

13 September 2022



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Welcome & intro

RIIO-ED2 update

Cost of living

Roundtable discussion

Break

Low Carbon Technologies & Net Zero

Roundtable discussion

Q&A

#### Session will include

Our commitment for 2023-2028

Regional trends & insights

Support for customers in vulnerable circumstances

Supporting customers with LCT connections





#### Welcome

Paul Bircham **Engagement and Regulatory Strategy Director** 

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#### We distribute electricity across the North West





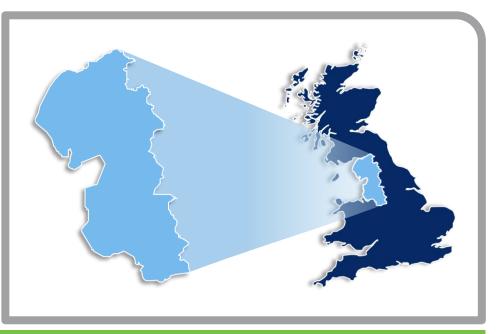
5 million



2.4 million



23 terawatt hours



£12.3 billion assets, including 56,000km of network

We invest £1m in the network every day

19 grid supply points; 96 bulk supply substations; 363 primary substations; and 33,000 transformers

We are a regulated monopoly

Customers cannot choose their network company

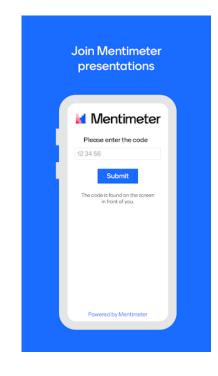
POWER CUT? CALL 105



#### We want to find out more about you:

- Open web browser
- Head to www.menti.com

- Use the code 720 790 70 to access
- Please answer the three questions and click submit after each question







## Q1: What type of stakeholder are you?

- Domestic customer / consumer interest group
- Housing Association or similar
- Business customer (or representative)
- Developer / connections representative
- Environmental charity or representative
- Social charity or community group
- Local Authority / government
- Academic / educational institute
- Utility representative (gas, water, electricity)
- Other

# Q2: Where are you joining us from today / the area that you represent?

- Lancashire
- Greater Manchester
- Cumbria
- Other

# Q3: How often do we engage with you?

- I regularly attend a Stakeholder Advisory Panel or expert panel
- I attend innovation, low carbon, community energy or connections workshops
- I am in regular contact with ENWL
- I have occasional contact with ENWL
- I am new to this I've have never met or contacted ENWL before



### Ofgem's Draft Determination for RIIO-ED2



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#### The future of the North West power network



- We've engaged with 18,000 customers and stakeholders to develop our plans for 2023-2028 to make sure they reflect the wants, needs and views of the region.
- We submitted a comprehensive plan and Ofgem has now given us its initial view.

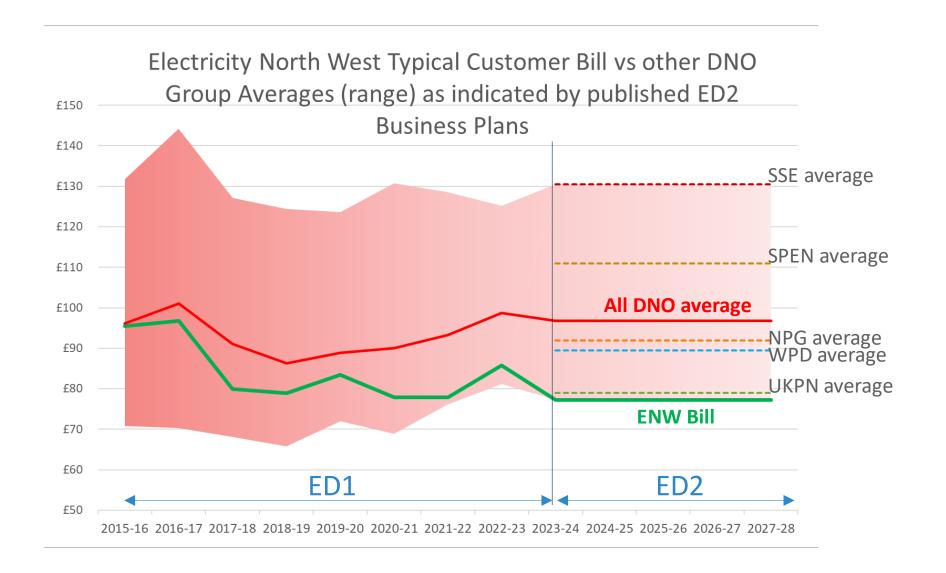
What did Ofgem want?	What did our plan propose?
In very simple terms, Ofgem	£1.8bn investment, including
wanted to see net zero	£200m extra to deliver net
delivered by networks at	zero while reducing our part
lowest cost to customers	of the bill by at least 5.5%

We recently retested the acceptability of our plans with domestic and business customers and found that 84% found the plan acceptable.

Despite us proposing the lowest bill of any DNO group, Ofgem has still proposed to take out more than £200m of funding, and reject a number of key projects that will have a significant impact on the region.

#### Our part of bills is going down





#### Our scorecard for Ofgem's Draft Determination





<u>Comprehensive Scope</u> – does it include what North West customers and stakeholders asked for?



<u>Dealing with Uncertainty</u> – can it flex in a fast acting and agile manner if customers requirements change?



<u>Driving Performance Improvement</u> – does it set tough targets and encourage continuous improvement?



<u>Challenging Efficiency</u> – does it set stretching but achievable targets for continuous cost reduction?



<u>Sustainable financing</u> – does it keep bills low while ensuring companies can raise the finance to fund essential investment?



#### What has Ofgem taken out of the plan?



The support you asked for on net zero transition.

£64.35m investment removed

The enhanced community energy fund to help us scale up and deliver more.

Network investment in areas of high concentration of vulnerable customers.

Our LineSIGHT proposal to increasing monitoring of overhead lines for safety.

These scope cuts are on top of the c£200m reduction in our plan which will cause further difficulties in delivery and also £100m reduction in financing costs.

#### Positive News for Lancashire



There are some things that Ofgem has initially approved in the determination, including:

• £78m for us to roll out our money-saving Smart Street technology to quarter of a million properties to help reduce customers energy costs

 Our proposal for a unique new incentive called 'Dig, Fix and Go' to reduce the average time for emergency street works from 5 days

 Our strategy to support customers in vulnerable circumstances, although Ofgem have currently excluded some specific elements

#### Your input is vital



We need your continued support to see the plan over the line, and ensure it reflects
what you and your organisations require from the network now and as a building block
for the future

 Although the deadline for responses to Ofgem has passed it is not too late to write to them if you have strong views

- We'd be delighted to have further conversations with you on any individual topic to:
  - help your understanding
  - to help you with your own direct response to Ofgem

Customer Support & Financial Vulnerability - Response to the cost of living crisis

Samantha Loukes



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# Regional insights What we are hearing from customers nationally and within our region

Triangulation of strategic insight August 2022

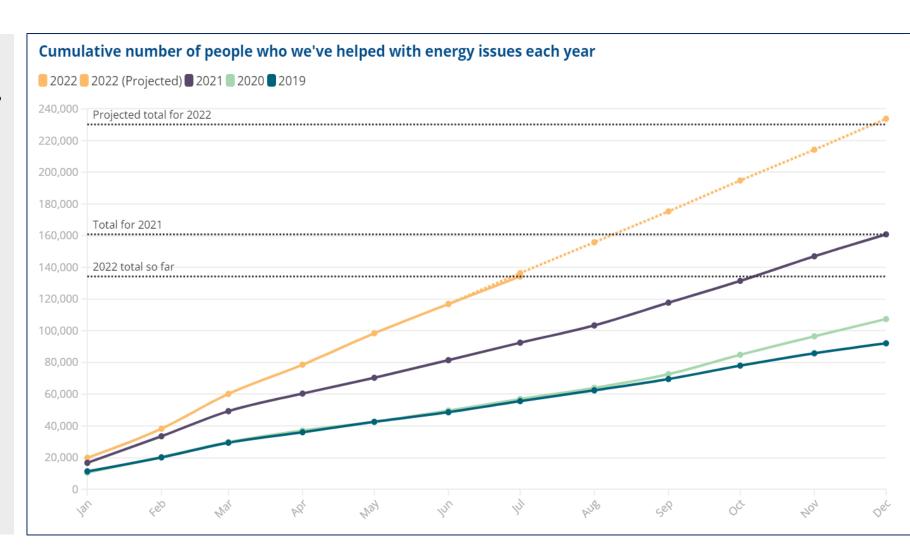




#### Nationally we're seeing winter problems in summer



- Britain is facing its biggest cost of living crisis in decades.
- Cost of living is overwhelmingly seen as the most important issue facing the country (81%), followed by the quality of NHS healthcare (47%) and threat of climate change (29%)<sup>1</sup>.
- The number of people needing support from Citizens Advice<sup>2</sup> this year has already exceeded the rate for 2020 & 2019.



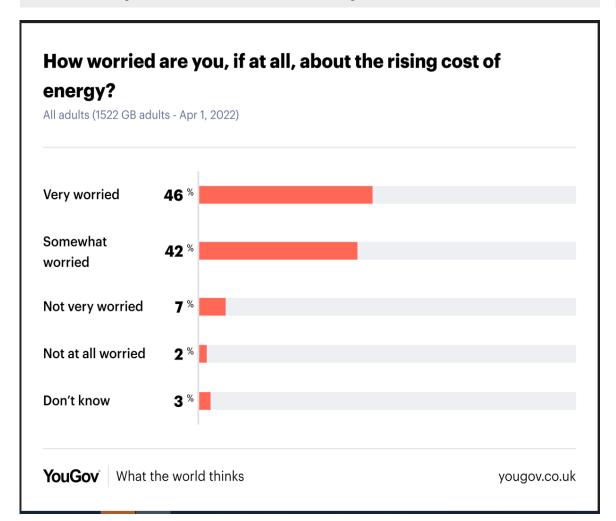
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Public First – Insights into public attitudes towards the cost of living crisis – August 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Citizens Advice cost of living data dashboard August 2022

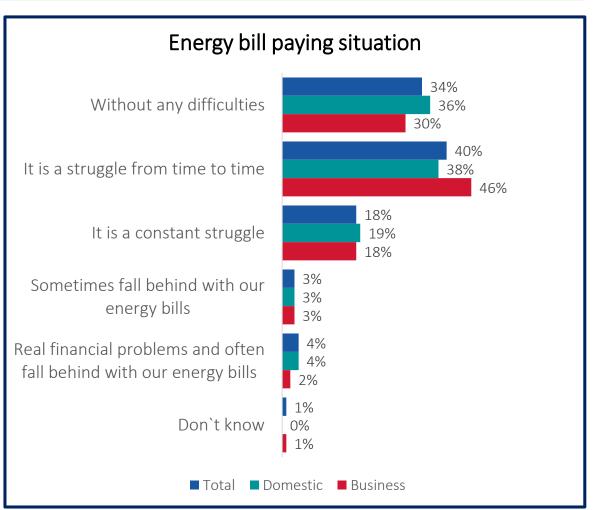
#### North West consumers are struggling to pay energy bills



#### Nationally 88% of adults are very or somewhat worried<sup>3</sup>



465% of north west bill payers are struggling to pay bills



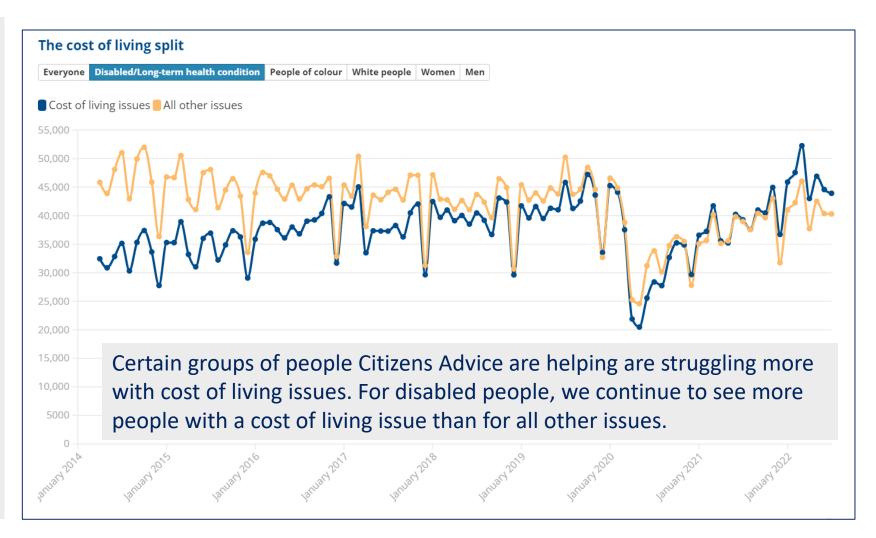
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>YouGov Results - Energy Bills. Fieldwork: 28th - 29th July 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Electricity North West Acceptability Survey. Fieldwork 24th June and 5th July 2022

# The worsening costs are not being felt equally across society



- According to the Office for National Statistics<sup>5</sup>, 91% of adults in Great Britain reported an increase in their cost of living between June and July 2022.
- The cost of living crisis is affecting everyone, but it's not affecting us all equally<sup>6</sup>.
  - People on low incomes
  - Long-term health conditions
  - Disabled people<sup>7</sup>
  - Pensioners



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Rising cost of living in the UK – House of Commons Briefing – 21 July 2022

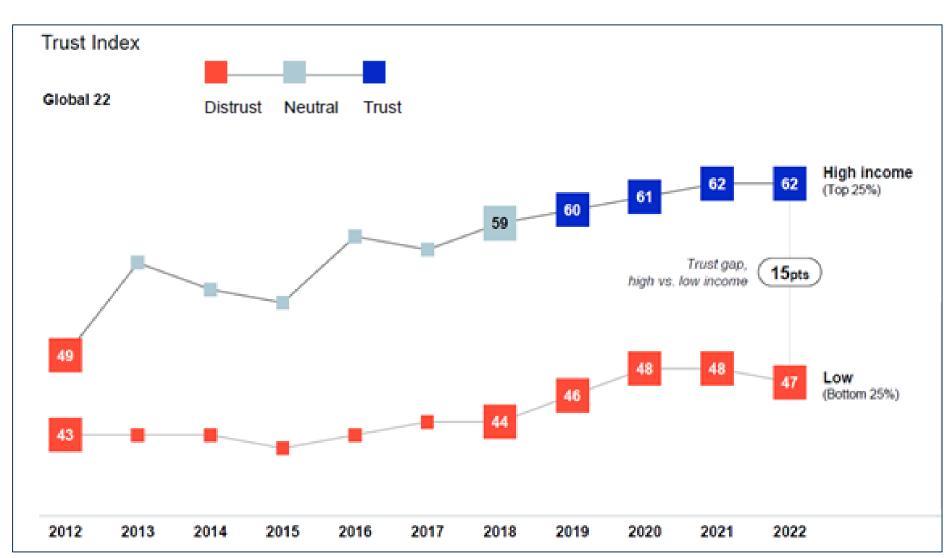
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> National Voices - Behind the Headlines: the unequal impact of the cost of living crisis – April 2022

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Citizens Advice cost of living data dashboard August 2022

# There is a record trust gap (of Government, business and media) between high and low income households



- Trust in Government and businesses 'to do the right thing' is much lower among lowincome groups<sup>8</sup>
- Public don't think the government is taking the crisis seriously
- Mass public protest viewed as likely, with 61% believing people will have utilities cut off and 54% think people will refuse to pay bills and taxes<sup>9</sup>

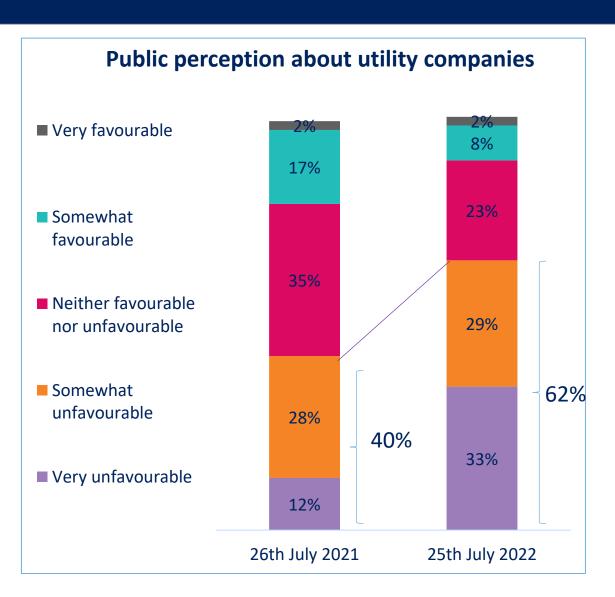


<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>Edelman Trust Barometer 2022: 36,000 respondents across 28 countries

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>Public First – Insights into public attitudes towards the cost of living crisis – August 2022

#### And utility companies are also under the microscope





#### **Water pollution**

#### No river safe for bathing

Toxins at highest levels since testing began Watchdog 'leaves water companies free to poll

Ryan Watts, Rhys Blakely

vels since modern testing began, The

s during this week's heatware

rom 75 per cent a decade ago. In addition, half of all stretches of river

exceeded nermitted limits of at least one hazardous pollutant last year, including

companies feeling free to pollute rivers. imental select committee, said



Millions of us won't be able to afford food and bills this winter.

We cannot afford to let that happen.

- We demand a reduction of bills to an affordable level.
- We will cancel our direct debits from Oct. 1 if we are ignored.
- · The campaign starts now with your help.

Don't pay campaign

#### A challenging and changing time...



- The energy price cap increased from 1 April for approximately 22 million customers. Those
  on default tariffs paying by direct debit saw an increase of £693 from £1,277 to £1,971 per
  year (difference due to rounding). Prepayment customers increased by £708 pa from £1,309
  to £2,017.
- Energy bills were expected to hit £3,549 in October
- And £4,266 in January
- Liz Truss's recent statement has helped but there is still a challenge. The rise in energy prices is extremely worrying for many people with increasing numbers struggling to make ends meet, further rises are a cause for concern for many.

# Families at risk

- Spiraling energy prices will turn the UK's cost-of-living crisis into a catastrophe as inflation continues to increase.
- Unlike tax rises, this squeeze will be felt most keenly by low-income families. As typical energy bills reach nearly £4,000 a year this means the poorest third of households spending more than 10% of family budgets on energy bills alone.
- The elderly are at risk and many will ration their energy use. Living in a cold home can worsen any health conditions.
- People with a health condition already have higher energy requirements.
- Customers on prepayment meters pay more per unit. Suppliers are already seeing greater numbers of self-disconnection (a term used when the customer can't afford to top up)
- Families with children under 5 many are likely to face tough choices (eating or heating), children are vulnerable to developing health conditions living in cold damp homes.
  - Increased levels of self disconnection
  - Impact on mental health
  - Adverse affect on physical wellbeing
  - Choice between heating/eating/caring
  - Falling into unmanageable debt
  - Safety risk as customer behaviour changes, using alternative methods of heating/cooking in the home

#### What have we been doing to help people?



Partner	Investment	Project outcomes				
citizens advice Manchester	£250,000	Last year 11,163 fuel poor customers were supported by our partners with 36,487 referrals, an average of 3.3 referral outcomes per individual, up from 2.07 in 2020/21.				
Partner since 2019		Provision of advice:				
		Outcome	Outputs	Social value		
Partner since 2019		Energy behavioural change	9,393	£138		
		PSR discussion	8,779	£8		
	£27,500	Tariff supplier advice	7,603	£159		
		Debt advice	1,055	£420		
		Total referrals/ value	26,830 (74%)	£3.0m		
Partner since 2019		Provision of in-depth persona  Outcome	Outputs	Social value		
	£35,000	Health and well-being	3,041	£74		
		Reducing energy debt	1,676	£119		
		Warm Home Discount	1,362	£159		
		PSR confirmed sign ups	779	£80		
		Emergency fuel vouchers	495	£25		
**************************************		Grant funding application	523	£855		
		Tariff supplier weighted	388	£776		
		Tariff supplier switched	363	£338		
	£30,000	Energy Saving Measures	393	£735		
		Boiler Replacements	250	£2,215		
		Cold to Cosy Survey	195	£121		
Partner since 2018		Total referrals/ value	8,930 (76%)	£2.2m		
		In addition, our partners made parties, such as the Benefits E	·			

#### Stakeholder outcomes

- ✓ 22,223 fuel poor customers have been reached since 2017. This represents 10% of all fuel poor customers, exceeds our annual target and puts us on trajectory to reach 100% by 2028.
- √ 81% of fuel poor customers surveyed post-intervention reported improved mental wellbeing and 45% felt their physical health had improved after receiving advice.



Emergency credit vouchers to prevent self disconnection

Food vouchers when customers are off supply

Energy efficiency guidance Save energy save money

Supported access to grant funding

Educating and engaging our youth on energy efficiency

Working with foodbanks to link food poverty with fuel poverty

#### Improvements since the winter storms











#### Automation

Customer information

Support to customers

Network improvements

Fitting sensors to diagnose faults remotely so we can respond sooner

Fitting LV overhead line reclosers to automatically restore supplies at 250 sites by the end of ED1

Upgrading NMS to allow more targeted information to customers on ETRs

New app allowing customers to report damage and NMS to automatically link this to live faults

Community resilience fund to help customers during and after major incidents

New dedicated incident roles for our leaders

Working with
Government to upgrade
existing resilience
standards to harden
networks against storms
through a mix of
undergrounding and
enhanced tree
clearance

#### **Continued Support**



Keep bills low

Be accessible 24/7 365 days a year with experienced and welltrained staff delivering excellent service

Maximise all referral networks

Provide a reliable electricity network

Continue building support with Utilities Together to maximise efficiencies.

Supporting Community Energy Projects and sharing best practice (Energy Roundtable)

Stay Safe and Save

PSR -> ECR (change the language)

#### **Continued Support**





- Increase fuel poverty support to reach our highest number of customers target of 15,000
- Expand youth support from learnings and trials completed in FY21/22
- Increase collaboration between stakeholders to share information and grow referrals i.e. Age Concern and Lancashire Fire and Rescue, Citizens Advice and TBBT
- Expand promotion of advice through all communication channels; use of radio, online seminars, facebook live and social media platforms to broaden our customer reach.
- Build ED2 contracts to achieve the continued growth of fuel poverty and referral programmes to support customers
  - 50,000 customers per year receiving a mixture of support and interventions

# Stuart Winterbottom Director of Rhea Projects Ltd

Appointed Managing Agents for Cosy Homes in Lancashire (CHiL)

# CHIL AIMS AND PRIORITIES

- To help fuel poor and vulnerable residents in Lancashire improve energy efficiency
- Installing measures using external funding
- Offering advice on energy usage



# FUNDING STREAMS AND MEASURES

- HUG and LAD Funding
- ECO Funding
- Solid wall insulation
- Loft and underfloor insulation
- Renewable Heating (air source heat pumps and Solar PV)
- Replacement doors and windows
- Smart heating controls





# Working with ENWL

- 3rd year working together
- Cost of living crisis has changed the approach
- Receive enquiries via ENWL website
- We make contact with residents and discuss;
- Energy saving advice and tips
- Benefit maximisation
- Warm Home Discount and Winter Fuel Payment
- Priority Service Register/Extra Care Register

# CHALLENGES AND RESPONSE

Fuel crisis this winter, already seeing evidence

More people in Fuel Poverty daily

Electric van and Handyman Scheme in operation targeting most vulnerable

### Roundtable discussion





#### **Round Table Discussions**



- The current situation has been (in the most part) triggered by the cost of gas
  - Do you think that the current situation has influenced customer opinion on net zero?
    - How do you think this could be leveraged to encourage an acceleration towards net zero goals?
  - What fuel poverty support is already available that we should be making customers aware of?
    - How can we work together to ensure awareness?



# relectricity north west

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Break

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### Customer adoption of Low Carbon Technologies (LCT)

Steven Glasgow

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# Regional insights What we are hearing from customers nationally and within our region

Triangulation of strategic insight August 2022





## National concern about climate change is increasing, but only 40% of consumers feel they know a fair amount about net zero



- 83% of consumers are concerned about climate change<sup>11</sup>.
  - Worries about climate change have increased following the recent heatwave<sup>12</sup>.
- 87% have heard of net zero, although only 9% state that they know a lot about net zero<sup>11</sup>.
- 2/5 of consumers know at least a 'fair amount' about 'net zero'<sup>12</sup>.

Many governments and companies around the world, including in the UK, are committing to achieving 'net zero'. Before today, how much, if anything, did you know about this concept?



<sup>11</sup> HM Government, Climate Change and Net Zero: Public Awareness and Perceptions, Research Paper No. 2021/034. Sample Size: 7,000 adults in GB

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> YouGov Survey Results: Sample Size: 1766 adults in GB Fieldwork: 19th - 20th July 2022

## 50% of North West consumers are looking, in the next 5 years, to install at least one form of LCT in their home





- ENWL forecasts indicate 630,000 electric vehicles are expected on the region's roads by 2028<sup>13</sup>
- Motivating factors include environmental reasons (38%) interest in new technology (31%) and operational cost savings (19%)<sup>14</sup>
- BUT, only 7% of all customers surveyed said they have <u>EVER</u> received information about LCTs<sup>15</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Electricity North West Distribution Future Electricity Scenarios 2021

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Addressing the barriers to EV adoption | Geotab

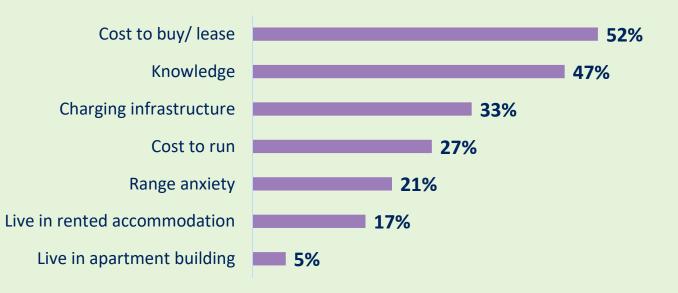
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Electricity North West LCT research (2021): Representative north west sample n=211

## Consumers are looking to Electricity North West to fulfil a perceived gap of providing trusted impartial information

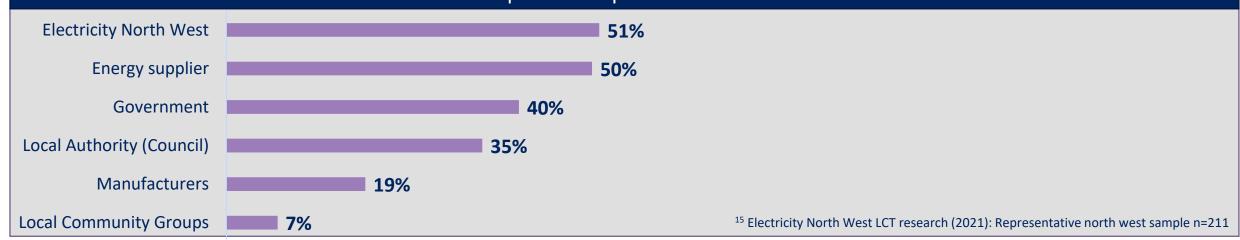




#### Barriers to adopting electric vehicles



#### Who is best to provide impartial information on LCTs?



## Low income households feel disempowered, and are looking for leadership to mitigate the risk of being left behind



- For older customers particularly there is a sense of guilt in terms of what is being left as a legacy by their generation.
- A disconnect exists between climate change concern and personal action:
- ☐ Focus on immediate household issues: job security; kids; surviving
- Experience of how long things like recycling take to get mass involvement
- Personal additional costs involved in acting early – ruled out by escalating cost of living and energy crisis



**FIRST MOVER**: "This has to be a collective effort – it affects us all but who starts it and how long will it take?"



**NO CLEAR LEADERSHIP**: "Who is taking the lead on this thing – is it the Government?"



**COST OF ACTION IS HIGH**: "It's all very well this talk about electric cars and heat thingy's but I cant afford them in the first place"



**EXCLUDED DUE TO HOUSING**: "Most of these new technologies are for new housing but I live in a terrace so where do I plug my car in and how do I get wall insulation"

As well as providing information, consumers want us to futureproof by removing network barriers

83% support from customers for our investment proposal

'Unloop' shared services (multiple properties using the same cables) where necessary to ensure that customers are not prevented from embracing low carbon technologies, such as electric vehicles.

A looped service is where one or more customers are connected to the electricity main with the same service cable, which limits the amount of additional devices that can be connected. Adding new technologies such as electric vehicle chargers can overload the service if they're all used at the same time.

We will identify where this is a potential issue and proactively unloop the service to 32,000 properties.

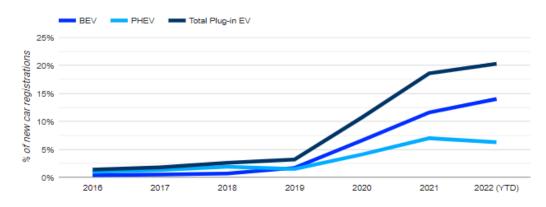
BENEFIT: Enabling customers to embrace new technologies such as electric vehicles.





# Domestic deployment of EV charge points, heat pumps and solar panels

Annual market share – plug-in market share of new car registrations (2016 to date)



Source: SMMT, August 2022



https://www.zap-map.com

Region	Number of BEVs registered -	Number of BEVs registered -	% Increase in BEVs
	2020	2021	
North West	7,005	21,993	214.0%
South West	11,554	27,964	142.0%
Yorkshire & the Humber	6,304	14,639	132.2%
South East	22,453	51,205	128.1%
Scotland	7,529	14,808	96.7%
East	11,152	21,038	88.6%
Northern Ireland	1,390	2,549	83.4%
East Midlands	5,793	10,047	73.4%
Wales	2,696	4,641	72.1%
London	14,735	24,908	69.0%
North East	2,323	3,574	53.9%
West Midlands	11,628	16,888	45.2%





Applications for low voltage generation have increased exponentially in the last 2 years

Increase in applications for large scale solar (30-50MW) and batteries (70-200MW)

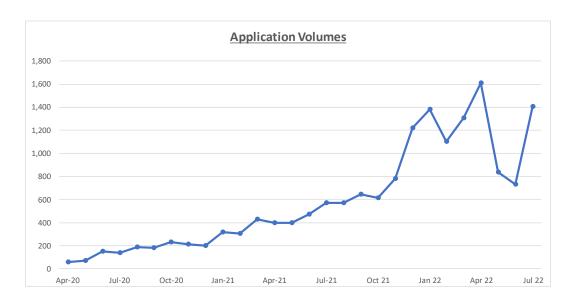
#### Domestic deployment of EV charge points & heat pumps

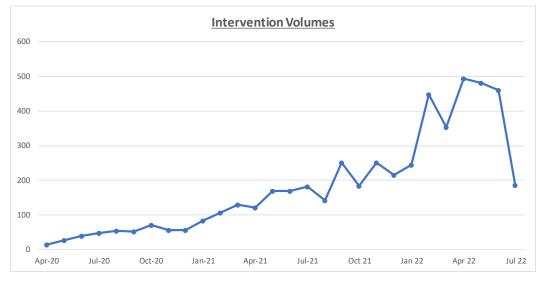


Volumes have grown significantly, with a strong bias towards EV charge points

approved; the remainder require an upgrade to the existing electricity supply to ensure it remains safe & reliable

30% required the customer and their neighbour to be provided with dedicated service cables given looped properties





#### What have we done so far?











#### **Funding**

**Approvals** 

Support to customers

Digitisation

For existing domestic properties, where an upgrade to the existing electricity supply is needed; this is funded from allowances and not by the individual customer

A further assessment is now done to understand whether the LCT installation can go ahead in association with load management as a temporary arrangement whilst we complete the work

Dedicated team
established to manage
this work stream, 30 FTE
increase over the last 12
months

Enhanced site surveys

Working with the ENA to digitalise the notification and application processes

#### The challenges that we are experiencing...



Customer awareness of potential DNO involvement

Affected 3<sup>rd</sup> parties

Sign-off of works at site survey

Requirement to access service cables under driveways

Internal works

Reinstatement expectations

Time to complete work

Installations with no notification to DNO

Notifications that should have been an application



Build customer awareness

Digitisation and automation of the application process to simplify, to resolve data integrity and to manage response times given expected growth

Evolve customer journey based on feedback and learnings from the challenges experienced

Development of engineering solutions and increased use of technology to minimise customer disruption

Manage the growth to ensure we are operating at the correct resource levels

Tender a contract to have a dedicated delivery partner reflecting specialism of works and expected growth

#### Roundtable discussion





#### **Round Table Discussions**



Even though we are seeing a massive uptake, we know people are still not engaged and are at risk of being left behind; so we would like to know what your views are...

- Did you know you had to tell us about a EV / HP / PV installation or your installer has to?
- If you've had an installation...
  - How hard or easy was it?
  - What would make a difference to the service to be easy?
- If you haven't...
  - What is stopping you?
  - What are your concerns and questions?



Q&A





#### Your feedback





#### Mentimeter polling



#### How to access mentimeter:

- Open your web browser
- Head to www.menti.com

- Use the code **617 727 66** to access polling (this is a different code to earlier poll)
- Please answer the five feedback questions to help us improve





Your feedback: We want to hear your views on this event, so we can make it better for you next year.

- 1. Overall how satisfied were you with today's event?
- 2. Which topic did you find most interesting?
- 3. What **topics** would you like us to cover at future events?
- 4. When planning future events like this, what should we improve?
- 5. Where did you **hear** about the event?



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