



MARKET INSIGHT DECEMBER 2020 ❄️

Dear Colleague,

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of light, it was the season of darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair." - Charles Dickens, [A Tale of Two Cities](#)

The last month of 2020 has been some of the 'best of times' in the history of the UK's response to the climate emergency. In the Energy White Paper, the government committed to a smart and flexible electricity system based on wind and solar. The Prime Minister's 10 Point Plan committed to the end of the internal combustion engine in less than a decade as well as to a massive step up in electrification of heat.

The question for 2021 is whether this will be the dawn of an 'age of wisdom'. Ambitious commitments are great but, to coin a phrase, 'fine words butter no parsnips'. The government needs to follow up with specific policy measures to deliver change. The inevitable opposition from vested interests is more muted at the moment, but hasn't gone away, the housebuilding lobby has already secured a watering down of the commitment to zero carbon new homes.

One thing that is certain is that we will all have a lot of reading. There is a sense of the government machinery cranking into action and there is a huge range of policies and consultations due. Of these, the 'Heat and Buildings Strategy' and 'Transport Decarbonisation Plan' are perhaps the most significant. Look out for a Regen session on the review of renewables support released with the White Paper.

If you want to use the break to catch up on this scale of policy change... there is a wealth of insight in Regen's recent webinars and podcasts, including our [just released podcast on the Energy White Paper](#) and [EWiRE's 'Women Like Me' podcast series](#). You could also use the time to put in some dates for your diary including Regen's [Electricity Storage Network's Annual Marketplace](#).

From all of us at Regen, have a well deserved break and happy Christmas.

Merlin Hyman
Chief executive
Regen



Response to the Energy White Paper

The release of the [Energy White Paper](#), after over 18 months of delay, is the vital next step to provide the policy detail on the ambitions set out in the 10 Point Plan, Spending Review and National Infrastructure Strategy. Madeleine Greenhalgh explores.

[Find out more](#)



Scottish Government updates Climate Change Plan

Johnny Gowdy, Regen's director, reacts to the Scottish Government's update to the Climate Change Plan, which sets out, and reconfirms Scotland's ambition to lead the race to achieve net zero by 2045.

[Find out more](#)



EWiRE Podcast: Women like me

'Women like me' provides a glimpse into the lives of women from across the clean energy sector, celebrating their successes, as well as sharing their lessons. Podcasts guests include Sonya Bedford, Cathy McClay, Kayte O'Neill and Philippa Eddie

[Listen online](#)



Podcast: The Energy White Paper Powering our Net Zero Future

This next episode in our podcast series, Madeleine Greenhalgh and Merlin Hyman explores 'the Energy White Paper Powering our Net Zero Future' following on from the Ten Point Plan and the National Infrastructure Strategy.

[Listen online](#)



Hy to Hydrogen

Grace Millman, analyst intern at Regen explores the future of Hydrogen following the positive announcements from the Ten Point Plan and asks why this abundant element could be crucial in achieving net zero

[Find out more](#)



ESN Annual Marketplace Highlight

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Electricity Storage Network Annual Marketplace

26 - 28 January 2021

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On the 26, 27 and 28 January, we will be joined by leaders and key players in the energy transition for the Electricity Storage Network's Annual Marketplace.

Storage is often referred to as essential to achieving a net zero grid: the vital link that will enable decarbonisation of our electricity system. But these simplistic lines in speeches hide a hive of activity in the industry to deploy storage, to use it in grid balancing, and to ensure the long-term stability of the sector.

We're at the start of building a thriving storage industry – we have the opportunity right now to create a sustainable, secure, enduring sector that will get us to a net zero grid. This is the aim of the Electricity Storage Network, and forms the basis of all our discussions

and debates – all of which will inform and inspire this three-day marketplace, a regular annual event in the ESN calendar.

[Find out more and book online free](#)

Join us in January for this three-day series of eclectic content – hear from industry leaders and influencers, join a debate on the mineral supply chain, judge the latest in storage innovation or see National Grid's control room in action. We'll also have a lot of on-demand content so you can learn about those complex, techy parts of the industry – what exactly is NIV chasing? How can storage provide inertia?

Normally, we'd look forward to meeting you in person, but moving online gives us other opportunities to engage in different ways and make an event that's accessible for everyone.

Events

Local Authority Forum: Collaborating for a local green recovery

21 January

How can local authorities plan for an economic recovery that harnesses opportunities for the local energy sector and supports decarbonisation? As we look to 2021 and beyond, sustainable economic recovery is at the forefront of the national and local political agenda. Local authorities will need to collaborate with partners, including the energy networks, to deliver jobs and investment in their areas.

[Book online here](#)

Electricity Storage Network Annual Marketplace

26 - 27 January

Storage is often referred to as essential to achieving a net zero grid, the vital link that will enable decarbonisation of our electricity system. But sitting behind these ambitious declarations is a hive of activity in the industry to deploy storage, use it to help balance our grid, and to ensure long-term stability of the storage sector. We're starting to build a thriving storage industry – we have the opportunity right now to create a sustainable, secure, enduring sector that will get us to a net zero electricity system. This is the aim of the Electricity Storage Network (ESN), and forms the basis of all our discussions and debates, all of which will inform and inspire this two-day marketplace, a regular annual event in the ESN calendar.

[Book online here](#)

Leading the energy transition: Rhian-Mari Thomas interview

28 January

Regen will continue to host a series of in-depth interviews with key players in the transformation of our energy system. As we focus on how to come out of the coronavirus crisis and support the most vulnerable in our society, we are also considering the importance of a green recovery with the launch of the Energy White Paper and Ten Point Plan. This fourth interview will feature Dr Rhian-Mari Thomas, chief executive of the Green Finance Institute.

[Book online here](#)

A Net Zero Energy Future for the North – Building our Plans for 2023-2028

28 January

Northern Powergrid are running an event to discuss what they have heard so far, on decarbonisation and their role in supporting a green recovery for the North and how they are translating the views of customers and stakeholders into a robust business plan. This conference is for anyone with a keen interest in the future of energy, who wants to be part of their journey in the North.

[Book online here](#)

Local leadership workshop: net zero planning

9 February

Join us for an interactive webinar on net zero action planning, based on the findings from our recent paper [Local leadership to transform our energy system](#). This free online webinar is for local authority officers tackling their local carbon emissions, looking for guidance with planning a pathway to achieving net zero. In this workshop, we'll be sharing our research and recommendations on best practice for local authorities undertaking net zero action planning, as well as showcasing local authorities' further along in this journey as part of a knowledge sharing opportunity.

[Book online here](#)



Finally, we are proud to be a membership organisation and I invite those of you who aren't yet members to join us:

- Regen membership – [find out more or join here](#).
- The Electricity Storage Network membership – [find out more and join here](#).
- Bespoke local authority membership – contact hwilliams@regen.co.uk

If you are a member and have any job openings that you would like to advertise with us, please contact Hannah hstanley@regen.co.uk

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