

# Climate & Ecological Emergency Forum

17 October 2023, 6.30-8pm  
Guildhall, Totnes & via Zoom

## *Present:*

Cllr J Hodgson	JH	Totnes Town Council (Chair)
Cllr J Cummings	JC	Totnes Town Council
Maiken Hutchings	MH	Totnes Town Council, Sustainability Officer (notes)
	FB	Resident
	RO	Totnes Trust and Bridgetown Alive!
	BP	Totnes Climate Hub
	DL	Resident
	P	Resident (online)
Faithful Chanda	FC	National Grid (online from 19:05)

## 24/25 climate budget suggestions

The CEEF discussed the potential 2024/25 climate & green travel budget and come with some suggestions as to how it might be allocated: a food waste booklet; supporting Climate Hub outreach; NOx air pollution monitors; supporting Friends of the Dart; bigger outreach events. Further details can be found under item 4.

## Actions

1. MH to follow up with DL on reaching out to SHDC re reusable cup scheme support.
2. FC to send the group the contact details for the National Grid Local Authorities Officer.
3. MH to add Food Waste booklet to a future agenda for discussion.

## 1. Notes and actions from previous meetings

JH briefly ran through the actions from last week, most of which have yet to be completed.

There was a brief discussion around FB's diet flyer and related actions. This was agreed to be added to a future meeting agenda. It has been added to November's meeting for discussion.

- FB noted that we will be looking for guidance on how to get Councils to endorse the Plant Based Treaty. What is the process here?
- JH mentioned that it had been brought to SHDC last year but without success. She commented the new District Council makeup is probably more amenable to the project than before.

MH informed the group that the rest of the actions will be carried across for the next meeting.

## 2. Reusable cup scheme

DL gave a brief presentation on a scheme he is proposing for Totnes.

- Moved to Totnes in March and he has identified a returnable cup scheme as something the town could benefit from
- He is proposing a network of all coffee shops and cafes in Totnes
  - They all would use reusable cups for takeaway coffee which can be returned to any participating shop
  - Every day cups are picked up, cleaned and replaced. Redistribution and washing system.
  - This also allows people not to have to walk around with a cup after finishing their drink, which you do if you bring your own.
- This reduces the use of disposable cups
- Some initial costings he has made show that the price they would pay to participate in the scheme would be lower than what they pay now for the disposable cups.
- DL would buy in cups and distribute to shops
- Looking for feedback/input as well as Council backing, particularly with regards to up-front cost to get the ball rolling.

### Q&A

MH and FB both mentioned that Exmouth Town Council have just launched a scheme like this (which DL knew about) so there are case studies to learn from.

<https://exmouth.gov.uk/the-exmouth-cup/>

DL already has the contact details for their Climate Change Officer and is planning to meet with her to gain further insight.

### **Is the plan that the people collecting and washing will be paid? If so, where will the money come from to pay them?**

- Yes, they would be paid. Once setup costs sorted, coffee shops pay into the scheme.
- Currently the cost is 5-6 pence for operating the cup. The amount the coffee shops currently spend on single use is higher than this. They already also often provide discounts for those bringing in their own cups.

### **Could the scope be broadened to include plastic cups elsewhere, e.g., at pubs?**

- It would be good to extend beyond coffee shops, and also takeaway packaging.

### **How does it work with someone having to collect, wash and redistribute? Will the coffee cups end up in the right place?**

- Tech will be answer here. DL's background is in product design and tech development. He would set up a system that would track the cups.
  - On side of the cup you'd have a QR code, you scan it, it logs the ID of the cup. When you hand it back, the shop scans a QR code again.

- DL noted that once this system and tech is set up, he would make it open source to allow other places to replicate.

**If you don't have to pay any deposit on the cup, would people not just keep the cup or throw it away?**

- There are different ways to mitigate this, through 'manipulation' of consumer behaviour, e.g., through giving some sort of reward for bringing them back.

**Is it something that could be piloted on a smaller scale to begin with?**

- Yes, that is possible. DL noted that he is about to sign the lease on a shop and start a cafe at the old butcher's shop in Bridgetown.
- They will start the system

JH informed Dean that since this is a commercial enterprise idea, he would benefit more from speaking to South Hams District Council as they can potentially provide business support. Totnes Town Council generally only supports charitable/not-for-profits. DL was asked to keep the group posted on progress.

**ACTION 1:** MH to follow up with DL on reaching out to SHDC

### **3. Presentation by Faithful Chanda**

Faithful Chanda from the National Grid have a presentation to the group via Zoom. The presentation slides are included in the Appendix.

#### **Q&A**

**Is the grid able to keep up with the demand/supply for new windfarms, solar etc?**

- Capacity is an issue which they acknowledge, they are working hard to improve this
- A lot of projects in the pipeline, upgrading some of the infrastructure across the network.
- Grid constraints an issue but most of the issues actually lie with the transmission system.

**Is it correctly understood that NG is offering financial support to community energy groups?**

- They do not provide financial support by rather guidance, particularly in navigating the application process.
- FC noted that there is funding being released shortly. The Community Energy Fund will distribute £10 million to community energy projects.
  - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/communities-at-the-heart-of-new-fund-to-boost-local-growth-and-energy-security>

**There is a bit of a backlash against renewable energy, based on the number of new pylons that will need to criss-cross the country. Is it possible to have underground cables and would that get over the problem of the reaction to having countryside ruined by pylons?**

- There is a robust process of putting up new renewable energy developments and where communities are thoroughly consulted. NG don't normally get involved in this part. They do the technical assessments but not the public consultation.

**FC mentioned targets and helping the country work towards zero carbon. What are their targets for changing proportion of renewable energy?**

- NG released a business plan for 2023-2028 which includes the targets
- They are focusing on upgrading the system so that it is able to accommodate all forms of renewable energy. It also recognises that there are more and more EVs.
  - NG are putting in a lot of money to ensure the networks can cope with more EVs, more solar batteries, etc.

**Are we waiting for Hinkley C to go live before being able to add more renewable energy?**

- FC didn't know but said he can find out.

FC noted that if we would have a discussion around what the local authority is doing – someone has just been employed to work directly with the local authorities. FC will send their name and contact details.

**ACTION 2:** FC to send the group the contact details for the National Grid Local Authorities Officer.

The group thanked Faithful for his time and his presentation.

#### **4. 2024/25 budget discussion**

JH introduced the discussion. TTC has over the past couple of years created a Climate Change and Green Travel budget. TTC Cllrs will be budget-setting in November and December and there is a risk of the budget being cut. It would be useful for Cllrs to have an idea of what we would spend the budget on, should money be allocated.

#### **Diet flyer**

FB made a proposal to support the wider printing and distribution of the diet flyer. It was suggested to discuss this further at the next meeting when it is on the agenda.

JH mentioned that the budget discussions are for funding from April next year. This diet flyer could be a current budget discussion.

#### **Food waste booklet**

JH mentioned that previously DCC did a food waste booklet which included recipes on what to do with leftovers. It was really good and well loved. This might be an option to support. Totnes Directory often has recipes in it from Riverford. Maybe the Directory could do a themed issue around food.

**ACTION 3:** MH to add Food Waste booklet to a future agenda for discussion

#### **Climate Hub outreach**

BP came with a funding suggestion – the Climate Hub are trying to increase their outreach events. For this they need a gazebo and publicity materials. Perhaps this could be added as a potential for funding.

#### **Air pollution monitoring**

TTC have recently installed an air pollution monitor on the High St. This was donated to TTC by a local resident. However, if you want to measure the impact of traffic, you need to measure NOx which this monitor does not measure. It was suggested that TTC could purchase a NOx monitor to get data on traffic pollution.

#### **Friends of the Dart work**

It was suggested that TTC could support the very valuable work being done by FoD, e.g., through purchasing of water quality monitors, or whatever else the group are struggling to fund..

#### **Major outreach events**

In the past TTC have supported outreach events. For instance, it has recently support the Energy Wise Show in November which is supporting residents with cost of living and sustainable energy and heating. It was suggested that more of these types of events could be supported. ShareShed was mentioned as another valuable organisation to support.

## **5. AOB**

JH encouraged everyone to spread the word on the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan. More information can be found here: <https://www.totnestowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/neighbourhood-plan/>

**End of meeting 20:10**

Electricity  
Distribution

# Devon 132kV Network

Faithful Chanda  
Development Engineer (Community Energy)  
October 2023

nationalgrid

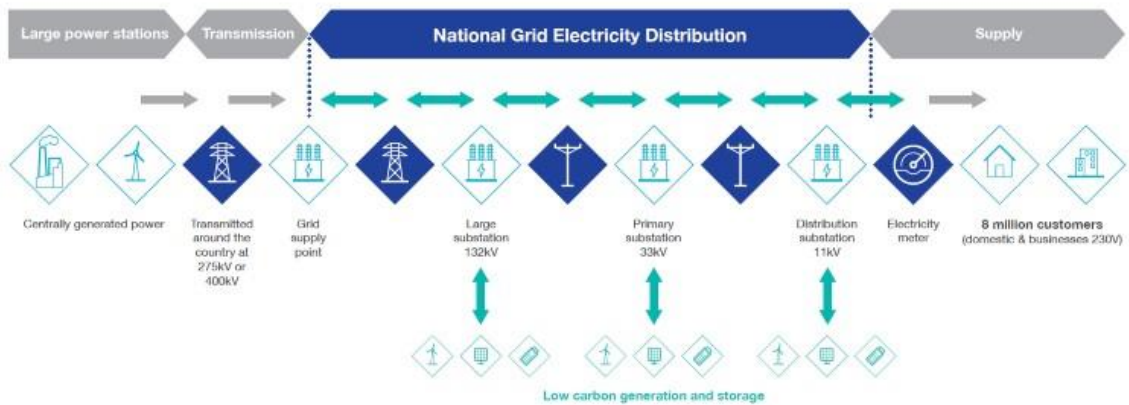


## Who we are

- We are part of the largest electricity transmission and distribution business in the UK
- We distribute power to **8 million homes & businesses**, covering the East and West Midlands, South Wales and South West England
- Our vision is to enable net zero, while continuing to safely operate a reliable network, whilst ensuring that this is affordable for our customers
- We will do this by delivering excellent customer service, by keeping the lights on and ensuring customers can have a connection when they want it.



## Who we are



National Grid

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## Who we are

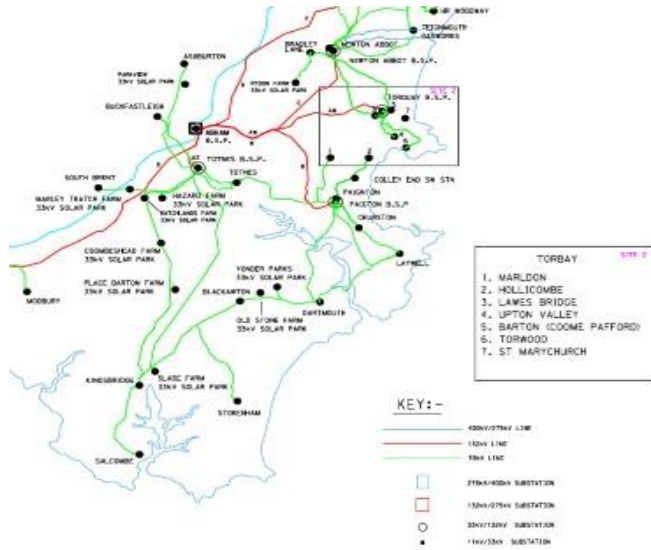
- The grid supply point (GSP) carries voltage transformation levels from the 400kV or 275kV which is stepped down to 132kV
- The bulk supply point (BSP) steps the voltage down from 132kV to 33kV
- A primary substation will drop the voltage from 33kV to 11kV
- The final phase is the distribution substation, which drops the voltage from 11kV to 400/230 Volts, which is the proper voltage that businesses and home owners use to run electrical devices
- This is distributed through underground cables and overhead power lines



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## Geographical representation of Primary Network



### Bulk Supply Points (BSP)

- Newton Abbot
- Paignton
- Torquay
- Totnes

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## Abham GSP demands

DATA DESCRIPTION	Outturn	Weather Corrected Outturn	F.Yr 1	F.Yr 2	F.Yr 3	F.Yr 4	F.Yr 5	F.Yr 6	F.Yr 7	F.Yr 8
Date of Abham Peak Demand	14/12/2022	14/12/2022	14/12/2023	14/12/2024	14/12/2025	14/12/2026	14/12/2027	14/12/2028	14/12/2029	14/12/2030
Time of Abham Point Peak Demand	17:30	17:30	17:30	17:30	17:30	17:30	17:30	17:30	17:30	17:30
Abham Peak Demand (MW)	248.06	233.05	236.87	240.95	254.10	261.46	268.66	276.03	284.50	296.86
Abham Minimum Demand* <i>(at time of GB Transmission System Minimum)</i>	81.69	85.95	81.65	82.11	82.24	82.35	82.53	82.84	83.35	83.62

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# Overview of SoW Process

## Statement of Works Process

- Generators connecting to NGED's Distribution System may have an impact on the National Electricity Transmission System (NETS).
  - SoW is the formal assessment process to identify any DG impact on the NETS.
  - The SoW process is set out within the Connection & Use of System Code (the CUSC).
  - DNOs have an obligation to make an initial assessment as to whether a proposed connection on their network is likely to have an impact on the NETS, and if so, make a SoW application.
  - 2 stage process:
    - ESO/TO will review SoW request and advise the DNO (within 28 days) on whether a full assessment, Project Progression, is required.
    - The full extent of any reinforcement works or impact on the transmission network would be advised following a Project Progression application (within 90 days).
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## Statement of Works - Current Status

Licence Area	Capacity Cleared through Appendix G to date (MW)					Going through PP	Awaiting PP
	Total	Of which Connected (Energised)	Connecting over the next 3 Years	Subject to transmission Reinforcement Works (pre-2028)	Subject to Wider System Works (2028)		
Abham 132kV	577	178	38	-	358.1	N/A	60.9

## Community Energy groups

### Support we provide....

- Provide direct support for community energy to help new schemes connect to our network
- Ensure the network can accommodate new community owned generation at scale
- Build community energy groups' capabilities to participate in, and benefit from, flexibility markets to help unlock additional capacity
- Drive innovation projects and access to funding for community energy groups
- ~99 Community Energy Groups in our region



## Upcoming events - November

You are welcome to the following events

- Net Zero Communities Event- 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023- West Midlands, Birmingham,

Registration link: <https://buytickets.at/regen/946440>

- Net Zero Communities Event- 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023 – South Wales, Carmarthen

Registration link: <https://buytickets.at/regen/946443>

## Get in touch



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## Q&A

