Indigo Power

Community Power Plants

or:

How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love 'Behindthe-Meter'



Nick Mason-Smith, 7 March 2024, C4CE Congress

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Provide resilience	If it's your network (or connection point), <i>go</i> for it!

Indigo Power is:

- Community Owned: 1000 shareholders
- > For-purpose certified social enterprise
- ➤ Projects
- ➤ Energy sharing



Indigo Power

Yack01

- 274 kWh battery
- 65 kW rooftop solar
- Small load relative to system
- Standalone transformer

Behind-the-meter? Front-of-meter?

→ Solar-battery system sized for the connection point – not the load





Where to build community power plants



Project priorities: 1 & 2. Emissions reduction and resilience 3. Market participation 4. Network support

Sports stadiums & halls:

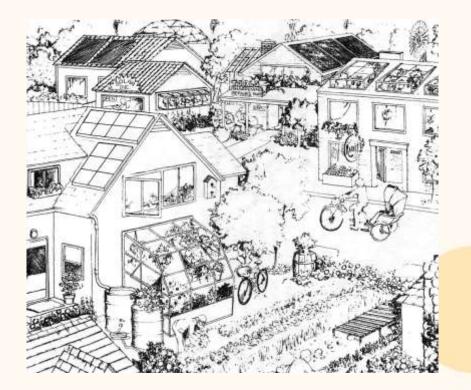
- Relief centres
- Low daytime usage
 - Large roofs
- Large electrical connections
 - Standalone transformer

Community power plant feasibility

Feasibility	Notes
Regulatory	Planning
Technical	No major barriers
Commercial	New nonstandard models required (We're not in Kansas anymore!)
Financial	Sensitive to network charges Major trends are expected to improve feasibility

Combining vision...

... and practice





Charlie Chaplin, Modern Times

Indigo Power

Diane and Joel Schatz, Visions of Ecotopia

Different types of community batteries

Battery charging source 'Solar-batteries' 'Neighbourhood power plants' 0 'Neighbourhood batteries' 'Load shifters' Battery discharging sink