

# Incentive on Connections Engagement Newsletter

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north west  
Bringing energy to your door

## ICE Q2 Newsletter - Distributed Generation

**Welcome** to our Incentive on Connections Engagement (ICE) Q2 newsletter for Distributed Generation (DG).

Over the past quarter we have continued to hold our events online, most recently our second Distributed Generation Low Voltage workshop in September. I'm pleased to hear the feedback has been positive and our stakeholders are enjoying our approach as well as finding them informative.

As always, I would encourage you to share your thoughts and opinions with the ICE Team. It will help shape the content of our newsletters and webinars in the future so that they are even more useful to you and your colleagues. Please get in touch with us [ICE@enwl.co.uk](mailto:ICE@enwl.co.uk).

I hope you enjoy today's newsletter.

Mark Williamson  
Energy Solutions Director



## ICE Update

We're pleased to welcome Lottie Wheatcroft as the new ICE Manager at Electricity North West. Lottie will be covering the role while Ami is on Maternity Leave. Lottie joined the company in 2010 working for our customer directorate.

"I am very excited to be joining the ICE team and supporting the delivery of this year's commitments. My previous roles and experience have focused on great customer and stakeholder experiences and I look forward to familiarising myself with the Distributed Generation stakeholder needs.

It is a very exciting time to be joining the ICE team as we look to the future and as the business prepares for price review period starting 2023

I'd also like to take this opportunity to welcome stakeholder feedback and any suggestions you have that could be used to improve the services we offer."



As of 1st July the new Queue Management process is in place. Queue management is the process by which network companies manage projects which have an accepted connection offer and have not yet connected. These processes have been developed across all network companies and with the aim of consistent implementation. You can read more on Queue Management on our [website](#).

We're now half way through the year and are progressing well on our commitments that were set out at the beginning of April 2021, further details on each of our commitments can be found under [quarterly updates](#) on our website.

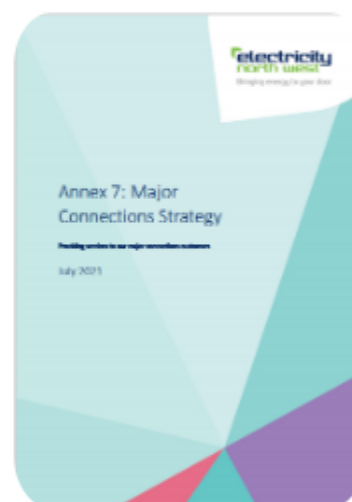
In September we delivered our second Distributed Generation Low Voltage workshop of the year, thank you to everyone who attended and for those who were unable to attend the event recording has now been published and available [here](#). We have recently opened the registration for a number of future ICE workshops, webinars and training sessions that you may be interested to join. [Register now](#) via our website.

## Major Connections Strategy

We recently published our draft Major Connections Strategy on our website following various consultations with our stakeholders over the past few months. Thank you to those that have contributed either in workshops, via survey responses or during in depth interviews carried out by an independent research team.

The document sets out what we already do for our connections customers and the feedback we have had on how we currently perform against Ofgem's Baseline Standards.

The document details how we are proposing to measure our performance going forward and continue to measure the needs of our stakeholders. It is a light read despite lots of information included, therefore please get in touch with us and let us know your comments. We will shortly be finalising our major connections strategy before publishing on the 1st December. We would be very interested to hearing your thoughts after reading the document.



[annex-07-major-connections-strategy.pdf \(enwl.co.uk\)](#)

## Upcoming online events

Distribution Generation High Voltage (HV & EGV) Workshop  
Thursday 4 November  
[Register now](#)

For more details on upcoming events please visit our [stakeholder engagement calendar](#)

## DSO, Grid digitisation & data, and Electric Vehicles strategies

Earlier this year we consulted on our DSO, Grid Digitalisation & Data, and Electric Vehicles strategies. The documents set out our ambition to facilitate the transition to Distribution System Operation and Electric Vehicles and make the North West a cleaner, greener place to live and work. We would like to thank all of those who participated in the consultations. Generally all the strategies were well received, with some feedback on how we could look to develop them further, be more ambitious in our goals, and be clear about the messages we are presenting. We have taken this feedback and incorporated it into the final versions of the documents which are now available on our website:

[DSO strategy](#), [Analysis of DSO functions](#), [Grid digitisation & data](#), [Electric Vehicles strategy](#)

Some of the comments we received provided more general feedback on how we can improve our business processes messaging going forwards and will be taking on this feedback over the next few years to provide a better user experience.

The recording of the EV day held earlier in the year which showcased our ambitions to support the transition towards electrified transportation. The event incorporated speakers from Electricity North West as well as guest speakers from TfGM, The Manchester Fuel Cell Innovation Centre, Stuart McBain Ltd, DRAX, Kinetic Traction, EVA England, Auto Trader, Booths, and PwC. For anybody who missed it, a recording of the entire event is available [view here](#).

The official consultation process has now closed, but we are still keen to hear your views on our plans. If you have any comments on the documents, please [contact us](#).



## Annual regional stakeholder event October

Join Electricity North West's Executive team and regional authority at our annual regional events which is your opportunity to hear about our investment in the region as we Lead the North West to Net Zero.



Our regional events will provide you with an update on our performance this year, current and future plans, how we are supporting decarbonisation and the green recovery while providing you with an opportunity to engage and share your views and feedback with us.

Electricity will become increasingly important as the region accelerates bringing greenhouse gas emissions to net zero. Electricity North West has made a commitment to support regional decarbonisation whilst ensuring that no customer is left behind. We have been working in partnership with local authorities and other stakeholders, investing in their visions for the future and supporting economic growth and sustainable homes and transport. At each event we will be joined by the relevant local authority to share their aspirations for their area around decarbonisation, green recovery and share a number of key strategic projects happening in your communities.

Our regional events are aimed at anyone who has a stake or interest in our company or service from customers, businesses to charities and stakeholders. Our actions and investments are based on the views and feedback you provide us, and we hope that you will be able to join us and your local council in this important event.

### **Register here**

[Cumbria - Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October \(10:00 - 12:30\)](#)

[Lancashire - Friday 8<sup>th</sup> October \(10:00 - 12:30\)](#)

[Greater Manchester - Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October \(13:30 - 16:00\)](#)

## **Powering Our Communities fund**

Our Powering Our Communities fund supports projects that put community and local energy at the heart of our communities. We are now inviting applications for a total available pot of £75,000.

The fund is available to groups and organisations who want to develop or expand their own energy projects.

"It's always an exciting time to launch the Powering our Communities fund," said Helen Seagrave, Electricity North West's community energy manager.

"Applications have grown from strength-to-strength year-on-year and I think that's because people are starting to put community and local energy at the heart of their communities.

"We know the energy landscape is constantly evolving and changing, the region has ambitious net zero targets to hit and community energy will play a huge part in ensuring those targets are met."

Now in its fourth year, groups and organisations in the region have already benefitted from more than £200,000 worth of funding. Applications can be submitted by any type of organisation including community benefit societies, industrial provident societies, charities, schools or local authorities if they can demonstrate the community involvement or local benefit of their project.

Projects in partnership with organisations such as local authorities and businesses will also be accepted if it is clear what control and benefit the local community has as a result of the project.

Funding up to £15,000 per project is available as Electricity North West want to target projects which investigate or pilot new business models or ways of working, scale up delivery of a community or local energy project or group or projects that address specific barriers that are holding back the development of community or local energy.

Applications for the fund must be submitted by November 5<sup>th</sup> and successful applicants will be notified in January 2022.

To find out more and apply, please visit [www.enwl.co.uk/funding](http://www.enwl.co.uk/funding).

## Flexible Services update

We are currently reviewing our assets to confirm which sites will be included in our Autumn 2021 tender, which will be issued at the end of October. Remember to sign up to the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) on Piclo and register your asset to guarantee participation in this next round of opportunities!

There are lots of opportunities to have your say over the next month, so we encourage you to have a look at the consultations currently asking for responses across the Open Networks Project and the Standard Flexibility Agreement, as well as our post-tender survey.

### Flexibility Services Agreement Consultation

Energy Networks Association (ENA) has also launched a consultation on the next version of its standard contract for flexibility services, which seeks to further drive standardisation, consistency and transparency.

Stakeholders are invited to help shape the third iteration of this standard contract, which was created through ENA's leading Open Networks project, with input from distribution network operators (DNOs) and National Grid Electricity System Operator (ESO), to provide a consistent GB-wide core agreement for those wishing to provide vital flexibility services to the networks. The consultation is open until **Friday 22 October 2021**.

Key recommendations in the proposal for the improved version include:

- **Further alignment:** increased alignment with National Grid ESO's approach
- **Further streamlining of the core contract:** simplified content – reducing the contract length by almost 50%
- **An agile framework structure:** incorporating a framework structure which allows one or more contracts to be awarded, which will encourage more buying/selling of flexibility services
- **More inclusive:** modifying contract wording to ensure it works for aggregators (including smaller assets)
- **Improved options for dispute resolution:** ensuring that parties have access to a range of dispute resolution mechanisms
- **Greater industry transparency:** retaining the simplicity of previous versions while also allowing the sharing/publication of relevant data.

The updated version, due to be published at the end of the year, will help take the transition to the smart grid to the next level and marks another step forward in bringing consistency across the industry.

The project team will be engaging with industry and other interested parties in a range of ways during the consultation period, including hosting a webinar on **Wednesday 22 September** which you can register for on [ENA's website](#).

If you have any questions about our current requirements, or about anything relating to Flexible Services, please contact us [here](#).

## Webinar recordings

To facilitate our move towards online events, we have created a 'Webinar recordings' page on our website, where you can catch up on all of our previously held ICE events. If you missed any of our events this year, head over to our [website](#) and have a watch.



You can also view presentation slides from these events [here](#)

## Useful links

[ICE updates, reports, workplans.](#)

[Connections case studies](#)

[Common Connection Charging Methodology](#)

[Previous event presentations, webinar recordings and feedback.](#)

[Electricity North West Stakeholder Engagement Newsletter](#)

[Book an over-the-phone surgery appointment](#) at a time that suits you to speak with one of our connections experts about current or future projects, complex schemes or a list of possible sites.

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## Get in touch

For all stakeholder enquiries please get in touch with our Incentive on Connections Engagement team at [ICE@enwl.co.uk](mailto:ICE@enwl.co.uk).

If you would like to sign up to receive our e- newsletters and event invites please [register your details here](#).

