver reliability of supply and affordability benefits for all customers.

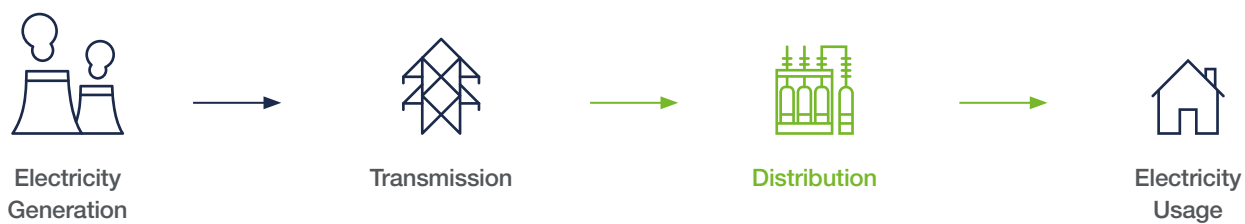
Making the transition to a DSO will involve a lot of internal changes to our systems and processes to give us the information and the flexibility we need to manage the network in this way. It will also mean developing new relationships and commercial agreements with customers; and community and local energy groups potentially have a role to play.

Community and local energy groups could potentially be early adopters of new technologies or business models that will become part of the DSO world. For example, community and local energy groups could play a role in offering some of the local services required such as flexibility or load balancing services. This could be offered from either a single community or local energy owned asset or as part of an aggregated service on behalf of a number of assets or groups.

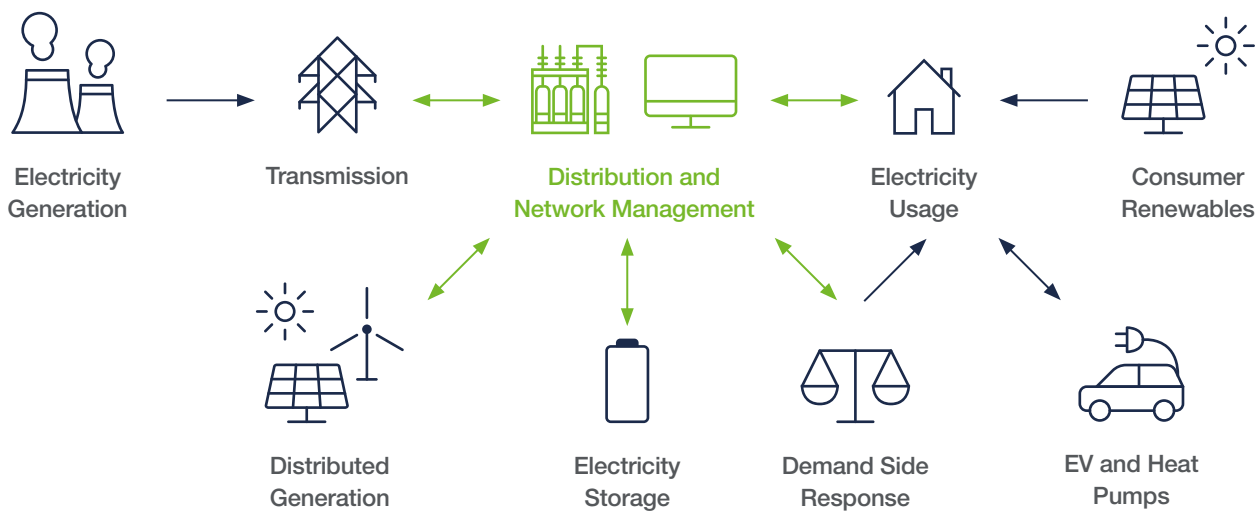
Community and local energy groups are well informed customers who understand the potential of how the grid could operate in the future. It could therefore be mutually beneficial to work together to develop how the distribution system of the future may operate.

Community and local energy groups are operating at the forefront of new technology and business model development which requires us to develop new or enhanced services to accommodate their requirements. They also offer us the opportunity to develop partnerships and collaborative working arrangements to trial and test new technologies or new ways of working which will be required for the future of the network.

This has big implications for our role in the system - what used to be relatively simple...



...is becoming far more complex and multi-directional



7. OUR STRATEGY ON A PAGE

Our approach: Electricity North West wants to work closely with community and local energy groups, organisations and developers to support the development of their projects. We understand that community and local energy projects can be volunteer led and complex and therefore need more time support to engage with Electricity North West services. We would like to engage early with community and local energy groups to support them with the process of connecting to the network. We would like to develop our relationships with the communities we support to explore other ways to work together such as on innovation projects and what role they may play in the future.

Objective: We will be responsive to customers’ needs and deliver a stakeholder engagement plan that enables us to develop those relationships

Action	Timescale
Appoint community energy manager as a dedicated point of contact	Appointed October 2017
Publish dedicated community and local energy web pages on our website to provide information and an easy way to get in touch	Launched in December 2017
Develop a dedicated community and local energy newsletter to inform and engage stakeholders	Launched in April 2018
Allocate additional engineering resources to support community and local energy projects to identify the best point of connection	From April 2018
Develop Community Connects workshops to facilitate more “face-to-face” time and to support stakeholders to develop their understanding of technical issues	Starting in June 2018

“Electricity North West is taking the right approach in listening to and engaging with the community and local energy sector which has so much to offer as we transition to a decarbonised energy system”.

Community Energy England

Objective: We will create new mechanisms for community and local energy groups to engage with us

Action

Timescale

Encourage and develop collaborative relationships including launching a “call for innovation” open to community and local energy groups

Details of the call will be published on our website by Jan 2019

Develop a collective view of the regulatory changes required to facilitate community and local energy

Details of a workshop or meeting will be posted on our events page in Autumn 2018

Investigate the viability of purchasing community and local energy

We aim to report back on the viability of this approach by December 2018

Asses the possibility of community or local energy groups developing or taking share ownership of projects on our land or assets

We aim to report back on progress of this approach by December 2018

Objective: We will search for locations on our network where community and local energy can be deployed for the benefit of the network

Action

Timescale

Research the possibility of a Network-led approach to support the development of community and local energy projects

We will provide updates on the viability of this approach by March 2019

8. CONTACT

Keep up to date

Sign up for our newsletter and view previous editions on our website.

Visit the community and local energy section of our website
www.enwl.co.uk/communityandlocalenergy

Get in touch

If you have any comments on this strategy or how we should develop our actions please get in touch.

If you are developing a community or local energy project please get in touch to discuss your plans.

Contact details

Helen Seagrave, Community Energy Manager,
Communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk







9. RESOURCES

There is a plethora of resources and information available online for community and local energy groups. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list but just a starting point for the main sources of information.

Electricity Networks Association (ENA) guides

The ENA is an industry-wide organisation that represents all the distribution network operators (DNOs) and has produced a number of guides for community and local energy groups on behalf of all of the DNOS:

- Connecting community energy: a guide to getting connected
- A rough guide to engaging communities in innovation 2017
- Electricity network innovation: a guide for communities 2018

www.energynetworks.org

Community Energy England

Community Energy England is a membership body for the community energy sector in England and it runs a website called the Community Energy Hub.

The Community Energy Hub provides a lot of information on community energy and also provides a mechanism for community energy groups to share information amongst themselves and with other organisations including potential funders or project partners.

The Hub is a free resource for community energy projects that will be developed on an ongoing basis to expand the amount of information available.

www.communityenergyengland.org

Regen

Regen's mission is to accelerate the transition to a decarbonised, decentralised and democratic energy system. They are an independent not for profit organisation working to share their knowledge and experience of driving radical change in our energy system nationally. They have an extensive community energy support programme which includes a network, events and strategic projects. Sign up for their newsletter and events on their website.

www.regensw.co.uk

Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE)

CSE is an independent national charity that delivers advice, innovative energy projects, training and supporting others to act, and undertakes research and policy analysis.

It has a practical advice and tools aimed at groups developing local and community based energy schemes

www.cse.org.uk



I'm a member
**Community
Energy
England**

Electricity North West

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www.enwl.co.uk

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