



## Electric Vehicles (EV)

SP Energy Networks recently published our Distribution Future Energy Scenarios (DFES) that will be critical to help us prepare for the decarbonisation of the transport network and help us to prepare for EV.

The DFES shows that we're likely to see hundreds of thousands of public and private electric vehicles relying on our electricity distribution network.

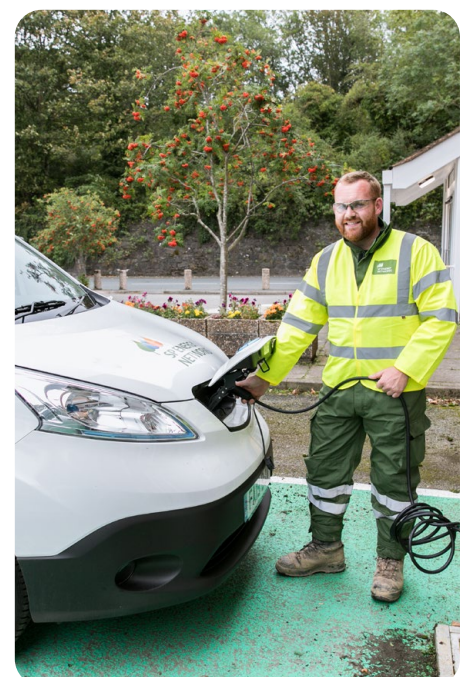
In preparation for this, we are continuing work on our electric vehicle project CHARGE that is creating an overall transport plan for our SP Manweb licence area and we will extrapolate those learnings and take into the preparations for EV in our SPD licence area as soon as possible.

We are also making great progress on our joint venture with Scottish Government to help facilitate rollout of EV across Southern

Scotland, and we are now looking at opportunities to take the learnings from this joint venture and set up a similar project with Welsh Government.

Whilst the COVID crisis has challenged our world, in an economy facing a major recession it is becoming increasingly clear that society wants to decarbonise, and wants fundamental change.

Government's solution will be to stimulate a "green recovery", which we see ourselves as being critical to delivering. We continue to work closely with all devolved local governments in our two licence areas to help facilitate their plans for a "green recovery".





## Heat

As mentioned above, we're at the heart of being able to deliver the much-needed green recovery for the UK, and the decarbonisation of the heat network will be part of that.

The journey to Net Zero has never been more important as we concentrate on a "green recovery" moving out of the current pandemic situation.

That's why we're continuing the development of our 2020 Network Innovation Competition (NIC) bid to Ofgem for funding for our Re-Heat project.

We already have suggested trial locations in Ayrshire and Shropshire, and we are looking for further options for trial sites across both our licence areas in southern Scotland and the Merseyside, Cheshire, North and Mid Wales areas.

We would welcome contact from any developer, local authority, social landlord or ICP who are interested in connecting a number of heat pumps onto our electricity distribution network so that we can look to incorporate the project as a trial site and extend the learning of the effect of heat pumps onto our network.

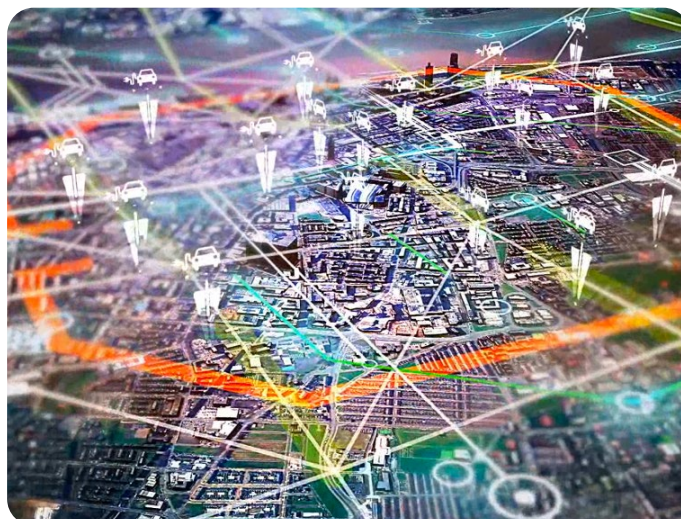
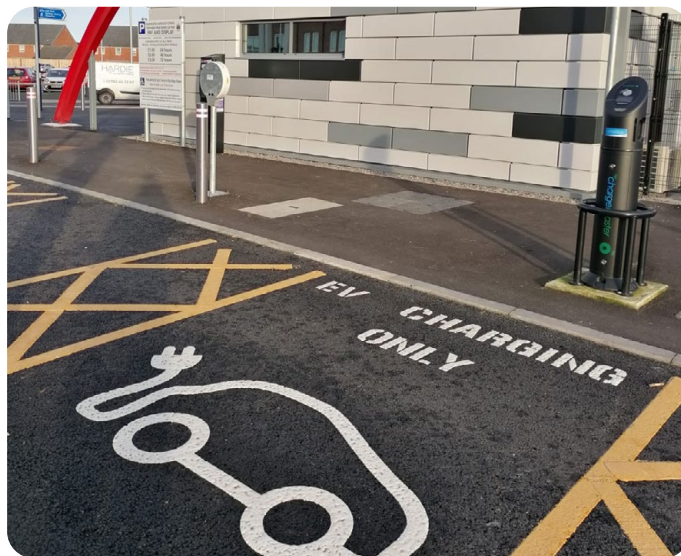
Please contact us on:  
[gettingconnectedupdates@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:gettingconnectedupdates@spenergynetworks.co.uk) if you have any suggested trial sites.

## Innovation Projects

Throughout June we have been continuing our involvement in two InnovateUK projects for the designs of Smart Local Energy Systems within our Manweb area.

For our Liverpool Multi Vector Energy Exchange (LMEX) project we are exploring how to appropriately monitor and control the network to deploy innovative solutions to manage this actively. This hopes to enhance the Visnet technology currently being rolled out on our low voltage network through Project Evolve. This technology is a perfect fit for the location of LMEX within the urban Liverpool area with majority of underground network.

Elsewhere in Warrington, REWIRE-NW continues to utilise our electricity input to create a digital blueprint of the area to identify opportunities to optimise the current energy system to create a credible pathway to Net Zero. Although this will be initially based in Warrington we are utilising electrical design expertise to ensure the findings of the project are capable of being rolled out to other parts of the UK in future. This sees the mapping of existing building types with infrastructure and future scenarios for EV and Heat to optimise the scale of decarbonisation opportunity.





## Policy Updates

Our 2020 ICE action on Policy Guidance has been developed to ensure that when policy changes are developed within SPEN, we also communicate these changes externally with our customers in a timely manner.

Following stakeholder feedback in our recent ICE engagement process, it was requested we offer customers the opportunity to comment on any policy changes prior to publication. With this in mind, we will introduce an additional step in our process to gain comment and feedback from customers prior to publication of new policy updates.

The policy documents that we are planning to update and re-publish this year are:

**ESDD-01-005 Distributed Generation Connection Requirements**

**SUB-01-018 Substation Flood Resilience Policy**

**ESDD-01-008 Technical requirements for Export Limiting Schemes**

**EPS-04-002 Policy for Disconnection and Removal of Company Equipment**

We held the first of a series of Stakeholder Policy awareness sessions on our new Earthing policy EART 03-003 on 25th June which was well received and has given our central engineering team a much deeper insight into the needs of our stakeholders. A version of the slides will be made available for all registered stakeholders in the next week or so. The success of this first session has redoubled our desire to share all relevant ongoing policy upgrades.

For any customer interested in being involved in the review process for any of these documents, we would like to invite you to contact our Stakeholder Engagement Team on [gettingconnectedupdates@spenergynetworks.co.uk](mailto:gettingconnectedupdates@spenergynetworks.co.uk)

## DSO/Flexibility

The change that lies ahead of us will not only be about connecting more wind, CHP and PV facilities above the 11kV network, but will be a customer-led revolution, increasing demand on our aging low voltage network and directly impacting our districts and operations at every level of the organisation.

All of this will transform the relationship we have with our connected customers, and will impact every aspect of our broader measure of customer satisfaction - placing new emphasis on dynamically managing local system security and operability. It will require us to be better at data and information management, and will all be underpinned by the digitalisation of just about every aspect of our business in the coming years - requiring new skills and capabilities

## DSO Strategy

If we are to make our grid fit for this low carbon future, the first major step will be to establish the DSO. We must find a smarter, more agile way of managing our network and that's why we're driving that DSO transition forward.

Becoming a DSO is an opportunity to get ahead and transform our customers' lives for the better - keeping the lights on (and the heating systems on in the future), but also enabling the communities we serve to reduce emissions and realise a more environmentally sound world, as well as new opportunities for employment.

We are proud to publish our recent DSO Strategy, please see further details on the link below:

[www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/distribution\\_system\\_operator.aspx](http://www.spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/distribution_system_operator.aspx)



## Partnerships on Innovation

CALA Homes and SPEN have been working closely together for well over three years now and since the 1st Homes Of The Future conference last year we have now moved forward with reporting on the monitoring data from some of our sites that have been running renewable technologies.

The use of a more wholesale approach to renewable technologies present different challenges, however by jointly collaborating our thinking we can best fit the network to deal with the impending regulatory changes.

There has been and will be various step changes from the Scottish Government that are challenging in both expectation and delivery. With our working partnership we are looking at these challenges and how we can overcome with more flexible network capabilities, which matches the aspirations to move to electrification of the heat network.

## Stakeholder Engagement

We are still welcoming various stakeholder's and with other expertise around the 'virtual' table, this helps to add the correct levels of experience, knowledge and understanding that is required at this stage.

This will be vital to ensure we fully understand the implications of the electrification of the heat network moving forward.

## The Next Step

Various desktop exercises to be carried out to review impact of different technologies to the existing network.

## Homes for Scotland

Recently set-up Utilities working group with Homes for Scotland which is a good platform to discuss wider Utility issues with the first joint meeting held virtually a few weeks ago. This has a focus on the changing regulations and how utility companies are looking to adapt the way they operate to work more flexibly towards new build developers.

This is a sea change in collaboration and partnership where utilities, developers and associations can work on regulations well ahead of release to ensure all challenges are reviewed ahead of release, this will accelerate the rate of innovation and the roll out of the governments Net Zero carbon targets, see the road map below for the challenging targets ahead.

