# 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:

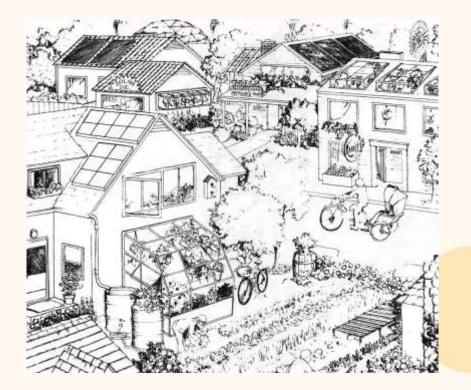
- Relief centres
- Low daytime usage
  - Large roofs
- Large electrical connections
  - Standalone transformer

# **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