

An aerial photograph of a town situated along a wide river, likely the River Forth in Edinburgh. The scene is captured during the 'golden hour' of sunset, with a warm, orange glow across the sky and water. In the foreground, a large industrial or commercial area features several large buildings with flat roofs, some of which have solar panels installed. A prominent building has a sign that reads 'DUNN'S STORES'. A network of white lines with circular nodes is overlaid on the bottom right of the image, connecting various points across the town and river. In the middle ground, a bridge crosses the river, and a residential area with many houses is visible on the opposite bank. The background shows rolling green hills under a cloudy sky.

Engaging Communities

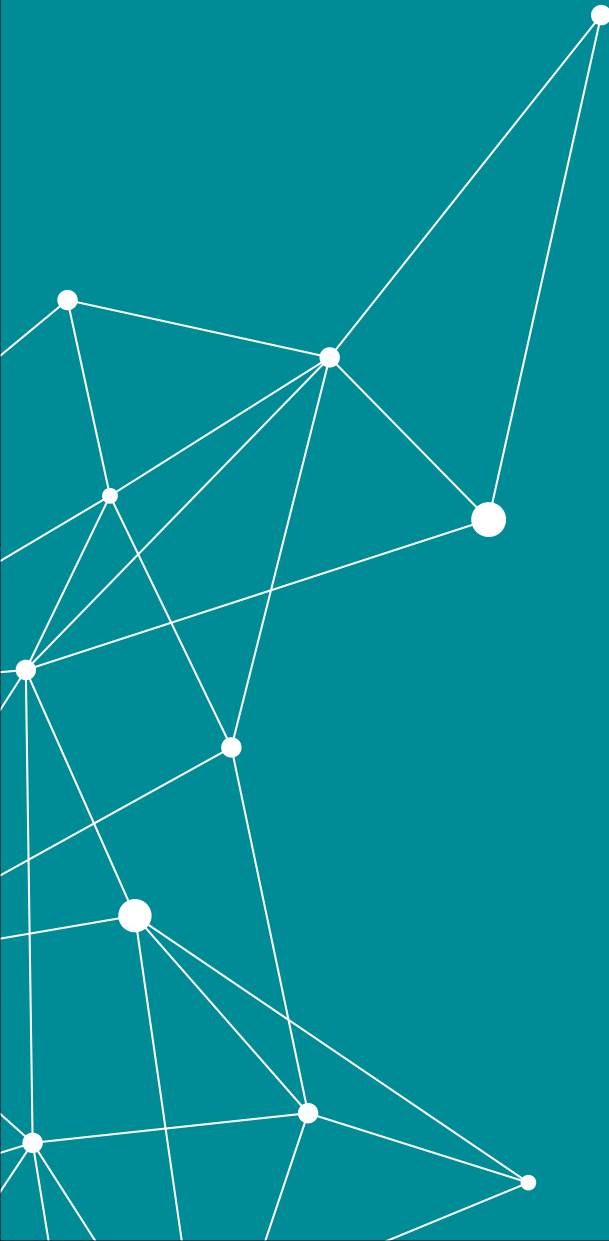


Delivering a cleaner
energy future



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About us

SONI is Northern Ireland's Transmission System Operator (TSO). We manage the high-voltage electricity grid, ensuring that power can flow safely, securely and reliably from where it is generated to homes, businesses and public services across Northern Ireland.

We are also responsible for planning ahead so that Northern Ireland's electricity grid can meet the needs of everyone today and in the future. This includes identifying where existing parts of the grid, such as substations, overhead power lines and underground cables need to be upgraded, as well as where new grid infrastructure is required.

We cannot do this alone. Local communities must be at the heart of how the electricity grid develops and changes, and we are committed to engaging openly and meaningfully to get the best outcome for everyone.



Why we engage with communities

Whether its overhead lines, pylons or substations, communities across Northern Ireland play an important role in hosting the electricity grid. As we become more reliant on electricity for every day needs, we need a more modern grid to make sure everyone has the supply they need, when they need it. This means upgrading the existing electricity grid and building new grid.

Engagement with local communities helps us to understand what matters to you the most. We understand that the people who live and work in local communities have deep knowledge of their area. This insight can help us better understand local priorities, concerns and opportunities, so that we can make more informed decisions as our plans develop.

Our teams listen carefully to recommendations from host communities and where possible, we reflect them in our plans. Where there are limits to how much flexibility is possible, we will be open and honest with communities at the earliest opportunity, explaining the reasons clearly and transparently.

“**Meaningful engagement helps us to understand local priorities and concerns, leading to better outcomes for everyone.**”

How we engage with communities





Community Engagement that works

We will engage with communities early, openly and in ways that work for them. This means providing clear and accessible information, creating opportunities to ask questions and share views, and explaining how community feedback has helped shape our thinking and decisions. Where feedback cannot change an outcome, we will be clear about why.

Feedback on how we engage with you is also important to us. We will listen carefully to this feedback and use it to enhance our engagement processes, to ensure they are purposeful and responsive to the needs of the communities we work with.





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