

## **Workshop: Smart Energy Communities**

**Date:** November, TBC

**Chair:** Polly Billington

### **Summary:**

The purpose of the workshop is to build on the 5-point Resilient Recovery Declaration signed by the Taskforce and its submission to the Treasury for the Comprehensive Spending Review. This workshop will address the first, second and final asks in the declaration, covering finance, grid renewal and local powers. It will help the Taskforce refine the specific policy recommendations it has for national government to set the country on a path to Net Zero and provides a useful forum for the necessary engagement to develop..

Future power will be generated locally, and technology isn't the problem. We have smart energy storage solutions, but lack a pragmatic and integrated plan for decentralised energy systems at scale. Local area energy planning will be crucial to a successful decarbonisation of our communities and economy.

This workshop will ask: ' What is the role of local leaders in developing a decentralised decarbonised energy system?; What are the co-benefits for the communities they serve? ; What powers are needed at the local level and what are the barriers to the effective development of smart local energy systems that support our everyday life?; and How can we finance energy smartly and at scale in our communities and for their benefit?

### **What to expect:**

- 1.5 - 2 hour interactive workshop
- Dynamic expert panel
- Break away sessions for deeper conversations (opportunity for branded sessions)
- Output: 1-2 page policy briefing
- Output: insight will inform research piece, winter 2021

### **Model:**

- Invite only Zoom conference
- A series of remarks from panelists laying out the issues and challenges
- Sponsored break away sessions

**Invitees:** local authorities from our network and the [Resilient Recovery Task Force](#), cabinet members and senior officers, portfolio holders, our business partners, and key Zero Carbon Lab industry leaders and partners.

### **Suggested panelists:**

- Leeds City Council, Head of Sustainable Energy & Climate Change
- Greater Birmingham board member and Chair of Energy Capital



- Oxford City Council, Head of Environmental Sustainability
- Head of Sustainability and Decarbonisation, Ofgem
- Local Energy Lead, Energy Systems Catapult (**confirmed**)
- Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Head of Local Energy (**confirmed**)
- Chief Executive of Smart Infrastructure, Siemens
- SSE Enterprise, Managing Director