

Briefing

June 2021: Your quarterly update and briefing

Investing in our communities



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We need your support for £2bn North West investment plan

Over the past two years, we have engaged with more than 18,000 customers and stakeholders to develop our future plans for the region's power network. These plans would see us invest nearly £2bn in the region, but before we submit the final plan to Ofgem, we would like to know what you think?

You can see an [early draft of our plan here](#), and we'll be publishing an updated version on 1 July. Our £2bn plan for 2023-28 is based on what customers and stakeholders have told us and will help drive investment as we recover from the pandemic, help create green jobs and help us meet both local and national net zero targets.

Our three main ambitions in our Business Plan

#1: Customer: We will deliver a 9/10 level of customer service and also provide **additional support to electricity users in vulnerable circumstances and fuel poverty**, removing barriers to ensure that no one is left behind.

#2: Environment: We will invest to support all the requirements of our region to deliver a net zero future for everyone and we will **drive the transition towards local net zero targets**, following a path to making our own operations net zero by 2038.

#3: Network: We will reduce the number of power cuts and reduce the average time people are without power by 20%. The average number of power cuts per customer will reduce from one every four years to one every five years and average time off supply will drop from 25 to 20 minutes a year.

We are planning to significantly increase investment in the network compared to the previous five years to provide the service customers and stakeholders have asked for, all for less than the price of a cup of coffee on annual household bills.

Let us have your views on our Business Plan

We need Electricity North West MPs and Peers to tell us what you think and show your support for our ambitions. Please get in touch with electricity@devoconnect.co.uk if you can spare some time to give us your thoughts or if you have any further comments about the importance of this plan for the region and your constituents. Your support and voice will make a huge difference. Our draft plan goes to Ofgem on 1 July and we will submit our final plan on 1 December.

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We are Investing £20 million in the Green Recovery

Electricity North West is bringing forward more than £20 million of investment to provide immediate support for projects which will drive a green recovery from Covid-19 throughout its region. This investment is part of Ofgem's Green Recovery scheme, launched to kick start the recovery by speeding up the delivery of shovel-ready projects.

We launched a public consultation to help prioritise £15m worth of investments across the region and following the consultation, we've brought forward a further £5m so we can deliver a total of 11 projects, all geared to helping the North West hit its net zero carbon targets.

Look at where we are investing:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Strategic reinforcement of the network in the North Carlisle area 2 Strategic reinforcement of the network in the Lancaster/Forton area 3 Strategic reinforcement of the network in the Heywood/Birch area 4 Pre-Sense low-voltage network monitoring programme 5 Enablement works to support electric heating in Greater Manchester 6 Network reinforcements for EV charging hubs and on-street parking across the North West | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7 Service unlooping to support low carbon technologies across the North West 8 Strategic reinforcement in the Windermere lakeside area 9 Strategic reinforcement in the Carlisle/Morton area 10 Monitoring of high density low-carbon technologies in the Godley Green Garden Village area, Greater Manchester 11 Strategic reinforcements around the Mayfield regeneration project in central Manchester |
|---|---|

Why not come and visit?

Join us at one of our sites so you can see the work we are doing to power-up your constituencies.

We haven't seen you in person for a long while. The Covid-19 pandemic has made it hard for us to show you some of the excellent work we are undertaking to keep lives running and also the innovation and investment we are leading on. Now we are emerging from the pandemic it would be great to see you. We will be in touch with some dates and times for a Parliamentary visit to join us at one of our sites so you can see the work we are doing in your constituency. In the meantime, please email us on electricity@devoconnect.co.uk if you would be interested in visiting one of our sites.

Communities across the UK were involved in deciding which shovel-ready projects needed investment to drive the green recovery and deliver the government's 10-point plan to make the UK net zero carbon by 2050.

For further information, please visit
www.enwl.co.uk/greenrecovery

We are planting hundreds of trees!

Hundreds of trees have been planted on land surrounding an electricity substation as part of our new partnership with the Trees for Climate programme, working to create community forests in the North West. More than 370 trees have now been planted on land surrounding our Slack Lane substation in Westhoughton. As well as increasing sustainable UK grown timber, providing more places for nature and biodiversity to thrive, the newly planted trees will also help contribute towards the UK's net zero target of 2050.

Steve Cox, Electricity North West's Engineering and Technical Director, said:

'Substations are critical parts of the network which bring electricity to homes and businesses throughout the North West.

We have hundreds all over the region, many surrounded by land which can be utilised for community benefits such as the new community forests.

As the region's electricity network operator, we have a big role to play in providing the infrastructure to power electric cars and electric heating to reduce carbon emissions, we're always looking at different ways to improve the environment and offset carbon emissions and planting hundreds of trees is a great contribution.



The new partnership with City of Trees is extremely important, I'm delighted the first site is planted and we're currently working to identify more sites in our region where we'll donate the land for trees to be planted.'

In our business plan, we are proposing to plant 10,000 trees a year in the region from 2023-2028.



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electricity north west

Bringing energy to your door



'MAC' is ready to roll in Lancs

Age Concern Central Lancashire and the North West utility networks Electricity North West, Cadent, and United Utilities have forged a new and exciting collaborative venture alongside the Preston North End Community and Education Trust to reach and support greater numbers of older people across Lancashire.

The project is unlike any other and will certainly get people talking. In the form of a 7.5 tonne, 56 square meter vehicle, Age Concern Central Lancashire will hit the road to bring information and advice to the masses!

The Mercedes Atego van, secured through a competitive bidding process via Preston City Council, has had a £50,000 refit to convert it into a Mobile Advice Centre, which was paid for by the three utility companies.

And now after months of hard work; the vehicle affectionately nicknamed 'MAC' is ready to roll.

MAC will be used at supermarket car parks, community events and throughout Lancashire's towns and villages with a full schedule of locations to be released once COVID19 restrictions allow. Residents across Lancashire are invited to come and say hello and to ask Age Concern Central Lancashire about independent living, memory loss and dementia care, benefits advice and legal services such as Wills and Lasting Power of Attorney amongst a myriad of wider themes.

[Read more here >](#)

Joining forces with Flexible Power!



We have become the fifth UK distribution network operator to join Flexible Power which joins together Western Power Distribution, SP Energy Networks, Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks and Northern Powergrid. The move was a direct response to customer feedback calling for a simpler way to engage in the distribution flexibility services market.

Our involvement in the collaboration will further streamline the process for flexibility providers and make interfacing with Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) simpler and easier by avoiding the complexities and resource intensity associated with liaising with numerous network operators. The platform enables a direct path for providers to participate in flexibility on multiple networks. All five DNOs will use Flexible Power to signpost and operate all of their flexibility requirements, with flex providers able to view flexibility locations, requirement data, procurement notices and documentation published by all on a single, joint website- www.flexiblepower.co.uk.

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Powering up our Bright Sparks' Futures

We want to support the next generation of employees and the development of science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) subjects.

We launched Bright Sparks Online to provide curriculum-linked resources developed for KS2 to spark children's understanding about electricity, from electricity circuits, health and safety and why it is important to save electricity.

Our Bright Sparks project works to build knowledge of electricity, starting with the basics of electricity safety and sustainability, to building their own circuit using different components, before discovering the properties of conductors and insulators.

Take a look at our online resources [here >](#)

Making our Streets Smart

Our ground-breaking Smart Street scheme is about making homes and businesses more energy efficient. Customers don't need to do anything to benefit from the savings as the work takes place on our network and in our substations. By actively controlling voltage at different times we can reduce the energy used, saving customers money on their bills and reducing carbon emissions.

After a successful four-year trial we found a household's electricity consumption was cut by between five and eight per cent saving householders up to £60 a year on their electricity bills and cutting carbon emissions by between seven and 10 per cent.

Now, Stockport is the first area to have the technology rolled out more widely after Electricity North West installed a new transformer at the Alfreton Road distribution substation in Offerton.

Our business plan includes proposals to roll out the technology to 250,000 properties in the region.

[Click here for further information on Smart Street.](#)

£7m investment for South Manchester Enterprise Zone

We are coming to the final stages of our £7million scheme to create vital new capacity on the network close to Manchester Airport.

The project includes installing a new 33,000-volt substation and laying 30km of new underground electricity cables that will almost double the network capacity and power the rapidly expanding areas surrounding Airport City and Wythenshawe. The South Manchester Enterprise Zone scheme is set to complete next month with the team now working on the final steps, which includes connecting the new cables to the network.

The scheme is one of eight key projects that Electricity North West is embarking on as part of a £25 million investment in creating vital new capacity across the region.

Leading the North West to Zero Carbon plan, provides a further £39 million to be invested to ensure those living and working in the region continue to enjoy one of the most reliable electricity networks in the UK while smoothly transitioning towards a more low-carbon future.

[Read more here >](#)

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Coming up: **Powering Up Recovery: Summit**

POWERING UP THE NORTH: LEADING THE WAY TO NET ZERO

14:00 - 16:00 16th September

After the success of our Powering Up Recovery Series in Manchester, Cumbria and Lancashire, this September we will be hosting our Powering Up Recovery Summit.

This major Summit for the North West will bring together political and business leaders and our consumers to hear the key findings from the Powering Up Recovery Series and provide a pre-COP26 opportunity to discuss how the North West has harnessed the green recovery to boost jobs, skills and progress to reach net zero and where the future opportunities are to accelerate the journey.

More information and speakers to be announced shortly.

Sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/powering-up-recovery-summit-tickets-143696268407>

Want to find out more? Get in touch

If you would like more information on our plans and how we can help, please get in touch with the Electricity North West team:



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For more information on our future business plan engagement go to www.enwl.co.uk/engagementhub