

# Local Energy Matters

*Covering the EPN region: December 2019 edition*

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## East of England energy news

### **Norfolk Council votes to support renewable energy bill**

North Norfolk District Council has agreed to support the Local Electricity Bill. The bill would give renewable energy generators the right to become suppliers to local residents and would cut generation costs. The council meeting held on the 17 December concluded, with a unanimous vote, to approve the motion to back the bill.

The motion stated “This council resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, currently supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs, which, if made law, would make the setup and running costs of selling renewable electricity to local customers proportionate by establishing a right to local supply”. The councillors supporting the bill mentioned that barriers due to the cost of setting up renewable generation have held back community scale renewable projects. In November, West Norfolk Council also voted on the bill, however the motion failed to pass. The Local Electricity Bill has been drafted by the campaign group Power for People in an aim to empower community energy groups.

### **Decision on Vattenfall’s Norfolk wind project delayed**

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has delayed its decision on the 1.8 GW Norfolk Vanguard offshore wind project and requested additional information from the Swedish energy group Vattenfall. Andrea Leadsom, Secretary of State for BEIS, had until 10 December to issue a Development Consent Order (DCO) decision on the project. Vattenfall has been asked to provide additional details on a number of aspects of the project, including measures to mitigate impact on bird populations in protected areas close to the wind farm site, noise levels during construction, and other aspects related to onshore and offshore work on the project. Vattenfall, Natural England, the Marine Management Organisation and a number of county and district councils have until 28 February to provide the requested information and a new deadline for the Secretary of State’s decision will be set.

### **Anglian Water completes solar energy project in Essex**

Anglian Water announced on 13 December that it has installed 3,312 solar panels at a water recycling centre in Jaywick, Essex. The project was completed with renewable energy company HBS and has sufficient capacity to power the equivalent of 200 homes. The solar panels will generate 36% of the site’s energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions by over 300 tonnes in the first year of operation.

David Riley, Head of Carbon Neutrality at Anglian Water, said “We supply over seven million customers across the East of England with water and water recycling services and the population continues to grow rapidly – in fact this region is one of the fastest growing in the UK and one that is at risk from climate change. Our challenge is to address this increasing demand for services sustainably, and it’s that challenge which underpins our ambitious renewable energy strategy.” Anglian Water has already made a 58% reduction in carbon emissions since 2010.

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## Other local energy headlines

### UK renewable generation reaches record 16GW threshold

The UK reached a new renewable energy record as wind energy production reached the 16GW threshold on 8 December. This 16GW production from wind energy provided 43.7% of British electricity, making wind energy the highest producer of electricity on the day. This was double the percentage of production of nuclear power (20.5%) whilst gas generation made up 12.8% and biomass generation was 7.9%. The previous wind generation record was set at 15.32GW on 8 February.

RenewableUK's Director of Strategic Communications Luke Clark said, "This new British clean energy record is a great early Christmas present, and shows just how important wind is in an energy system that's changing rapidly."

### PowerPaired platform launched to boost community energy

Forum for the Future launched PowerPaired, a new online 'matchmaking platform', on 5 December which aims to increase the number of community-owned renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across the UK. The platform, which is supported by the players of People's Postcode Lottery and Friends Provident Foundation, is designed to boost the sector, and recognising that finding suitable sites with a willing owner is often a barrier to starting a project. PowerPaired addresses this issue by matching energy groups with owners of land or property with renewable energy and energy saving potential. PowerPaired currently has over 100 assets from across the country on offer to community energy groups. The online platform is urging other asset owners to register on the site to help get more energy projects off the ground.

### Centrica and Citygate launch EV technology partnership

Centrica and Volkswagen dealer group Citygate announced an Electric Vehicle (EV) technology partnership on 2 December. Centrica has agreed to install the latest charging technology at ten Citygate dealerships across London and the south-east and help fulfil aftersales support on EV accessories and charging products, including home charging installations. The partnership will also collaborate on the development of an EV Centre of Excellence.

An on-site virtual power plant (VPP) will be installed by linking EV chargers and other large energy-consuming assets into a cloud platform so they can be turned down or off during times of high electricity demand. This will reduce the need for baseload power stations and help decarbonise the grid. Information regarding the impact of these measures and topics such as charging, energy tariffs, climate change, and air quality will be made available to Citygate customers and staff through training programs and educational material.

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**The East of England Tariff analysis is being moved online. A link will be included in Local Energy Matters once available.**

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### Energy:2030

Energy:2030 provides you with up-to-date news and insight into domestic and international market developments in the renewable heat, transport and electricity sectors. Energy:2030 will help you keep track of the steps our global energy industry is taking as it transitions into the future.

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