

Outstanding Q&As from the Community Energy Flexibility webinar July 2026

Q: Does Frequency shift contribute to local grid management for 'power Islands'?

A: We don't procure frequency response services. Our flexibility services are currently focused on parties being able to shift or adjust the amount of electricity they consume or generate.

Q: Do flexibility services have to be linked to low carbon generation - is there a CO₂e component?

A: Although one of the goals of flexibility services is to integrate more renewables into networks and support net zero, flexibility services don't need to be linked to low carbon generation. Anyone that can shift or adjust the amount to electricity they consume or generate can provide flexibility services.

Q: Are any control systems for flexibility services related to grid frequency? (as in frequency response)

A: We don't procure frequency response services for flexibility services. Frequency response services are procured by NESO. Any connected generator should meet the connection code which includes the requirement for frequency response.

Q: Can you talk a bit about demand turn-up? North of B4, when the wind blows, there is substantial oversupply from windfarms.

A: Demand turn-up/generation turn-down flexibility services may be procured in areas where we forecast potential excess generation on the network (rather than excess demand where we procure demand turn-down/generation turn-up). It is a very exciting topic and we have procured generation turn-down services in some locations in the past, but at the moment, we have relatively few areas which we have identified as candidates for demand turn-up flexibility. One of the reasons for this is that in many areas with very high penetration of renewables, generators might be connected via an Active Network Management scheme. Under an ANM, a generator receives a connection under the agreement that in periods of high generation they may be curtailed, and they take on the risk of this happening (up to a certain threshold which they are informed of at the time of making the agreement). As a DNO, one of our key aims and responsibilities is to deliver the best value for money for our customers, and our spending is closely regulated by Ofgem to ensure that we do this. As such, in an ANM areas, according to current funding mechanisms we are not currently able to purchase demand turn-up flexibility at a cost when we have the option to curtail excess generators at no cost, as this would not be delivering good value-for-money to our customers. However, we recognise that demand turn-up flexibility could be extremely valuable to connected generation assets and to the whole system, and for that reason we are working closely with Ofgem to ensure that funding mechanisms enabling DSOs to use flexibility to reduce curtailment of ANM generators are enabled in the next price control period.

Q: Is there provision for Long Duration Energy storage?

A: All our flexibility services are designed to be as technology-agnostic as possible, meaning that any technology can participate as long as they are able to control their demand or generation and respond to signals. As such, we highly encourage participation from LDES. If

you have had any issues participating in flexibility services due to the specific nature of a technology, please don't hesitate to reach out to us as we are keen to remove any barriers that prevent certain technology types from participating.

Q: What barriers has SSEN been finding to increasing participation since the innovation projects that SSEN has done? What would SSEN find helpful from community energy support organisations to overcome these and support further participation in flex market by community energy projects?

A: We've seen growing interest from community energy organisations in flexibility markets, but participation is often limited by a combination of scale, complexity and resource constraints. Many projects are relatively small, making the economics challenging, while the technical, commercial and operational requirements of flexibility markets can be difficult for organisations with limited time and expertise to navigate. Revenue uncertainty and the need for suitable metering and control systems can also act as barriers.

Community energy support organisations can play a valuable role in overcoming these challenges by raising awareness of flexibility opportunities, providing trusted guidance on routes to market, and helping groups build the capability needed to participate. Support with collaboration and aggregation between projects is particularly important, as it can help smaller schemes achieve the scale needed to access flexibility revenues.

From SSEN's perspective, continued collaboration with community energy support organisations is key to helping community-led projects understand market opportunities, reduce barriers to entry, and increase participation in flexibility services as the market continues to develop.

Q: Can you provide the link to the Contracts Register in your document library? Tried to find it but no joy.

A: [Flexibility Services Contract Register - Dataset - SSEN Data Portal](#) & [flexibility-services-contract-register-v2.29.xlsx](#)