

Distributed Energy:

An opportunity for Councils

APSE Energy workshop, taking place at Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, 108 Stamford Street, South Bank, London, SE1 9NH. Monday 15 December 2014



15 December 2014

12.00 p.m. Arrival, registration and lunch

12.45 p.m.

Introduction from the Chair

Councillor Van Coulter, Oxford City Council

1.00 p.m.

Introduction from APSE Energy

- What do we mean by Municipalisation of Energy?
- Emerging options for supply and retail
- The role of APSE Energy

Speaker: Mark Bramah, Director of APSE Energy

1.20 p.m.

Shifting the balance – The future for distributed energy

- OVO's vision for community energy – decentralisation and supply options
- Becoming an energy services provider – A virtual energy company
- Working in partnership – Opportunities for local authorities

Speaker: Reg Platt, Senior Partnerships Manager, OVO Energy

2.00 p.m.

Questions and discussion session

2.30 p.m.

Ambitious councils

- The role of the Council in tackling energy needs
- Building capacity and partnerships for change
- Our future ambition

Speakers: Jeremy Martin, Southend-On-Sea Borough Council, London Boroughs of Harrow and Barking and Dagenham (Invited)

3.15 p.m. Refreshments

3.30 p.m.

Group discussion topics

- Becoming a retailer – What are the options?
- Back office and billing – Do you want the hassle?
- Buying and selling energy – A risky business?
- What could get in our way – State aid and competition rules?
- Community energy and local authorities

4.00 p.m.

Feedback and conclusions

- Issues and actions
- Working with OVO
- Next steps

4.30 pm Departure

Aims and objectives:

We used to know what kind of organisation an 'energy company' was. Whether that was a nationalised or privatised utility. But this understanding is increasingly becoming less relevant as energy companies diversify and new entrants to the market emerge. Distributed energy provides opportunities to redefine the energy market for the future, a future in which local government will play an increasingly important role.

Already major changes are underway in the energy market and the era of dominance by the 'Big 6' energy companies may be coming to an end. OFGEM has referred the energy market to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), calling into question the vertical integration that exists in the industry. Citi Bank has projected that independent energy companies will supply over 30 per cent of the residential market by 2020, up from under 1 per cent in 2008.

A report by the Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) in July set out how cities and smaller councils can benefit from the changes that are happening in the energy sector. It identified the opportunity for councils to become involved in the supply of energy to their local residents and raise finance for investment in low-carbon energy infrastructure – particularly in local energy generation

Responding to these trends, OVO Energy has launched a new platform, called Ovo Communities, to support local authorities that wish to engage in the energy market. Building on the direction set out in the Government's Community Energy Strategy, the platform enables councils, community groups and housing associations to create their own virtual energy company that can coordinate their various energy related activities. The company has suggested that 500 local energy companies could be doing business in the UK by 2020.

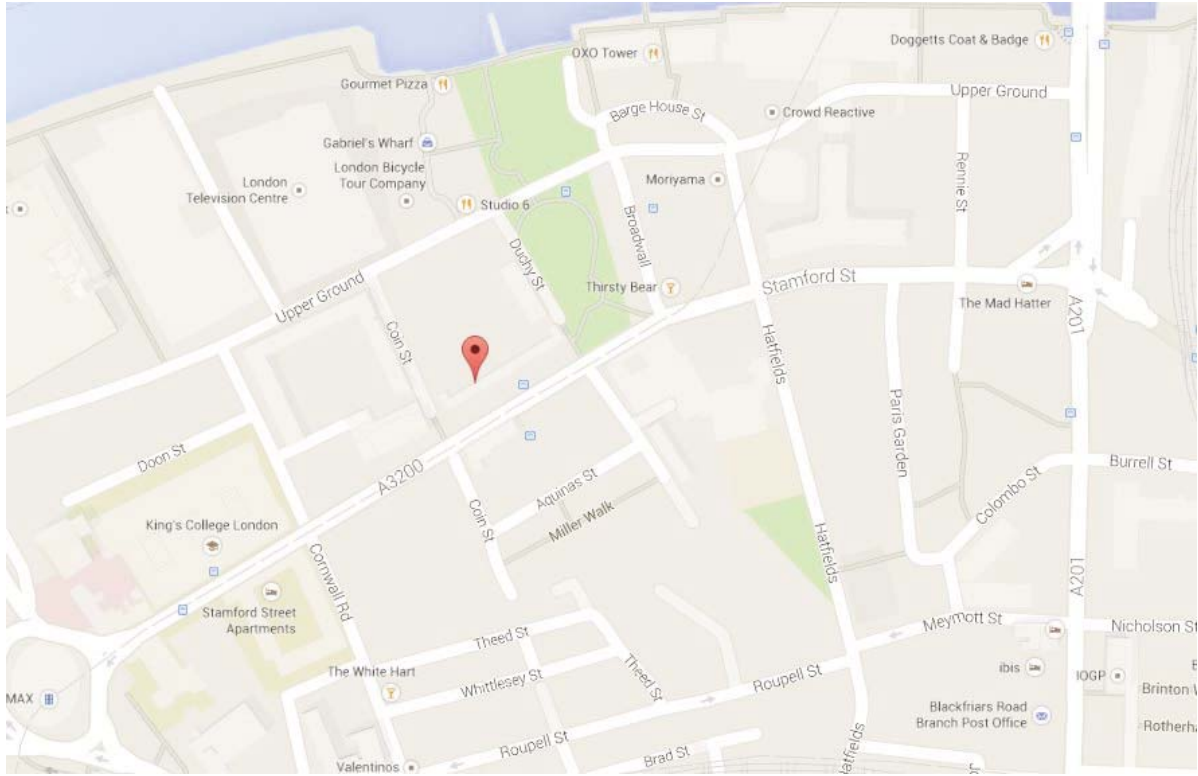
Local authorities are already seeing the potential. Councils such as Bristol and Glasgow have announced plans to become energy providers. Plymouth Energy Community, which was set up by Plymouth Council, has announced it will be the first organisation to set up a local energy company using the Ovo Communities platform.

This workshop with Reg Platt from OVO Energy and the author of the IPPR report will provide an excellent opportunity for members of APSE Energy and other local authorities to consider the issues involved in setting up a local energy company. The workshop will focus in particular on exploring the emerging options for engaging in the supply of energy with case studies looking at the ambitions for Scottish councils.

The Venue

Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre

108 Stamford Street, South Bank, London, SE1 9NH



How to find the venue

Tube

Waterloo (Northern, Bakerloo & Jubilee lines) 5 minutes walk
Southwark (Jubilee line) 7 minutes walk
Blackfriars tube is currently closed while the new Blackfriars South Bank station is created.

Train

Blackfriars, Waterloo or Waterloo East

Boat

Blackfriars Millennium pier or Festival pier

Car

Whilst we encourage travel by public transport, there is 24-hour secure underground car park adjacent to the centre, operated by APCOA.

Who should attend?

Chief Executives

Council leaders and elected members

Corporate Directors and Heads of Service

Sustainability and Climate Change Officers

Energy Managers

Policy officers

Trade Unions

This is a free event for APSE Energy, APSE member authorities and Trade Union representatives. Although the seminar is free of charge for members of APSE and APSE energy, if a reservation is made and the delegate does not attend, then the council/organisation will incur a £50 charge plus VAT. This is to cover costs that APSE has incurred from the workshop venue.

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INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Booking form

APSE energy workshop, Coin Street Neighbourhood Centre, 15 December 2014

Office Use

Del#.....

DB:.....

Conf:.....

main contact name: _____ authority: _____

address: _____

post code: _____

telephone: _____ fax: _____ email: _____

Please detail here any special dietary/access requirements for the delegates listed below:

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APSE issues a written confirmation for all delegate bookings received. If you have not received your confirmation letter within 5 working days of sending your booking form, then please contact APSE on 0161 772 1810.

Payment information

This event is FREE to attend for members of members of APSE, APSE Energy and affiliated organisations. This includes a full delegate place and information, arrival coffee and registration, mid-morning break and lunch. The workshop will allow delegates to network over lunch.

Members of APSE, APSE Energy and affiliated organisations: - Free to attend

Please note that reservation is a contract.

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Delegate name	Delegate position	Delegate email

Please return completed form to Alastair Holcroft, APSE, 2nd floor Washbrook House, Lancastrian Office Centre, Talbot Road, Old Trafford, Manchester M32 0FP
or fax direct to: 0161 772 1811 Telephone: 0161 772 1810 - E-mail: aholcroft@apse.org.uk