

DECC working group on community energy grid connections

Terms of reference

Responsibilities and scope

1. The working group has been formed to discuss issues around grid connections that are currently being faced by community energy projects, and identify the actions that can make a real difference to future community energy projects.
2. The working group has been convened at the request of the Secretary of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change. Ofgem has been asked to Chair this group.
3. The aims of the working group are:
 - a. Identify and explore the materiality of issues currently viewed as barriers by community energy projects. The working group will focus on issues that have the potential to affect multiple projects (rather than issues which only affect a single project).
 - b. Explore the drivers behind these barriers and where appropriate, identify those best placed to identify and take forward solutions
 - c. Discuss how existing best practice and regulatory incentives, as well as further measures, can reduce or remove grid connection barriers
 - d. Discuss and agree possible timescales for implementing solutions, including agreeing possible next steps for any longer term work to be taken forward beyond the working group. These will form the recommendations to the SoS
4. The working group may create sub-working groups to take forward more detailed analysis and to develop potential solutions. The membership of these groups will depend on the topic being addressed. The working group will make use of existing industry forums whenever possible.
5. Where issues are identified but do not fall within the scope of the working group, the working group will inform those parties who are better placed to look into these issues.
6. The working group will report back to the SoS in June/July 2014. The working group will set out the issues discussed, the possible solutions identified, and any other potential options for further work to remove barriers to grid connections identified by the working group. Conclusions and recommendations provided to the SoS will be those of the group.
7. Membership and chairmanship of the working group is by invitation and is voluntary. Discussion conclusions and recommendations of the group will not be taken as representing any individual members' final view on those issues under discussion.