

Powering Improvement 2015-2020



“Health and safety is the heartbeat of the energy industry in the UK. No matter which branch of the business people are in, or the pressures to build, modernise and improve, everything our generators do strives to meet the best of worldwide standards for staff and customers alike.

“The energy industry does not want to stop there. We must continue to work together to drive up standards and keep health and safety front and centre, particularly in the power station workplace.

The next phase of Powering Improvement will see this approach of working together and the drive continue.”

Lawrence Slade, chief executive, Energy UK



Powering Improvement is designed to promote continuous improvement in the management of health and safety risks within the UK electricity industry.

- The aim is to improve occupational health and safety performance through vision, leadership, direction and co-ordinated action into the future. The strategy aligns with Health & Safety Executive’s (HSE) Electricity Sector Strategy and is founded on the principle that the effective management of health and safety is essential to the operation and reputation of a successful business.

Energy UK and Energy Networks Association (ENA), companies and the industry’s trade unions, Prospect, Unite, GMB and Unison, together with the Health & Safety Executive (HSE) support the following principles:

- All workers in our industry have the right to go to work each day and not be injured or made ill by their work.
- We recognise the importance of cooperation between all groups that make up the electricity industry: generation, transmission, distribution, contractors, trade unions as well as government, regulators and other workers’ representatives.
- We recognise that everyone in our industry has a responsibility to look after their own, and their colleagues’, health and safety.
- We recognise the serious consequences of work-related accidents and ill health – both personal, economic and reputational.
- A safe, healthy and competent workforce is essential to any business.
- We are fully committed to addressing occupational health issues as well as safety ones.
- We are committed to sharing best practice regarding health and safety risk management. This includes sharing lessons learned when things go wrong.
- We aspire to exceed compliance with health and safety legislation to strive for continuous health and safety improvement and to provide the leadership and resource to make this happen.

“Powering Improvement is central to the health and safety effort. It has already driven up standards and cooperation by showcasing all that’s best in health and safety management across the industry. It has fostered a progressive partnership with key stakeholders, regulators and workers’ representatives alike.

“Energy UK is playing its part. Our Occupational Health Forum - set up in 2011 - continues to drive forward worker health issues. Our first health and safety conference, featuring Powering Improvement throughout, was such a success that we are already planning a follow-up event for November 2015.”

Steve O’Neill, health and safety consultant, Energy UK



This is second phase of the strategy and builds on the success of the first phase which ran from 2010 to 2015.

Vision

By 2020 the UK electricity industry will have delivered a sustained improvement in health and safety performance by applying and influencing best practice approaches utilised in the top performing sectors in the UK and beyond.

Success will be evaluated using leading and lagging indicators such as injury and ill-health data together with feedback from relevant climate and culture surveys.

Strategy

Energy UK and ENA companies will work in partnership with Trade Unions, HSE and Contractors to ensure our industry has a realistic and inclusive approach to health and safety at work. Powering Improvement is intended to provide a focus and line of sight between the electricity industry’s interventions to deliver a sustained improvement in health and safety performance and the framework set out in the HSE electricity sector strategy.

Throughout the five years we will maintain a focus on managing our priority risks, including working with electricity, working at height and driving.

Although the strategy is focussed on occupational health and safety risks, public safety issues involving both members of the public and third-party contractors will continue to be addressed as a priority. ENA has a dedicated Public Safety Strategy Our Commitment to Public Safety that has been running for eight years.

We will develop and agree a series of relevant and reliable leading and lagging indicators to track and monitor performance.

Overarching themes

Leadership

- Ensure that we encourage leadership at all levels.

Worker involvement

- Ensure we promote effective engagement and consultation.

Building competence

- Ensure commitment is given to training to avoid skill or competency gaps.

Corporate memory

- Ensure that as experienced workers retire and are replaced, lessons are remembered and mistakes are not repeated.



Annual focus areas

2015

- Working with contractors

2016

- Managing occupational ill health risks

2017

- Asset management

2018

- Human and organisational factors

2019

- Review of progress and develop the next phase of 'Powering Improvement'

Annual focus area for 2015: Working with contractors

This year will not focus on “management of contractors” but rather working together in an open partnership approach to learn from each other.

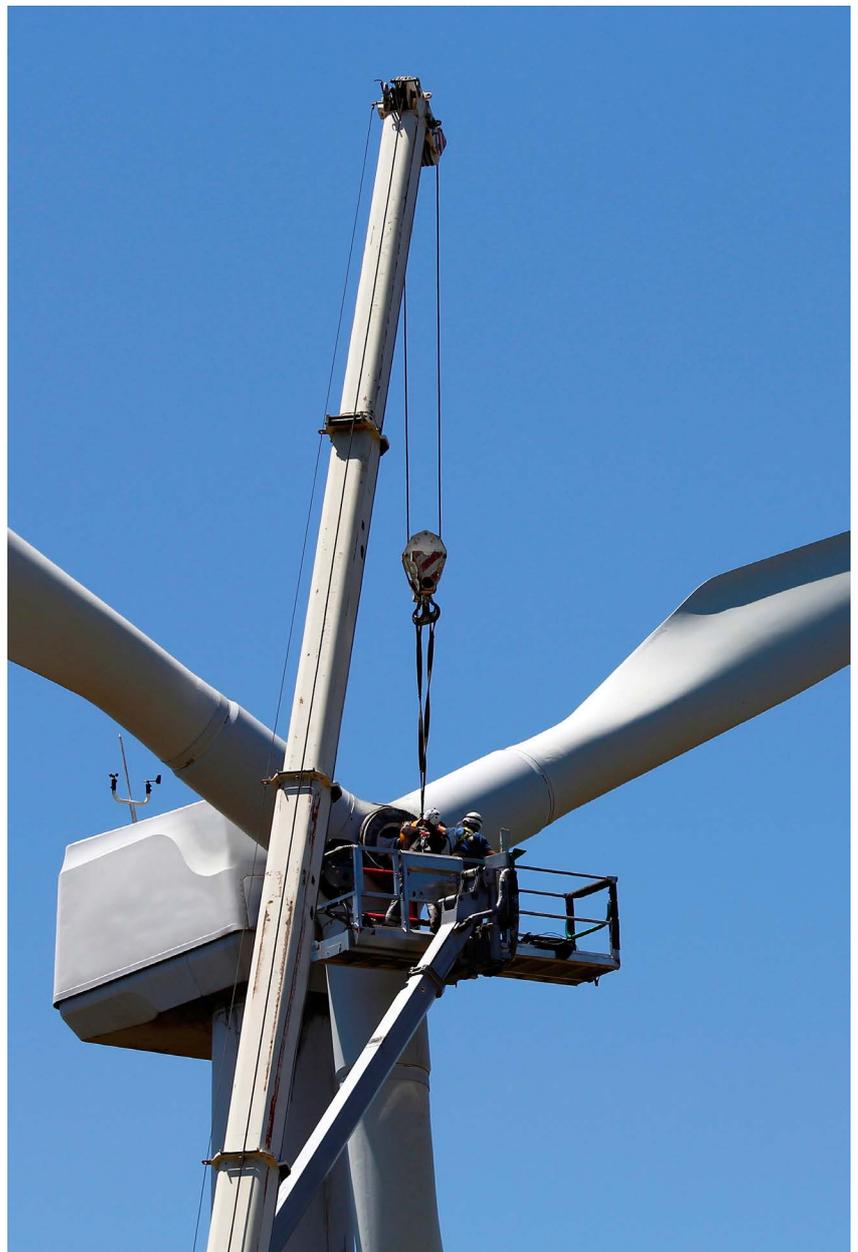
- Working together to share best practice, intelligence sharing and lessons learned.
- Reviewing and sharing approaches to managing common risks including safe working at height, working with electricity and occupational ill health risks.
- Improving communications – better intelligence from incidents and near misses.
- Where appropriate, developing safety alliances and frameworks.

Outcomes

- Member companies, contractors and Trade unions together will have openly shared approaches to managing health and safety (H&S) risks to improve H&S performance in the Electricity Sector.
- Consistent approaches to managing the same H&S risks will be shared and promoted across the Electricity Sector by member companies and contractors.
- Robust and timely communication systems will be in place to share lessons learned from incidents across the Electricity Sector.

Outputs

- Review current procedures and document approaches to managing common risks such as working at height.
- Identify, collate and publish examples of successful member company-contractor initiatives.



Energy UK and Energy Networks Association

Energy UK is the trade association for the energy industry. We represent over 80 members made up of generators and gas and electricity suppliers of all kinds and sizes as well as other businesses operating in the energy industry. Energy Networks Association (ENA) is the voice of the networks, representing the 'wires and pipes' transmission and distribution network operators for gas and electricity in the UK and Ireland.

Trade unions

- GMB
- Prospect
- Unison
- Unite

Governance

Powering Improvement is managed and directed by National Joint Health, Safety and Environment Committee (HESAC) comprising representatives from Energy UK and ENA member companies, the industry trade unions (GMB, Prospect, Unison and Unite) and HSE.

Executive decisions on behalf of Energy UK companies rest with the Energy UK Health and Safety Forum and ultimately the Energy UK Board.

Executive decisions on behalf of ENA member companies rest with the ENA SHE Committee and ultimately the ENA Board.

For further information see

- www.poweringimprovement.org



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