

Democratic, Decentralised and Decarbonised Energy Systems with WPD

1 March 2018

10:00 – 15:00

Fazeley Studios, Birmingham, B5 5SE

Agenda

10:00 **Registration and networking**

10:30 **Welcome and introductions from the chair**

Jodie Giles, senior project manager, Regen

11:00 **Working with WPD for better future systems**

Ryan Kavanagh, network strategy engineer, Western Power Distribution

Find out more about the latest WPD innovation projects involving communities, and hear about how distribution network operators (DNOs) are becoming distribution system operators (DSOs) and changing to enable more democratic, decentralised and decarbonised energy.

11:30 **Linking local generation and demand**

Pete Capener, Bath and West Community Energy

Bath and West Community Energy, like many others in the community energy sector, have been trying to understand how they can continue adding value as the focus on subsidy subsides. Drawing on their experience and the strengths of the community energy model, they are looking to develop low risk approaches to strengthening the link between local community generation and local demand through new partnerships, community outreach and pilot projects.

11:50 **Local Energy trading platforms**

Andy Heald, Energise Barnsley/Gen Community

Energise Barnsley have applied to Ofgem's regulatory sandbox to test and scale up a new approach to households with solar PV selling what they currently export, directly to their neighbours. Using a virtual network, households could subscribe to a local trading platform, which is checked by the DNO at the local substation level. The DNO would inform whichever energy supplier the householders use, and the supplier would credit their account, for any excess generation bought off their neighbours. The 321 homes with solar PV who could take part in this trial are currently exporting 800 MWh per year. This trial could help households save 15-20 per cent on their energy bills, help prevent 'green envy' and spread the benefits of

local low carbon generation, whilst helping the DNO avoid costly upgrades to the network, which we pay for via our bills.

12:15 Lunch and networking

13:15 Interactive workshop

- What the shift from DNO to DSO means to you
- How we can best work together to achieve a more democratic system
- What you would like WPD to support you with in future

14:15 Community energy progress and possibilities

Emma Bridge, chief executive, Community Energy England

An update on policy, funding and the direction of travel for community energy.

14:30 Networking drinks

15:00 Close