

# Community Connects

Community  
and local  
energy training  
workshops

**Electricity  
north west**

Bringing energy to your door

## Spotlight on regulation and local supply

Capture report of the Community connects workshop held in Manchester on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019

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Welcome to the capture report for our Community Connects workshop *shining a light on regulation and local supply* held in partnership with Community Energy England.

The purpose of this report is to capture and play back the discussions that took place at our event, which was held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2019 at The Hive in Manchester. We are grateful to all those who attended the event and value the discussions which took place, which will help shape our future plans.

Stakeholder engagement is really important to us and we are committed to responding to all of the issues raised and this report is part of the process.

Regulation is one of the top three issues for our community and local energy stakeholders mainly due to the impact it has on groups' ability to make a financial business case for their generation

schemes. This workshop was organised as part of Community and local energy strategy which aims to increase our understanding of these stakeholders and their issues and provide new mechanisms to engage with us.

The agenda was designed to facilitate an informed discussion. Community Energy England help to set the scene and two representatives from community energy groups: Repowering London and Burnside Community Energy Group shared their experience and thoughts on the options for local supply. The industry perspective was provided by the head of commercial innovation from Electricity North West.

This report plays back the discussion and themes from the day and responses to the issues raised.

The presentations from the event are available as to download from our [website](#).

We hope you find this report useful and we welcome any feedback you may have – please send any comments you have to [communityandlocalenergy@enwl.co.uk](#)





**10.00 Welcome and introductions**

Helen Seagrave, Community Energy Manager, Electricity North West

**10.15 Community and local energy point of view – why local supply is important to the community energy sector**

Emma Bridge, Chief Executive, Community Energy England

**10.30 Local supply – example of an existing approach from Repowering London**

Felix Wight, Director, Repowering London

**10.45 Local supply – example of assessing options from Burneside Community Energy**

Gill Fenna, Director, Burneside Community Energy

**11.00 Break**

**11.30 Industry point of view – what regulation is for and how it impacts local supply**

Tony McEntee, Electricity North West

**11.50 Round table discussion**

**12.45 Summary and next steps**

**1.00 Lunch and networking**

# Summary of discussions and actions



## What we discussed

We discussed the Charging review and its potential impact on community and local energy and as part of this the concept of cost reflecting local characteristics of the network.

We talked about the various options for local supply and we introduced the Elexon meter splitting proposal.

We discussed the volume and complexity of the industry changes taking place.

We discussed Ofgem's requirement to keep the cost down and treat all customers "fairly".

## What we heard

We heard that community energy stakeholders are already following the charging review although they welcome shared insights from us as the DNO.

Private wire is best for new build – but it comes with risks, other viable options still need to be developed for existing projects. The Elexon proposal might help and you would like to know more.

It is difficult for community energy groups to keep abreast of all the changes taking place and they would like some support to identify which changes affect them and how.

It is felt that Ofgem is looking at it from the wrong perspective and should be using a climate change or decarbonisation lens. Fairness test is not "fair" and it doesn't mean the same for all customers.

## What we will do

We will continue to engage stakeholders on regulation issues via our newsletter and future engagement events. Ofgem also provide updates via their website.

Will share information about this Elexon championed modification via our newsletters and social media. For further info see [www.elexon.co.uk](http://www.elexon.co.uk).

We will add a regulation and policy update to our quarterly newsletter which will provide information to stakeholders on the latest relevant announcements.

We will work with Community Energy England to gather an evidence base that the community energy sector can use in discussions with Ofgem.



## Keep up to date

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

[www.enwl.co.uk/communityandlocalenergy](http://www.enwl.co.uk/communityandlocalenergy)

## Get in touch

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

## Contact details

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