



5 Core Principles for Energy in the East of England

House of Commons Reception

Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity



Education, Skills and Job Creation



Economic Prosperity

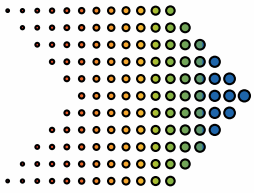


Growth of the Supply Chain



Regional Engagement





Foreword

This document outlines 5 Core Principles, which the East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) believes will establish a new way forward for energy in the East of England.

We have worked with local authorities and many other key regional stakeholders to arrive at this point. We are delighted that Peter Aldous MP has supported us to produce this document and thank him for holding the House of Commons Reception on our behalf.

EEEGR has been a voice for our members and stakeholders in the energy industry in the East of

Kevin BP Keable
Chair, East of England Energy Group

England for nearly 25 years. We wish to continue to be that voice, and also the eyes and ears of the industry. EEEGR is most effective when those members and stakeholders join forces and work together for the good of their businesses and the region as a whole. We appreciate the time and effort our members and supporters all put in.

As we move forward, please engage with us. Together we will keep the East of England energy industry firmly on the UK and global map.

Introduction

Energy Security and Net Zero in the East of England

The East of England stands at the forefront of the UK's energy landscape, boasting a diverse range of commercial energy generation sources, including nuclear power, natural gas, onshore and offshore wind, solar and biomass. It hosts 47 NSIPS – more than anywhere else in the country – to power the UK and deliver better, faster, greener, fairer and more resilient results.

Our region holds immense potential, with access to world-class gas reservoirs for CO2 storage and exceptional facilities for hydrogen production. The East of England is proud of its robust [competitive on a collaborative framework] supply chain, full of high tech, high performing companies with a global presence and even hosts a world leading geothermal company, defining the region's status as an energy stronghold.

The region's pivotal role in the energy transition is exemplified by Bacton Terminal, which in recent times has handled up to 30% of the UK's gas supplies. Bacton Terminal has the potential to become a hub for the production of low-carbon

hydrogen, enabled by carbon capture and storage, which could help decarbonise homes and businesses in south-east England. In January 2024, Sizewell B achieved the milestone generating more than 250TW of electricity, enough to power all of Suffolk's homes for nearly two centuries. Sizewell C promises even greater output – more than 3GW.

With over 1,000 wind turbines currently installed, capable of producing 5GW of electricity and an additional 10GW in the pipeline, the East of England is poised for substantial growth. The Great Grid Upgrade by National Grid Electricity Transmission is a vital step toward delivering low-carbon electricity efficiently to our homes, businesses and public services. Collaboration with the Future System Operator is crucial for optimising our region's electricity distribution management.

The East of England is and will remain a UK hub for clean energy growth with strong international links to Europe and beyond.



Government Support for Our Goals

To realise our vision of a decarbonised or low carbon region, we call upon the government to:

Establish a stable fiscal policy to boost investor confidence and project progression.

Provide stable and predictable regulations and policy mechanisms that foster investor confidence and support energy security and the UK's progress on meeting its decarbonisation targets.

Collaborate with National Grid and Distribution Network Operators to explore innovative power solutions for constrained areas.

Review regulations and legislation to facilitate the progress of innovative projects.

Invest in innovation and skills, exploring data sharing, new tools and learning across the East to develop projects that can be replicated at scale.

Invest in the long term to develop assets in order to facilitate manufacturing and investment into the UK.



Throughout all of our efforts we will actively promote equality, diversity and inclusion across the energy sector, through skills initiatives and supply chain interactions.

E

Environment, Sustainability and Biodiversity



As we transition towards a low-carbon future, it is imperative that we recognise environmental sustainability in the East of England. This includes promoting biodiversity and ecosystems, raising awareness across industries and the supply chain, integrating biodiversity into strategic decision making. We must take measures to safeguard, and enhance, our natural lands and wildlife. Onshore infrastructure will need to be designed carefully, minimising the impact and being sensitive to place. Demonstrating innovative approaches to biodiversity net gain and where possible delivering wider environmental benefits such as reducing flood risk, improving air and water quality, enhancing landscapes and climate adaptation.

Leveraging the expertise of skilled companies and academia, we should conduct innovative and comprehensive studies of marine conditions to support offshore technologies and related

infrastructure. Any such exercise should complement and support work that is under way at a national level.

Alongside an imperative need to deliver our sustainable development targets for Net Zero, we must protect our marine biodiversity and comply with new legislation on biodiversity net gain, expected in 2024. Our region's rich marine science resources and local supply chain experts are well-equipped to contribute to this endeavour but this can only happen where growth and opportunity support innovation. It is essential that investment and therefore innovation in biodiversity enhancement are encouraged.

Initiatives such as the Southern North Sea Integrated Habitat Restoration and Marine Renewable Round provide tangible evidence of our commitment to sustainable development in tandem with increased renewable energy production.

E

Education, Skills and Job Creation



The transition to a low-carbon East of England necessitates a diverse skill set across industries, including reskilling and upskilling the existing workforce.

To achieve this, we pledge to nurture green skills through school outreach initiatives, industry pathways and an online careers hub in collaboration with Skills for Energy. Social mobility programmes will ensure equal opportunities for our local talent.

A clear roadmap to transition skilled personnel from gas production and other sectors into sustainable technologies is paramount to creating a versatile workforce, capable of pursuing cross-industry careers.

Strong partnerships are essential between industry and academic/training institutions covering the

complex skills ecosystem; using inspirational activities in schools and colleges we will be able to attract the future workforce. This will be essential to craft relevant apprenticeships and cultivate a highly skilled workforce. Supporting and promoting adult retraining and transition into the energy sector is key, with transferable skills being at its core.

Incorporating innovative technology like Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality can enhance learning efficiency in both academia and the workplace. We must support wider work which enables employers to embrace inclusive recruitment and staff retention activities whilst promoting higher technical skills that have been identified as required for the region.

We advocate for increased local integration with government skills policy and industry to ensure that investment is channelled correctly.



Economic Prosperity

A stable and predictable energy policy is paramount to attract the investment required for energy security and to support the transition to a low carbon economy in the East of England and beyond.

The Southern North Sea gas fields continue to play a crucial role in the UK's gas infrastructure and our regional economy, we recognise that natural gas production will decline in the next two decades, making it essential to incorporate renewable sources and modernise the grid.

Embracing low-carbon energy generation offers significant economic and socio-economic

opportunities. We aim to boost local content, innovate, upgrade skills and facilitate workforce transition to realise these benefits. Collaboration with neighbouring regions, both within and outside the UK, will be vital to expand our network and share expertise.

The East of England has a proud history of exporting skills and technology nationally and internationally. Promoting a circular economy beyond energy, including transportation, agriculture, food production and industry, will lead to greater mobility and economic benefits.



Growth of the Supply Chain

Our objective is to grow the regional and national energy sector supply chain, positioning the East of England as a leader in supporting local economic growth, job creation and businesses. To achieve this, the East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) will foster cross-sector collaboration and innovation, utilise technology and share upcoming project pipelines and areas of interest.

The East of England possesses a wealth of power generation technologies and skills. We aim to capitalise on this position to maintain the region's dominance in the energy infrastructure sector. Coordinating the supply chain with meetings, updates and digital technology will facilitate business development across sectors. By creating

a framework for collaboration, we support investment in local companies and infrastructure to ensure future economic growth, innovation, prosperity and job creation.

The East of England faces a very competitive market, as substantial investment in European ports and industrial sites is competing to attract manufacturing and engineering contracts. If this region wants to attract larger scale investment to capitalise on these opportunities, new investments to host large scale manufacturing, construction, processing and servicing related to the offshore renewables market in the Southern North Sea, or in hydrogen production, will need intervention.

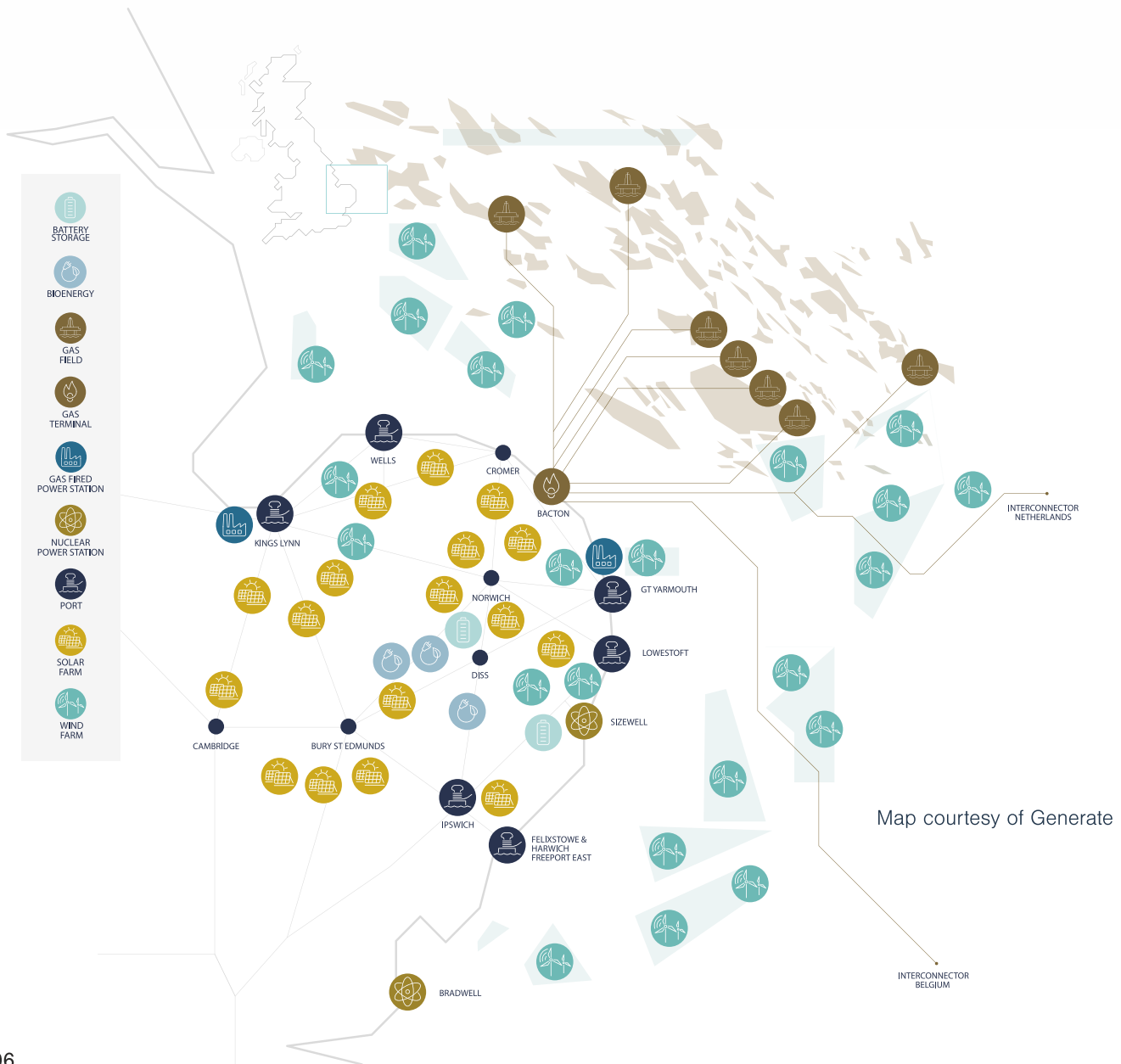
Regional Engagement

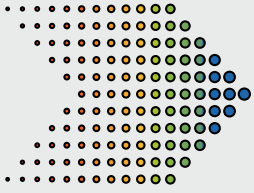
Engaging our local communities is integral to the success of the low-carbon energy transition. We must always be aware of regional demographics, areas of deprivation, poor transportation and infrastructure. Local communities stand to benefit from increased investment, job creation and more secure and affordable energy supplies. It is imperative that the energy industry collaborates closely with regional bodies, including local government, academia, transportation, food and agriculture, to ensure the socio-economic advancement of each county.

Whether talking about natural gas production, onshore and offshore wind, solar, nuclear, green hydrogen or the role of the grid both to the region

and the UK as a whole, the use of consumer education, community engagement and effective messaging will reduce barriers to achieving our net-zero targets.

We must support energy companies, including network operators, in their efforts to engage with local communities and representatives, ensuring that our region has the necessary onshore and offshore infrastructure to deliver net zero, energy security and affordable consumer bills. The region needs to be a leader in innovation and technology, working collaboratively to share data, implement new tools and develop pathfinder projects to maximise the benefits from new energy infrastructure.





About EEEGR – the East of England Energy Group

Launched on 29th March 2001, the East of England Energy Group (EEEGR) is a profit-for-purpose trade body representing the energy sector and its supply chain in the East of England.

With around 200 member businesses ranging from large developers and operators spanning multiple countries, through to local supply chain businesses

employing just a few people. Our goal is to represent the entirety of the region's energy sector including all of the various stakeholders with an interest in the impact of it. We are particularly focussed on regional education and skills via our Skills for Energy activity.

We do that across Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and Cambridgeshire.

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And we would like to thank  Reuzer for designing this document.