

Northern Powergrid and Northern Gas Networks Local and Regional Energy Planning Charter 2024

This refreshed charter¹ sets out the joint commitments that we, Northern Gas Networks (NGN) and Northern Powergrid (NPg), make in respect of enabling our local communities to plan for the transition to net zero and planning our own network development with a whole system view. We believe that Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) and related energy planning processes have crucial roles to play in helping our communities plot a deliverable and resilient roadmap to net zero and influencing the development of regional and national energy plans.

We recognise that the development of these local energy plans should be led by the Local Government - in consultation with their local and regional communities, and wider partners such as the energy networks.

Both as energy system operators and anchor institutions for energy transition, we have a responsibility to support and enable development of these plans. We believe that the local and regional energy plans can in turn help us invest sustainably in our systems, supporting existing and future needs in a fair transition to net zero.

This charter sets out four enduring principles for how we will work together to support Local Government to develop LAEPs, alongside some example activities that reflect our current and planned shared priorities. We will jointly review the Charter on a regular basis, responding where necessary to major policy changes, to ensure our principles continue to reflect local needs and continue to support delivery of net zero pathways. We believe that the principles stated in this document will flow into supporting the emerging Regional Energy Strategic Planner (RESP) landscape as it takes shape.

Principle 1: We will support a cohesive conversation on energy transition, in which Local Government does not need to navigate between the networks and we minimise duplication of effort.

Example activities:

- Advocating for each other's involvement and active participation in local area energy plan making and other similar activities through direct engagement with the leading local or regional organisations.
- Jointly presenting a whole system approach for decarbonisation by ensuring visibility and participation in relevant events and meetings.

Principle 2: We recognise and respect that LAEPs and RESP outputs must be founded on a full consideration of the alternative routes to achieve net zero and will facilitate whole systems approaches.

¹ The original charter was set out in 2021

Example activities:

- Providing expert advice to local projects that seek to explore and plan for a range of pathways and use the outcomes to inform our own planning.

Principle 3: We will seek to openly share our data, intelligence and insights, developing combined data sets that support a whole systems approach.

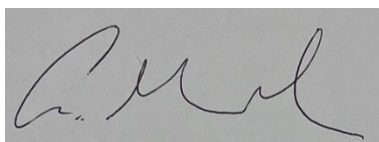
Example activities:

- Continuing to pursue collaborative conversations on the most effective data sharing approaches that will support LAEPs and RESPs, in consultation with our Local Government Partners.
- Sharing complementary research on whole system issues such as the just transition and customer decarbonisation journeys, seeking to collaborate where possible.

Principle 4: We will provide expert technical and industry inputs to help inform our regulator Ofgem's design, and the National Energy System Operator's implementation, of the RESP, including on the key role that LAEPs will play in regional energy strategic planning.

Example activities:

- Working closely with Ofgem, central government, and the National Energy System Operator (as conveners of the RESPs) to identify a more specific governance remit for LAEPs in a regional and national decarbonisation picture, utilising our expert technical and regulatory knowledge.
- Inputting to consultations and joint discussions surrounding the role of the RESPs and their place in the evolving system.
- Identifying opportunities for joint innovative initiatives to support whole-system transition.



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