

## Welcome to our first Flexibility Services news update of 2023

Northern Powergrid aim to provide you with information that’s interesting and relevant, so we’re interested in your feedback and what you’d like to hear more about. Contact us at [flexibility@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:flexibility@northernpowergrid.com)

### Introduction to Flexibility Services

We are using flexibility services to help meet the increased demand for electricity. This is one of our key strategies for meeting the challenges of the net zero transition.

We are contracting with Flexibility Service Providers (FSP’s) to increase or decrease their energy consumption or generation at specific times and locations.

Our ‘[Distribution System Operation](#)’ (DSO) functions are key to how we will manage our network for the net zero transition. Flexibility Services are a key part of DSO, and Flexibility Service Providers are helping to deliver the low carbon transition.

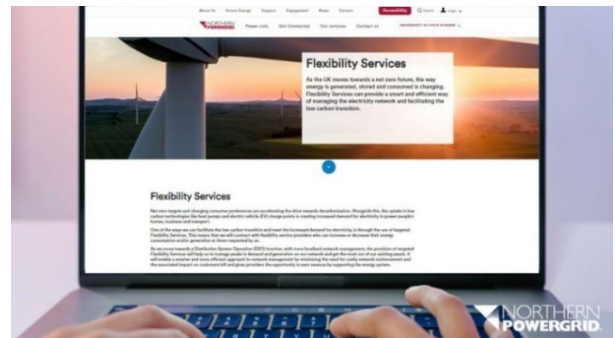
### Meet the team

Maurice Lynch, Head of System Flexibility, leads the team. Laura Brown and Liz Sidebotham are Commercial Managers whose role involves engaging with stakeholders and procuring flexibility services. Nicole Butterworth is our Flexibility Analyst leading on operation and settlement of flexibility services.



Left to right: Nicole, Laura, Liz and Maurice.

### New flexibility services webpages



The new Northern Powergrid [flexibility services webpages](#) are now live, and we’ll be adding more content. Do explore and let us know at [flexibility@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:flexibility@northernpowergrid.com) what else you’d like to see.

### Webinar on facilitating connections

We are aware that connections delays are an issue for some parties seeking to connect assets and provide flexibility services. Watch our [webinar recording](#) for more information about the issue and measures being taken to address this.

### EV baselining

The capacity (kW or MW) of flexibility service provided is calculated relative to a baseline for each half-hour. The baseline represents the expected normal demand at a given site i.e. what the demand would be if the service wasn’t being provided.

We have developed our EV charging baselining approach and published both the [methodology](#) and the [data](#). If you’re providing flexibility from electric vehicle (EV) chargers, this will enable you to develop a bid with a clear understanding of our approach.

## Flexibility services now operational



GWE Biogas won a contract to provide flexibility services in our 2022 tender round and the service is now operational.

The Yorkshire-based firm turns food waste into low carbon electricity. It has entered into a contract with us that will see the company turn up its electricity generation by 1.4MW at agreed times requested by Northern Powergrid and will earn revenue for providing this flexibility service. Read more about this [here](#).

The flexibility team went to meet the staff at GWE Biogas and find out more about the operation



## Flexibility services activities in 2023/24

Our first tender of 2023 is now underway and there'll be another round in the late summer / early autumn. We'll provide more information and key dates for our next tender later in the year. To be kept up to date with our tender rounds and the locations where we're looking for flexibility, join our mailing list by emailing [flexibility@northernpowergrid.com](mailto:flexibility@northernpowergrid.com).

## Community DSO – enabling local flexibility!

Northern Powergrid is leading the [Community DSO project](#) to develop a new framework for enabling Smart Local Energy Systems (SLES) across our low voltage network. SLES have the potential to drive flexibility and efficiency across the entire energy system by managing electricity demand and availability in local areas. They are an important tool to encourage the uptake of low carbon technologies that can support net zero transition, for example, domestic solar generation, EV charging, and heat-pumps.

The Community DSO project will develop and trial different approaches to identify how communities and local stakeholders can best work together with their local distribution network operator (DNO), to deploy SLES. The trials will take place in four local communities across our operating region, with both rural and urban networks

## Northern Powergrid virtual events

### [Distribution System Operation - New Quarterly Update](#) 7 June

April 2023 marked the start of the ED2 regulatory period and a step change in our Distribution System Operation activities.

We would like to invite you to the first quarterly DSO update where we will share our plans for 2023 to launch us on our journey and set out how you can get involved and benefit along the way.

### [Regional Forum](#) 28 June

We will be discussing the latest constraints on the Northern Powergrid network, how we are using new tools to facilitate more flexibility services, and how we are helping our domestic customers access the information, funding and advice that they need to decarbonise their home, ensuring no-one is left behind in the energy transition.