



First-of-its-kind platform launches in bid to boost community energy's role in achieving UK net zero emissions targets

PowerPaired will 'matchmake' UK community energy groups and owners of land or property with renewable energy and energy saving potential to deliver significant social and environmental impact

London, 5 December 2019 - A new online 'matchmaking platform' for community energy called [PowerPaired](#) launches today with over 100 assets on offer to community energy groups. In the context of a growing focus on climate change solutions and the UK's net zero emissions targets, PowerPaired aims to increase the number of community-owned renewable energy and energy efficiency projects across the UK - helping to put more energy into community ownership, potentially generating funds for great local causes and tackling the climate crisis.

[PowerPaired](#) is led by international sustainability non-profit [Forum for the Future](#) and supported by the players of [People's Postcode Lottery](#) and [Friends Provident Foundation](#). The initiative aims to boost the sector at a time of changes in policy support and following feedback from community energy groups that finding a suitable site with a willing owner is one of the most frequent stumbling blocks to getting a project started.

The National Grid is just one of the asset owners already on board, with substations listed as potentially viable sites for hosting community-owned renewables projects. Other registered asset owners include Oldham Council, Suffolk County Council, Aster Homes and St Mungo's Charity.

The online platform is urging the owners of assets such as land and buildings and community energy groups to register on the site so that more community-owned energy projects can get off the ground. Community energy offers asset owners the chance to host renewable energy and energy saving projects at no upfront cost - whilst bringing down their carbon emissions, potentially saving them money and improving their relationships with local communities.

Alongside matchmaking, the PowerPaired website will signpost users to a range of support tools to assist them, including legal template documents provided by partner Pure Leapfrog and support from agencies such as Community Energy England and regional BEIS funded Energy Hubs. Pure Leapfrog is also providing information for asset owners about potential structures and models and assisting groups where there is potential for a new business model or specific advice is needed.

Rebecca Lawson, PowerPaired Project Lead at Forum for the Future, said: *"We're delighted that such an amazing array of organisations are already on board for the launch of PowerPaired."*

There are currently over 100 assets from across the country on the platform - from offices and industrial estates to schools, churches, libraries and homeless shelters. Successful projects will help communities take control of their energy, save money and tackle the climate crisis - all at the same time."

National Grid's recently-launched [Future Energy Scenarios](#) report depicts four potential pathways for the UK's energy system over the next 30 years, with one - entitled Community Renewables - set to achieve 80% of the UK's decarbonisation target. According to the findings, 58% of the UK's energy could be generated by local communities, if a number of conditions are met.

The utility company's support for PowerPaired is part of a wider set of activities to support communities. National Grid also provides funding for energy efficiency, enabling consumers to understand their energy usage and regenerating local environments.

Nicky Conway, Sustainability Manager at National Grid said: *"National Grid believes that community-owned renewable energy is a key part of the puzzle when it comes to empowering consumers to take more control over how their energy is generated and used and reducing carbon emissions.*

We encourage local community groups to sign up to the PowerPaired platform so we can start to explore new projects together, and asset owners to register their own sites so we can really start seeing more movement in this space."

PowerPaired aims to provide a boost to the number of community energy projects being developed. Community Energy England's [recent](#) report highlighted the Feed-in Tariff (FiT) coming to an end - with details of new export tariffs still being finalised - as one of the reasons why new projects were very thin on the ground in 2018 - the sector's toughest year yet.

Emma Bridge, CEO of Community Energy England, said: *"We're seeing a lot of resilience and determination in the community energy sector, which is made up of passionate people who are focused on making fairer, greener energy a reality for their local communities. New business models are being developed and there is a need for innovation, as well as new partner organisations such as local authorities, businesses and schools.*

This tool developed by Forum for the Future efficiently facilitates these vital new partnerships. National Grid's addition of assets to the platform demonstrates their willingness to innovate and work with communities. We applaud these innovations from both organisations and we're thrilled to see such widespread support for PowerPaired. We look forward to seeing the initiative develop and new partnership flourish over the coming months and years."

Will Humpington, Climate Change and Environmental Programmes Advisor at People's Postcode Lottery, said: *"I'm delighted that funding raised by players is helping to support PowerPaired. This is a hugely innovative and exciting project which is set to make a big difference to communities who would like to generate their own energy."*

To register an asset or to look for one for your local community, go to www.powerpaired.org.

ENDS

For more information on PowerPaired, or to arrange interviews with Rebecca Lawson, Principal Sustainability Advisor at Forum for the Future, please contact Ulrike Stein at 0790 358 1400 or u.stein@forumforthefuture.org.

NOTES TO EDITORS

About Forum for the Future

[Forum for the Future](#) is a leading international sustainability non-profit with offices in London, New York, Singapore and Mumbai. We specialise in addressing critical global challenges by catalysing change in key systems.

For over 20 years, we've been working in partnership with business, governments and civil society to accelerate the shift toward a sustainable future. Together we are reinventing the way the world works. Find out more at www.forumforthefuture.org or by following @Forum4theFuture on Twitter

About People's Postcode Lottery

People's Postcode Lottery manages multiple society lotteries promoted by different charities and good causes. People play with their chosen postcodes for a chance to win cash prizes. A minimum of 32% from each subscription goes directly to charities and good causes across Great Britain and internationally - players have raised £500 million so far. For details of the charities and good causes which are promoting and benefitting from the lottery draws, please visit <https://www.postcodelottery.co.uk/good-causes/draw-calendar>

It costs £10 a month to play and winning postcodes are announced every day. The maximum amount a single ticket can win is 10% of the draw proceed. For details, please visit www.postcodelottery.co.uk/prizes

New players can sign up to pay using direct debit by calling 0808 10 9 8 7 6 5. New players who sign up online at www.postcodelottery.co.uk can pay using direct debit, debit card or PayPal.

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About Pure Leapfrog

[Pure Leapfrog](#) is a UK charity which aims to provide all communities with the opportunity to own, generate and benefit from clean, green power and the capacity to work together to reduce energy demand.

To achieve its mission, Pure Leapfrog focuses on reducing the financial and non-financial barriers faced by communities in accessing cleaner, more efficient energy sources and enabling local social and environmental impact in deprived areas.

About Community Energy England

[Community Energy England \(CEE\)](#) is a not for profit organisation that represents and supports those committed to the community energy sector. CEE was established by the sector to provide a voice for community energy and to help create the conditions within which it can flourish. This is done by increasing the profile of community energy, sharing best practice and by advocating for supportive policies at national and local levels.

About National Grid

[National Grid](#) is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish

networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.

- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.