



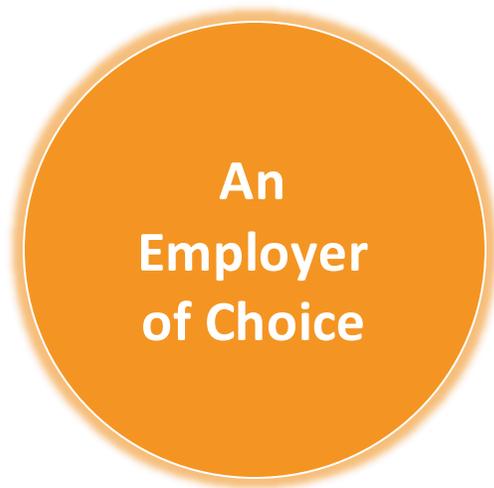
# Community Energy Strategy

2021-2023



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# Our Vision



To be consistently the best-performing Distribution Network Operator within an agreed set of values

## **Respected and trusted corporate citizen:**

Being socially and environmentally responsible means supporting local communities with information, collaboration and excellent service

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## What do we consider as Community Energy?

‘Community Energy’ comprises community-led projects or initiatives which focus on **reducing** energy use; using energy more **efficiently**; **generating** energy, **purchasing** energy and providing local energy **advice services** to communities.

Critical to these projects is **an emphasis on local engagement, leadership, benefit and control.**

# Understanding our role within our communities



By supporting local authorities in their climate change action plans we can have the biggest impact by helping them prioritise objectives and allocate resources accordingly

Mutual benefits can be secured through community development of assets on public, community and commercial buildings, such as PV installations on schools, colleges, village halls and religious buildings

Supporting local community energy groups to navigate the connections process and link them to potential innovation and community programme funding

Ensuring customers are aware of the benefits available to them by community energy initiatives

# Our Community Energy Strategy

- **Respected and trusted corporate citizen:** Being socially responsible means supporting local communities with information, collaboration and excellent service
- Our strategy has four pillars

## 1. Engage

- Engage to understand key challenges & sector developments
- Provide guidance on how to get involved in community energy and useful energy saving tips

## 2. Collaborate and innovate

Identify partners and organisations where we can deliver benefits and trial new ideas

## 3. Connect and flex

Facilitate quicker and cheaper connections and enable new markets for flexible services

## 4. Community support and funding

We provide access to funding to support Community Energy Groups through our Power Partners fund and Innovation funding.

Placing our communities at the heart of Net Zero

# Our Community Energy Strategy

- Engaging is about learning, supporting and making information accessible

## 1. Engage

Understand regional Community Energy Groups' needs and aspirations through engagement, and how we can best support them

Use our UK Power Networks website as a one stop shop to provide useful information for community groups, including signposting to regional or national experts

Share information and collaborate on heat and transport transition, including data modelling and future scenarios

Provide case studies – successful projects and partnerships are excellent examples of how community energy projects vary and are beneficial

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# Our Community Energy Strategy

- Partnerships are a common delivery model in the sector, often allowing communities to secure suitable sites for energy development and obtaining the technical knowledge to implement projects.

## 2. Collaborate and innovate

Our innovation portfolio has delivered some outstanding outcomes and insights in different areas. For example: Energywise, Urban Energy Club, Home Response, Energy Garden

Support Community Energy Groups' ideas to develop innovation projects

Funding opportunities: through our innovation trials and collaboration partnerships we are able to invest in ideas and specific projects that benefit our communities

Continue to develop our work on supporting local authorities, LEPS and Community Energy Groups through our Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) and Local Area Energy Planning

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# Our Community Energy Strategy

- One of our key roles in the community energy space is to support customers in understanding and navigating our connection process. We have also committed to a flexibility first approach where we will not build unnecessary assets if we can first maximise the use of our network

## 3. Connect and flex

Connecting communities: Our connections process includes bespoke discussions or surgeries for Community Energy Projects

A dedicated team at UK Power Networks to support Community Energy Groups:  
Michael Horwood / Holly Avery

DSO strategy: How we are unlocking enduring value for our communities as we transition to the future, supporting more renewable generation and flexibility

Ensuring community energy groups understand and have access to flexibility market opportunities

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# Our Community Energy Strategy

- We recognise that one of the key challenges for community energy groups is access to funding.

## 4. Community support and funding

Partnering with Community Energy Groups to support them with Energy Efficiency advice work – tackling fuel poverty in their local communities via our £300,000 per year **Power Partners** programme

Co-creating innovation projects to secure innovation funding for Community Energy Programmes to deliver insights and benefits for consumers and communities

Sharing information with Community Energy Groups about external funding sources

Supporting vulnerable customers during a power cut through promotion of our Priority Services Register by local Community Energy Groups in target areas

Placing our communities at the heart of Net Zero

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Through these efforts we intend to place our communities at the heart of Net Zero, by providing a space for dialogue and collaboration, based on their needs and our role as a network operator.

Whether as a partner, through direct community energy funding or by supporting local umbrella organisations we aim to encourage communities in the South East, East and London to seize the opportunities to achieve their energy plans, optimising their energy use and identify future sources of benefits.

**INTEGRITY**  
We will do what we say we will do and build trust and confidence by being honest to ourselves, our colleagues, our partners and our customer

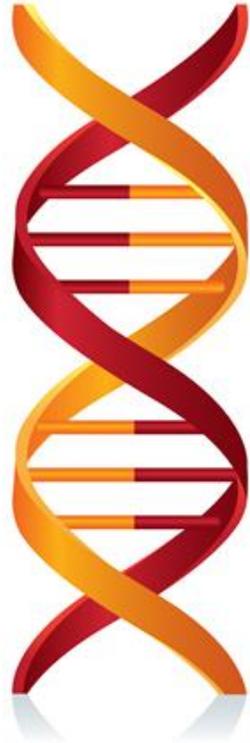
**CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT**  
We are committed to learning, development, innovation and achievement

**DIVERSITY AND INCLUSIVENESS**  
We recognise and encourage the value which difference and constructive challenge can bring

**RESPECT**  
We treat our colleagues and our customers the way in which we would want to be treated

**RESPONSIBILITY**  
We always act in an ethical, safe and socially/environmentally aware manner

**UNITY**  
We are stronger together and this comes from a shared vision, a common purpose, supportive and collaborative working



# OUR values

Our values are the DNA of our business; they will help us to deliver our Vision 'To become an organisation which is an Employer of Choice, a respected Corporate Citizen and Sustainably Cost Efficient.'

**Our vision is informed by the world we live in and the regular and personal engagement we have with our stakeholders that, in turn, informs and shapes our strategy**