

Equity in the Net Zero Transition

The following problem statement has been developed by the innovation teams within the UK's Gas and Electricity Networks for the 2024 Energy Innovation Basecamp.

Theme: The Consumer Journey to Net Zero

Network Areas: Electricity Distribution, Gas Distribution

What is the problem?

Discontinuities like the energy system transition favour those with the capital, knowledge or connections to survive and profit from the change; this will disadvantage the majority of the population. The majority of the population do not have access to the resources to participate beneficially in the energy system transition (EST).

What are we looking for?

Identification of new technologies and new systems of technologies to address physical inequity, and identification of new funding methods and commercial offerings to address physical inequity. Rollout timescales will depend on the solution type and the rollout logistics that imposes.

Consider:

- What new technical solutions will address heating, energy production and energy storage for those where the present technical resources do not match the requirement? (e.g., where there is no room for a heat pumps of any sort)?
- What new financial solutions will address energy needs for those where the present financial resources do not match the requirement (including ways of funding the technical solutions above)?
- What technical solutions might reduce the overall energy costs?

What are the constraints?

The solution must not hinder the energy system transition; the solution must encourage broad societal support for and uptake of the energy system transition. The solution will need to consider technical, economic and social aspects of adoption across different demographics.

Who are the key players?

Upwards of 50% of GB energy users.

Does this problem statement build on existing or anticipated infrastructure, policy decisions, or previous innovation projects?

Previous network projects in this area can be found on the [ENA Smarter Networks Portal](#).

What else do you need to know?

Note that this problem statement has been carried over from the 2023 Basecamp.

Innovator submissions to this problem statement will be open [here](#) during March and April, but we encourage you to submit your response as early as possible, as networks will be able to review submissions as soon as they come in.

You can also use the virtual Q&A on the Smarter Networks Portal to ask for more information about this problem statement. Questions may be answered online or at the ENA Problem Statement Launch in March 2024. More information on last year's Basecamp programme can be found [here](#).