



Storage-Enabled Sustainable Energy for Buildings and Communities

Project SENSIBLE Newsletter

Issue 01 | February 2018

## Announcing our new website!

After a few months of hard work, we are very pleased to announce that our new refreshed website is now live. You can now find us at [www.projectsensible.eu](http://www.projectsensible.eu).

Our goal with this website has been to provide our visitors with an easier way to learn about our ongoing activities. We also worked hard to make sure it is more responsive and user friendly. The updated site includes changes to navigation, with drop down menus for both desktop and mobile versions; English, Portuguese and German language versions; improved visuals and improved news and events sections. We have also improved the structure of our content so that you will get more from a quick review. There is a whole host of smaller but impactful changes, all to make your experience of the Project SENSIBLE site that much better for you.

We hope that you find the new website more attractive, informative and easier to navigate.

For any questions, suggestions, feedback or comments, please contact us via [info@h2020-project-sensible.eu](mailto:info@h2020-project-sensible.eu) or simply fill out our contact form available on the website.

## Upcoming Events

**13th Feb 2018 — Nottingham**

Democratic, Decentralised and Decarbonised Energy Systems Workshop - <https://goo.gl/kCNLbm>

**Mar 2018 — Nottingham**

Community energy storage workshop - Meadows Library (TBC)

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Go to [www.projectsensible.eu](http://www.projectsensible.eu) to check out our desktop , tablet and mobile enabled site.

# Ofgem's Strange Way of Thinking

Not many people seem to have picked up on the Targeted Charging Review that Ofgem has carried out and their update on approaches to Reviewing Residual Charging Arrangements (see <https://goo.gl/yQrzBH>, accessed 01/02/2018).

Ofgem seems to consider ownership of solar panels as a predominantly middle-class phenomenon, giving them a taxable financial advantage over those without solar panels.

Their view is that customers who consume more electricity - drawn from the grid - pay more than those who use less. Solar PV adopters, by reducing their reliance on the grid, pay less in residual charges than those without. This creates an imbalance in energy bills, allowing solar adopters to pay less towards the ongoing maintenance and operation of the grid.

## There are 4 main objections to this approach

Firstly, Ofgem has decided that residual/balancing charges should be recovered from energy demand, rather than supply. This reinforces long-standing criticisms of Ofgem as the voice of big energy producers opposed to any shift into clean, decentralised energy.

Secondly Ofgem's review ignores all the carbon and climate responsibilities that are urgently needed to transform the UK energy market. Nothing prioritises clean-energy generation over dirty, drives reduction in demand and investment in energy saving or makes the energy system more transparent and environmentally accountable.

Fundamentally Ofgem is trying to set consumers against each other when producers are the problem. It ignores the 250,000 + solar installations on social housing being used as a means of tackling fuel poverty. Furthermore, by blocking the UK 'right of local supply', households have no ability to share the benefits of clean generation with their neighbours. A massive benefit to the fuel poor.

Ofgem needs to consider more progressive choices such as banded tariffs: replacing the daily standing charge with banding charges and consider the potential for levying of a charge on network operators profits as they obtain grid balancing responsibilities.

*- Derived from MOZES response to OFGEM by Former MP Alan Simpson & Prof Julian Marsh*

## Making the most of your energy storage...



If your home is connected to the electricity grid, a battery storage system will help you make the most of the renewable electricity generated for use at home, as a result reducing your electricity bills and lowering your carbon emissions.

If you switch to a tariff where the price of electricity is lower at off-peak hours, a battery system could also save you money by charging up with cheap electricity from the grid during off-peak hours, and releasing this to your home during on-peak hours.

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Event in Valverde, Évora, Portugal.

## Community engagement in Évora

The Portuguese demonstrator of Project SENSIBLE is located in Valverde, a small rural Village near Évora, and is aimed at validating the benefits of integrating small-scale storage at the distribution grid and homes.

The community engagement plan is tailored to the characteristics of the local community and is intended to promote the relationship between the company and its stakeholders. Read more about the Évora demonstrator on our new website [here](#).

*- Derived from Mendes Gisela et al. (2017) Project SENSIBLE community engagement in Évora and Nottingham demonstrator sites.*



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