

The UK's gas and electricity networks are the lifeblood of our economy, proving an essential public service by delivering power and heat to our homes and businesses across the UK. Our economy and our society rely on resilient and efficient energy networks and network companies are investing in the wires and pipes of the UK, modernising infrastructure and creating the platform for the economy to thrive in a low carbon future.



Did you know...

the electricity and gas networks:

- Serve over **30 million customers**.
- **Employ over 30,000** people in every region of the UK.
- Will have **invested over £80 billion** of private investment by 2020.
- Have **reduced customer network costs** by 17% since privatisation.
- Have made the industry **10 times safer** since privatisation.
- Connected around **100,000 electricity** and **61,000 gas** new customers in 2015/16.
- Connected **over 28GW** of renewable generation and **over 80 green gas** plants.
- Have scores of more than **80% for customer satisfaction**.

Local electricity distribution networks:

- **There has been a 40% reduction in occurrence of power cuts over the last 15 year period.**
- **Quote for connections in under 5 days** and **connect in under 37 days**.
- Smart grids have a **potential of £13 billion** of Gross Value added, **£5 billion of potential exports** to 2050 and **8,000 – 9,000 jobs** over the 2020s and 2030s.

Local gas distribution networks:

- Have a track record of **99.99% reliability** and customers experience an interruption **only once every 40 years** on average.
- Provide **heat to over 85%** of domestic properties.
- Over **80% of peak energy usage** is derived from gas.
- **Play a critical role in tackling fuel poverty**, by connecting almost 40,000 fuel poor households since 2014, saving customers hundreds of pounds in fuel bills.
- Are well on course to achieving their target of **connecting 91,000 homes** by 2021.

Key areas to deliver a reliable and affordable energy system in the years ahead:

A structured and co-ordinated approach to infrastructure planning and investment.

The next Government must build on the work already underway to develop the Industrial Strategy, with energy networks at the centre of delivering its objectives.

A smart, flexible energy system that meets the interests of customers.

A collaborative, whole system approach towards the development of a smart grid and continued joint exploration of the challenges facing the sector, ensuring the greatest possible benefit to customers.

A heat policy that recognises the vital long term role of gas. Development of a heat strategy which takes a holistic view of the whole energy system and recognises the crucial role of gas in the future of our economy.

Support for innovation. Innovation has established the UK as a world leader in smart networks. The Government must continue to support innovation to ensure we build on this and make the most of an exciting economic opportunity.

A skills strategy to deliver the energy system of the future. Government should work with industry to deliver a cross-sector skill strategy to overcome a skills challenge which has the potential to be a barrier to a smarter energy system.



The networks play a significant role regionally and have forged and continue to build upon close working relationships with Local Authorities, universities and educational establishments.

To find out more about your local gas and electricity network operators and the vital role they play in your region and nationally, please contact:

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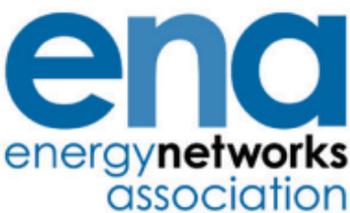
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Power cut? Call 105 for help and advice from your local network operator.

www.powercut105.com

