



ISSUE 1

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Introducing a new Energy Council Newsletter from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP

Hello, and welcome to this new Energy Council Newsletter, from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP.

I'm Andrew Brooks, LEP lead for energy, based in our Lincoln office (Covid-19 lockdown dependant). I will be helping the Energy Council and its chair, to develop its work.

I know we have had an unusual start, with the first meeting being cancelled, due to the Covid-19 lockdown. However we are not looking to slow down in the face of restrictions, but to do things a little differently in the short term.

Here's what you need to know in brief:

- We will be running a series of virtual workshops and meetings, until we are able to meet up in person
- There are proposed a couple of initial workshops over the June and July 2020 period, for you to engage in
- We are hoping to hold a face to face meeting on the 24th September 2020, but again this will be lockdown restrictions dependent
- Also do you have any queries, stories, tips or feedback? Send me an email at Andrew.Brooks@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Introducing ... the LEP Energy Council Newsletter!

I'm thrilled to share the very first instalment of this LEP Energy Council publication, our new newsletter focused on clean energy. I will aim to publish every quarter, during the current restrictions.

What's the Energy Council all about?

In the face of climate change, the energy industry is going through a massive overhaul. Corporate giants are trying to decarbonise. Electric vehicles are replacing gas guzzlers. Start-ups are pursuing new energy sources.

In other words...

There's a lot going on in the business of clean energy. All of these changes will affect the Greater Lincolnshire area, and the Energy Council exists to cover and contextualise this transition through a business lens. In short, the beat is the business of future clean energy.

It's new for us, so we're just gearing up. As always, please send along whatever feedback you have on this newsletter, or the work that you think we should cover in the future.

What has been happening then?

The aim of this newsletter is to keep you up to date with our LEP activities, which are relevant to business and energy. Along with everyone else, we are adapting the way we work to adhere to Government guidelines, but we aim to continue with our Energy Council engagement as far as we can.

Our extensive and robust business continuity plans are helping us minimise the impact on stakeholders. You can read more about this and the latest updates at:

<https://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/priorities-and-plans/covid-19/>

Since our last communication with you, the LEP Appointments Committee has appointed Duncan Botting as Chair of the Energy Council, following all of the of application submissions for the council.

In this intervening period for the LEP and Energy Council, I have attended stakeholder events from Western Power Distribution, and with Duncan for Northern Powergrid. Both Duncan and I have also attended future energy scenario planning workshops in both Leeds and Newcastle. Duncan has also been engaged in the discussions around the Industrial Decarbonisation Cluster, which include the Humber.

More recently both myself and John Henry Looney have been part of a virtual workshop held by Northern Powergrid around 'Digital Discussion Series on Innovation'.

I have also engaged with Western Power Distribution workshop of Future Energy Scenarios, run by Regen.

Proposed First Workshop

The first workshop that we wish to hold will look at the recent work carried out on open data. It was run by the Lincolnshire Open Research and Innovation Centre (LORIC), part of Bishop Grosseteste University, in March 2020.

This data discovery report was been prepared by the LORIC for Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

The purpose of this document is to:

- **Map out the existing open datasets for energy:** what is available as open data on energy for the nation as a whole, and for Lincolnshire County in particular
- **Mapping out some of the potential conclusions that can be drawn from that data:** what the datasets can be used for and how relevant would they be to the Lincolnshire energy needs
- **Identify the gaps in the open data for the sector:** what data appears to be missing from the sector and what the consequences of that might be
- **Identify some of the gaps in knowledge that come from a lack of data:** what data would need to be gathered for Lincolnshire County Council and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership to make strategic decisions on the energy sector
- **Gather information from key stakeholders:** what do stakeholders consider to be the key challenges for energy in Lincolnshire, what data do they use and need to make decisions, and how they perceive different stakeholders interacting with each other when addressing key challenges for energy in Lincolnshire

The report can be found [HERE](#), and starts with a quick overview of the existing strategies for Energy in Lincolnshire, including some documentation from the Greater Lincolnshire LEP and the Lincolnshire County Council. It then moves onto a discussion about what open data is available, from what publishers, and how up-to-date it is.

Due to the timescales of the initial report, it is not exhaustive, and does not analyse any of the open data available - but signposts the reader toward some of the pertinent documents and reports available. Further work on this topic has been produced by BEIS, OFGEM, the ENA, the Energy Data Task Force and Innovate UK under the 'Prospering from the Energy Revolution' Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund, specifically a call around 'Modernizing Energy Data'. All of them focus on opening data by making all (apart from national critical infrastructure details and GDPR for customers) datasets utility-based data 'open by default'.

We would like to focus our first workshop, around open data and digital innovations, and how these can be stimulated for the Greater Lincolnshire area.

A virtual meeting invite will be sent out to you for toward the end of June, and I hope the see many of you 'virtually' then.

STOP PRESS...

The second workshop will be the opportunity to engage and consult with Northern Powergrid, about their proposals to move towards a Distribution Service Operator, as part of their next contract period with OFGEM, from 2023. It will also be open to LEP Board Members who may be interested in this discussion.

Planning is going on at the present time to make this workshop and discussion session a great opportunity, and a meeting invite will be sent out for July for this virtual meeting.

We would look to run something similar with Western Power Distribution at a later date.

Information and Links

Data Best Practice Guidance

The Energy Data Taskforce, led by Laura Sandys and Energy Systems Catapult, was tasked with investigating how the use of data could be transformed across our energy system.

In June 2019, the Energy Data Taskforce set out five key recommendations for modernising the UK energy system via an integrated data and digital strategy. The report highlighted that the move to a modern, digitalised energy system was being hindered by often poor quality, inaccurate or missing data, while valuable data is often hard to find.

As a follow up to the Taskforce's findings the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Ofgem and Innovate UK commissioned Energy Systems Catapult to develop Data Best Practice Guidance to help organisations understand how they can manage and work with data in a way that delivers the vision outlined by the Energy Data Taskforce. To do this, the Catapult engaged with a large number of stakeholders to gather views and opinions about what best practice means for those working with data across the energy sector and beyond.

The guidance presented below has been developed in collaboration with a large number of stakeholders and is designed to help organisations and individuals understand how to best manage data in a way that supports the Energy Data Taskforce recommendations and accelerates the transition towards a modern, digitalised energy system that enables net zero.

The initial development phase has now finished and the live version is hosted on the **Modernising Energy Data Collaboration Space** where there are additional videos and resources. We are seeking feedback on the guidance that has been produced in order to assess the success of the project and help direct future developments. If you would like to provide your input please use this **form**.

More information can be found at the link below:

<https://es.catapult.org.uk/brochures/energy-data-best-practice-guidance/>

Government launches new £40 million Clean Growth Fund to supercharge green start-ups

The government is launching a new effort to support green start-up companies across the UK, joint-funding a £40 million venture capital fund to supercharge the development of next generation clean, low-carbon technologies.

The Clean Growth Fund will contribute towards the UK's plans to reach Net Zero by 2050 and will be accessible to UK-based companies driving green technology across the power, transport, waste, and building energy efficiency sectors. Potential examples of projects the fund could support include:

- energy storage and smart grid systems to bolster resilience in the power system
- renewable heating and ventilation technologies across homes and commercial buildings
- bio-fuels and bio-energy systems

With £20 million of government investment matched pound for pound by CCLA, one of the UK's largest charity fund managers, the fund could reach £100 million by Autumn 2021 through private sector fundraising.

You can find more information here -

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-launches-new-40-million-clean-growth-fund-to-supercharge-green-start-ups?utm_source=487bfc0d-72b1-4247-a7d9-9eaa84a1aa48&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Midlands Energy Hub

The Midlands Energy Hub (MEH) is one of five localised Energy Hubs throughout England set up by BEIS to deliver additional capacity and support to local energy strategies and projects.

It aims to address the capacity gap of local authorities and LEPs and improve regional and national communication channels.

There are nine LEP areas within the MEH area, each with a locally based Senior Energy Project Officer. Greater Lincolnshire's officer is Jack Hayhoe.

We hope to improve collaboration and knowledge sharing both regionally and nationally. This should reduce duplication, and ensure LAs and LEPs are the key actors in facilitating the transformation of our energy system.

Currently, the Midlands Energy hub is assisting with £180M worth of projects, such as heating districts, solar PV, energy efficiency upgrade schemes, EV programmes and many more.

Further to this, MEH also runs the Rural Community Energy Fund, which is a fund of £2M aimed to assist rural community energy projects through their initial planning and feasibility stages.

Lincolnshire Together Website

A new website has been designed which brings together both requests and offers of support across Lincolnshire linking the business community, health and care, education, and voluntary sectors (to include donations of food supplies) in support of the Covid-19 pandemic. For more information or to submit your offer visit www.lincolnshiretogether.co.uk

Coronavirus

- Visit [Business Lincolnshire](#) or call 01522 782189 for continued support to your Greater Lincolnshire or Rutland business
- Some businesses are being encouraged to cautiously reopen. Read the Government's plan for the next phase [here](#)
- Industry guides to support business owners to enable employees to work safely across a range of different sectors can be found [here](#)
- Feed business impacts into our [Business Intelligence](#) platform to help us continue to develop solutions with Government.
- Visit [here](#) to submit your details if you can provide masks, gowns or hand sanitiser nationally or locally to [Lincolnshire Together](#)