

Electricity
Distribution

Flexibility Market Insights Report

June 2026

nationalgrid ▶ DSO



Introduction

Flexibility is central to how we operate and optimise our distribution network. Since April 2025, we have seen a step change in both the scale and maturity of our markets.

By enabling flexible demand and generation to respond closer to real time, it strengthens network security, reducing peak-time power flows, minimising curtailment of renewable generation and avoiding unnecessary infrastructure upgrades. Together, this delivers real, tangible cost savings for consumers.

This report provides a full-year view of flexibility market activities between April 2025 to March 2026 and builds on our **Snapshot Insights Report** published in January 2026. It highlights strong growth in participation, increased procurement activity, and reflects how flexibility is being used at scale as markets continue to mature.

By sharing these insights, we aim to build confidence, inform investment, and continue delivering flexibility markets that are accessible, competitive, and ready for system needs today and in the future.

We will build on this momentum in the years ahead. Our recently published **DSO Roadmap** sets out key commitments and deliverables over the coming two years until the end of the current regulatory price control – RIIO-ED2.



Our year in numbers: performance, progress and impact

1,239

zones launched for tender in 2025/2026



198 GWh*

flexibility procured



**0.97 gCO₂e/
kWh**

average carbon content of our dispatched flexibility



309,514

assets registered in our market as of 31st March 2026



6.5 GWh**

of flexibility dispatched



>40,000

vulnerable households registered in our market



£2.4m

utilisation revenue delivered to our Flexibility Service Providers (FSPs)



£20,700

cost reduction savings via the Joint Utilisation Competition



* Availability and utilisation volumes across HV & LV long-term and short-term products. 196 GWh procured through our long-term tender, 2 GWh from our short-term tender.
** Dispatched volumes across HV & LV across all products.



Market growth: We've doubled our capacity and dispatch



We have rapidly scaled participation over the past year, doubling both registered assets to over 3 GW, readily available to meet network needs.

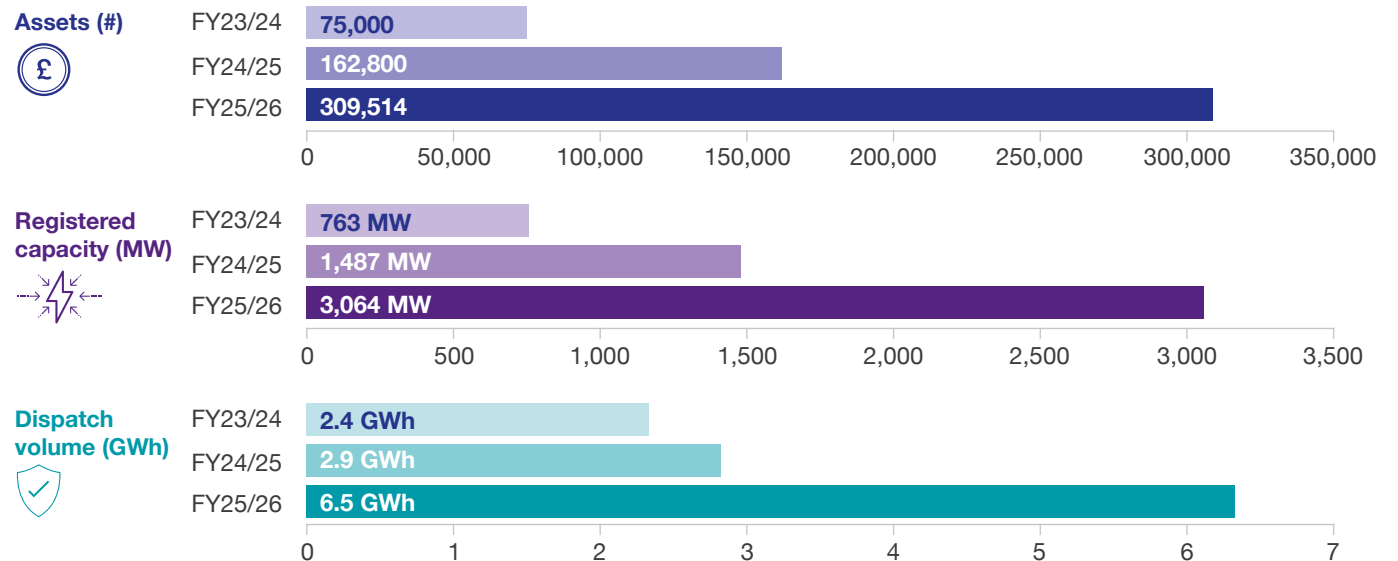
Growth is dominated by domestic assets, predominantly low-carbon assets, representing over 99 % of our assets while Industrial and Commercial participants continue to provide the majority of capacity (61 %). More than 40,000 vulnerable households are registered in our markets.

The sustained increase in participation reflects strong and growing customer confidence in our markets as fair, reliable and accessible.

Table 1: Market growth - domestic vs industrial & commercial

Assets registered in Market Gateway	Count of assets		Associated total registered capacity (MW)	
	FY24/25	FY25/26	FY24/25	FY25/26
Year				
Domestic	162,650	309,180	575	1,193
Industrial and Commercial	150	334	912	1871
Total	162,800	309,514	1,487	3,064

Figure 1: Market growth - volume



Technology diversification is driving lower carbon flexibility

Our technology mix continues to diversify year on year.

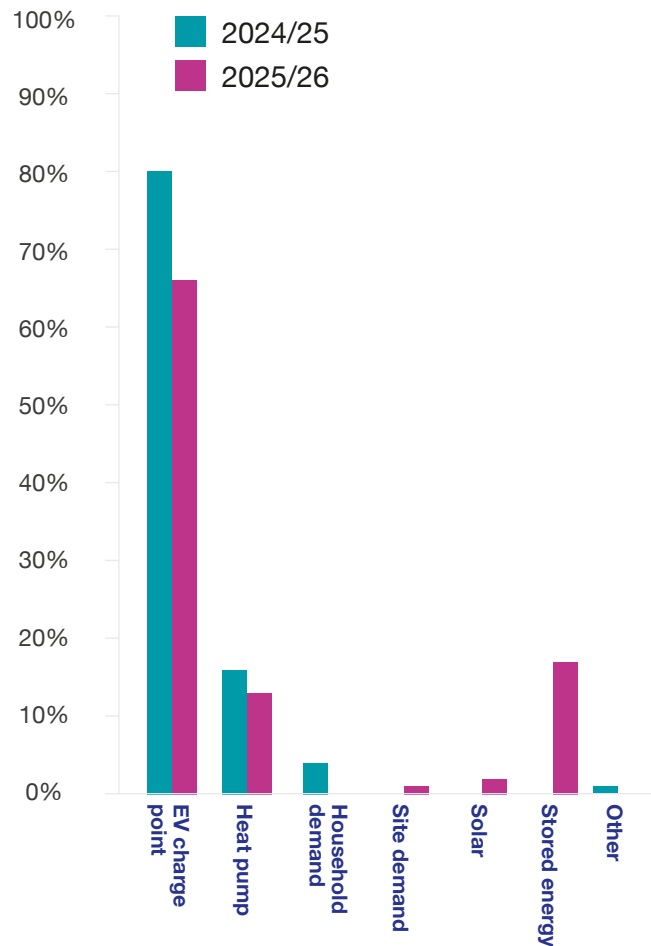
- Battery participation has increased significantly, strengthening system responsiveness.
- Electric Vehicle Charge Points remain the dominant source of flexibility across both HV and LV networks.
- We now have more than 10,000 heat pumps and 500 storage heaters registered in our flexibility markets.
- LV remains more concentrated, but early signs of diversification are emerging.

This shift in technology mix is delivering clear emissions benefits, with average carbon intensity of our dispatched flexibility falling from 1.5 to 0.97 gCO₂e/kWh - a ~35 % year on year reduction, supporting progress toward net zero.

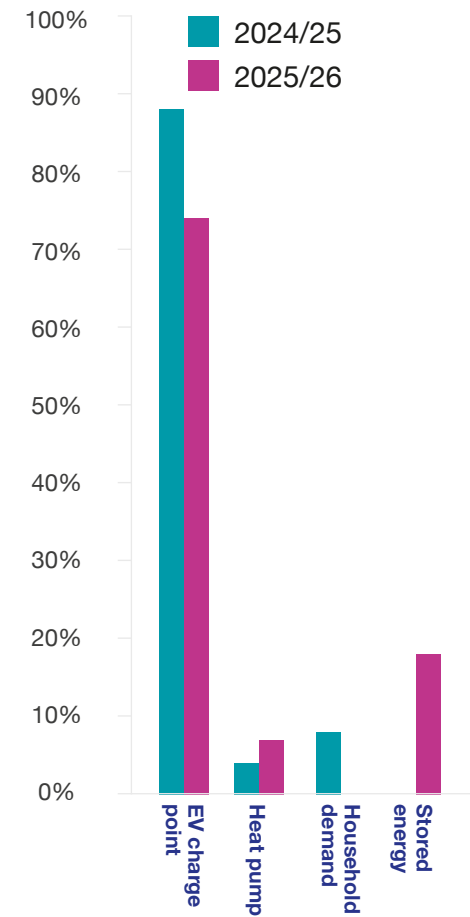
Figure 2: Technology mix of accepted long-term trades



Breakdown of accepted HV trades



Breakdown of accepted LV trades



Scaling flexibility: More participants, more volume, greater impact

By offering multiple routes to market, including the interoperable Piclo platform, we've lowered barriers to entry and unlocked greater competition. We have seen a sharp rise in active participation, tripling year-on-year from 13 to 43 FSPs, 38 of whom onboarded via Piclo.

This growth has been enabled by targeted improvements across our platforms, processes, and products, including:

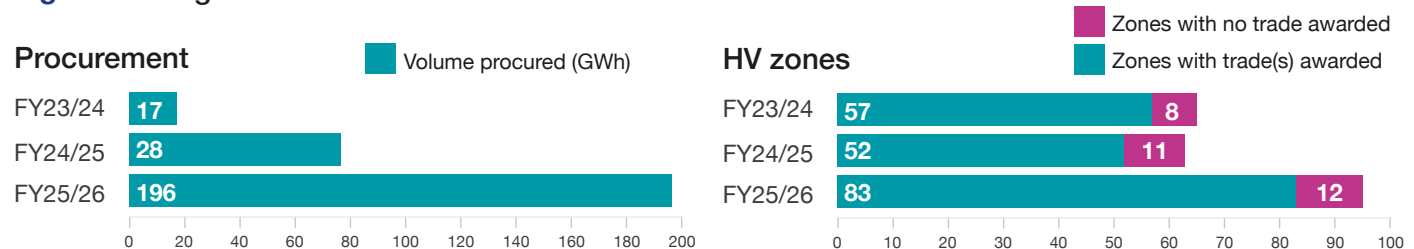
- ✓ Migration of trading to Market Gateway simplifying the end-to-end trading journey
- ✓ Transition to day-ahead procurement improving accessibility and efficiency
- ✓ Launch of FlexUp, expanding flexibility opportunities to new use cases
- ✓ Introduction of storage heating as a new asset class supporting participation of vulnerable households.

Autumn 2025 long-term tender

We are scaling up flexibility both in terms of the volume of flexibility we tendered and the volume we contracted across a wide range of low and high-voltage network conditions. In our latest long-term tender we procured:

- 196 GWh of flexibility – a tenfold increase compared to the previous regulatory year
- 28 Demand Turn-Up zones (including 23 FlexUp* covering 50 % of our network).
- 83 HV zones – a 60 % growth in HV zones compared to last year.

Figure 3: Long-term award statistics



* FlexUp is a flexibility product where participants shift flexible demand into periods of high renewable generation, reducing curtailment risk for existing connections, protecting shared headroom, and unlocking more efficient network capacity.

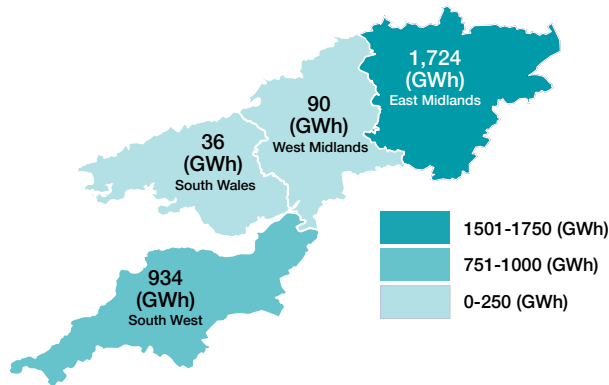


Regional insights: Flexibility uptake across our regions

We tender, procure and dispatch flexibility to manage network constraints via both Demand Turn Down/Generation Turn Up and Demand Turn Up/Generation Turn Down.

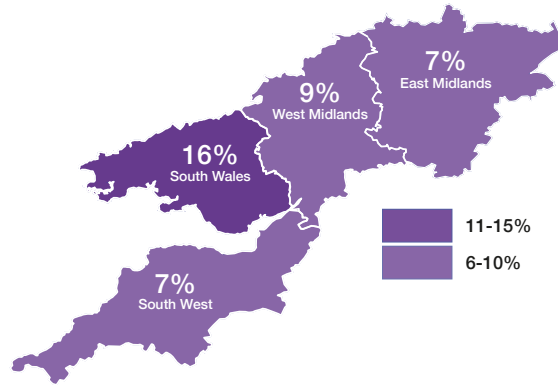
Below is the distribution of our availability volumes sought and response rate across our long-term flexibility tender (for dispatch from FY26/27 and beyond) and the volume dispatched in FY25/26.

Figure 4: Market opportunities*



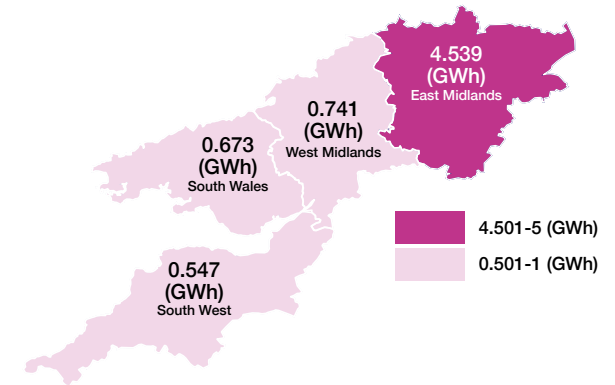
East Midlands had the largest volume sought in our long-term trades, maintaining its position from previous tenders with mix split across the remaining areas.

Figure 5: Response rate*



South Wales had the highest response rate (offered volume as a percentage of volume sought), while other areas were broadly similar. The increase in market size reduced response rates compared to 2024/25.

Figure 6: Regional dispatched volume**



Dispatch volume follows a similar trend with tendered volume, we've dispatched the largest volume across East Midlands, while maintaining similar dispatch across other regions.

*Availability and utilisation volumes across HV & LV long-term products for dispatch from April 2026.

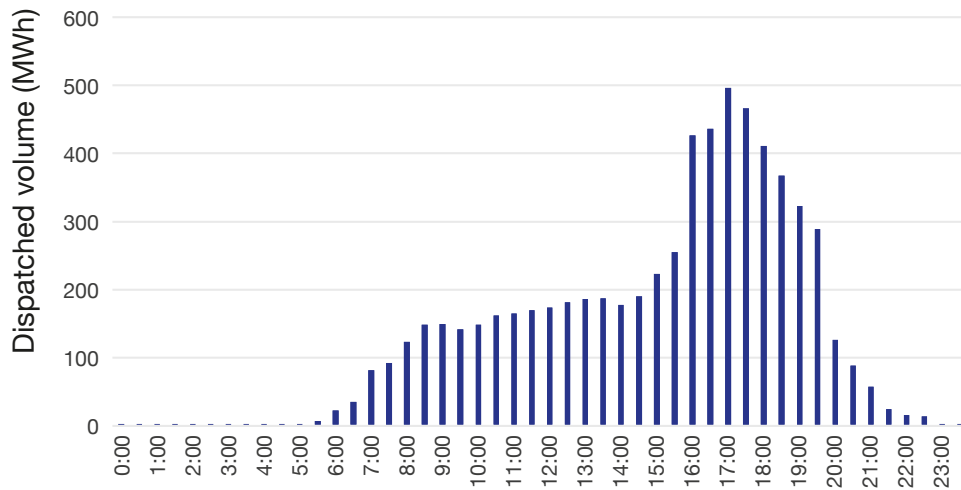
**Dispatched volumes across HV & LV and includes all products during 2025/2026.



Time and seasonal patterns drive dispatch decisions

In 2025/2026, we instructed 110,056 dispatch events totalling 6.5 GWh across our entire network and across all flexibility products. Based on our network needs, we secure availability through the long-term trades.

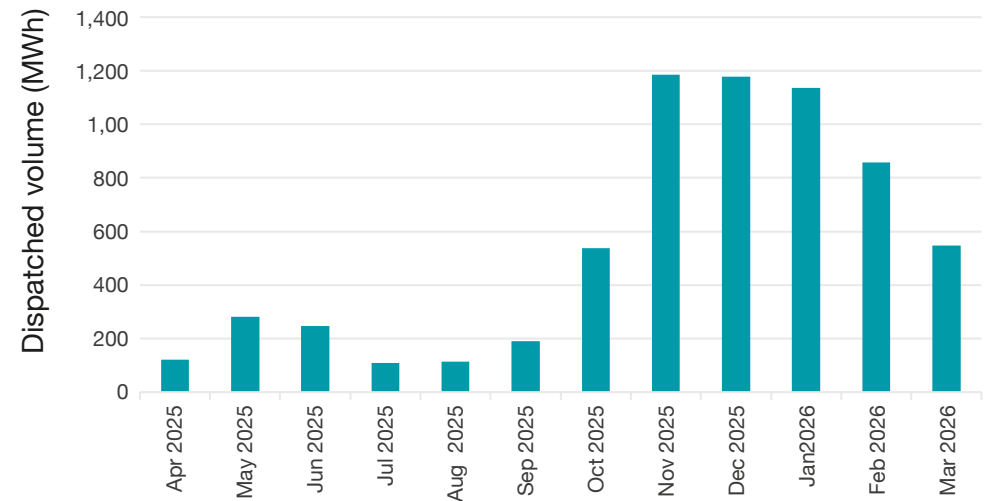
Figure 7: 2025/26 dispatch - time of day patterns



Dispatch is highly concentrated in the late afternoon and early evening, peaking between 16:00 and 19:00. Dispatch is minimal overnight and drops off quickly after the evening peak, highlighting the role of flexibility in managing short-duration, demand-driven system stress during peak hours.

Utilisation is then determined closer to the delivery window, and any shortfall is procured through our short-term markets. Our dispatch instructions depend on a range of factors including the time of day, season or the carbon intensity of flexibility assets, find out more in our **Operational Decision Making Framework**.

Figure 8: 2025/26 dispatch - seasonal patterns



Dispatch volumes show strong seasonality remaining relatively low through summer, gradually increasing in autumn, and peaking sharply during winter months at around 1,150–1,200 MWh per month. October marks a clear transition into higher system utilisation, while February and March show a steady decline as system pressures ease.



Delivering value across our flexibility markets

As our markets continue to expand and evolve, we continue to drive competition, driving both efficiency and value across our low and high voltage zones. We deliver direct benefits to both consumers and flexibility service providers participating in our markets.

Consumer value:

- **Ceiling Price Reduction Cost Saving:** Our HV long-term trades round in 2025/2026 delivered **£13,000 cost savings** ceiling price reduction for consumers which would have passed through into their energy bills. This was made possible through an average reduction of **2.9 % in availability ceiling prices** of our trades.
- **Joint Utilisation Competition Cost Savings:** FSPs can retain long-term availability revenue while bidding competitively in short-term utilisation markets which resulted in **£20,700 in cost savings** to our consumers last year.

Flexibility Service Providers:

- **25/26 Committed Availability Spend:** We have contracted **£756,000** of availability across our HV trades. FSPs were contracted at an availability price range of **£0 - £83 /MWh** in our long-term trades. This is a guaranteed future revenue.
- **25/26 Utilisation Revenue:** We have instructed services worth **£2.4m** in utilisation revenue for all flexibility dispatched across our network, thereby supporting UK businesses and economic growth.



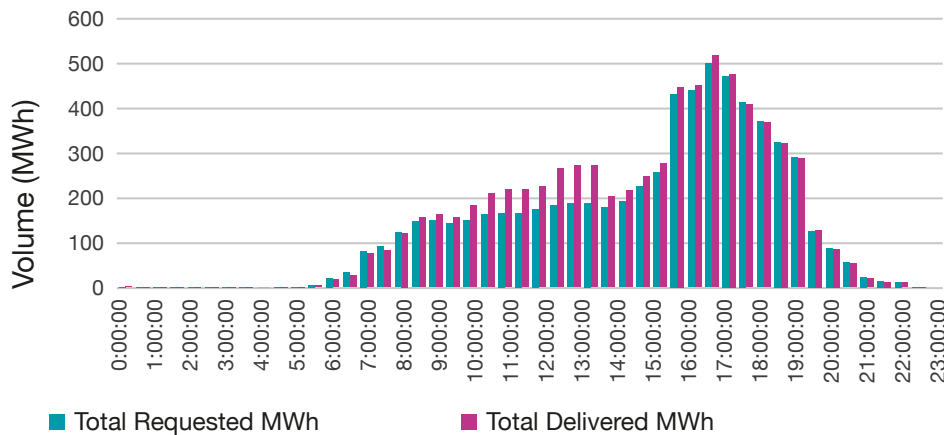
Joint Utilisation Competition

The Joint Utilisation Competition (JUC) is a procurement route that enables FSPs with long-term contracts to submit lower utilisation bids for the same assets in our short-term market. Previously, this wasn't possible limiting competition and raising costs. This mechanism provides FSPs with confidence to commit to long term contracts without losing access to short term market opportunities, benefitting both consumers and FSPs.

Reliability of flexibility delivered

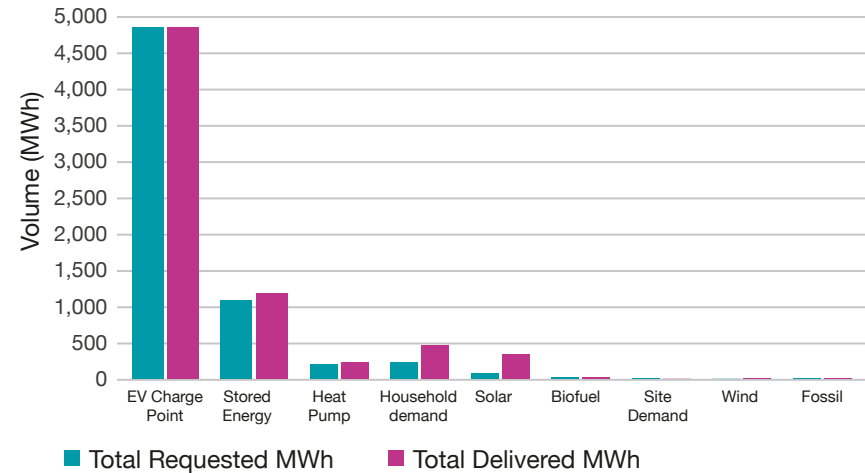
As flexibility dispatch volumes continue to grow, delivery performance across technologies and times of day remains strong overall, with most flexibility delivered close to or above requested volumes. The data also highlights where performance varies, helping identify opportunities to improve consistency and optimise future dispatch.

Figure 9: Delivery by time of day



Delivery varies by time of day, we've observed an overall delivery above target during morning to early afternoon (9am to 12pm). Cumulatively, our flexibility was delivered most at target at other times.

Figure 10: Delivery by technology



Consistency of delivery varies across technologies, with EV Charge Points accounting for the majority of delivered volume and closely aligning with requested levels. In contrast, technologies such as Storage, Solar, House Demand and Heat Pumps tend to exceed requested volumes, while other technologies contribute only marginally.



Shaping the future of flexibility together

Over the past year, our flexibility markets have continued to scale and mature, supported by growing participation, evolving market design, and deeper operational experience. The insights in this report reflect what we have learned from delivering flexibility at scale, engaging closely with stakeholders, and operating across an increasingly complex system.

Continued collaboration remains essential to ensuring flexibility markets deliver value efficiently, fairly, and at scale. We welcome ongoing engagement through our Focus Groups from flexibility providers, partners, and stakeholders to help inform future insight, improvement, and shared learning as flexibility markets continue to evolve.

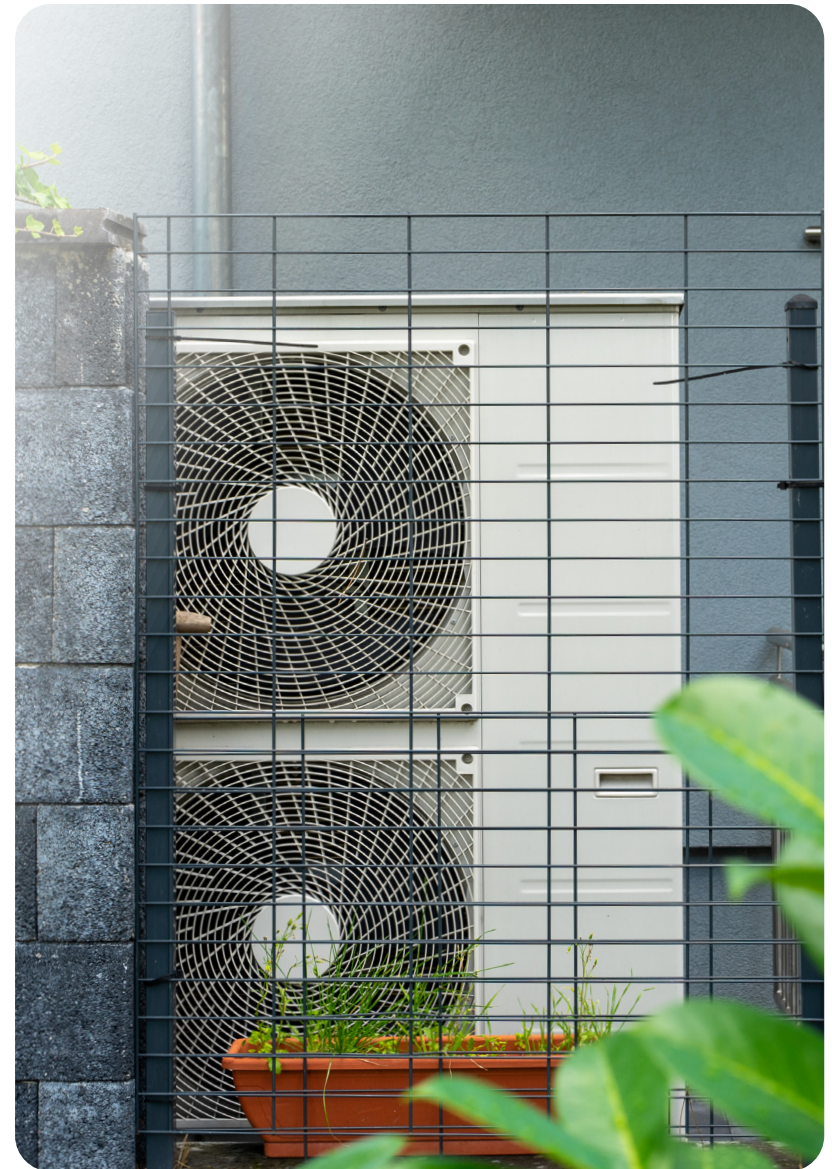


Get in touch at: NGED.flexiblepower@nationalgrid.co.uk
Email us if you would like to participate in our quarterly focus group meetings.

Want to participate in our Flexibility Markets?
Step-by-step instructions can be found on our website, covering asset registration, onboarding and service delivery on **Market Gateway**.

Useful Links:

- **Flexibility Market Insights Dashboard**
The Dashboard provides latest updates on our Flex Market Activities.
- **Data Portal**
The portal host detailed, machine-readable flexibility data such as requirements, trades awards, dispatch summary etc.
- **Flex in Five**
A brief overview of Flexibility within National Grid DSO.
- **Flexibility Map**
Enter an asset location postcode to see whether it falls within an open flexibility zone.
- **NGED Revenue Estimator**
Estimate potential revenue from participation in our weekly flexibility market.



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