SUPERGEN ENERGY NETWORKS

Newsletter: January-February 2026

Events

Vulnerable energy users in the low carbon heat transition: the role of energy networks

In February 2026, the Supergen Energy Networks Hub Policy, Society and Place team convened a half-day workshop in Leeds to help understand how energy networks can support the needs of vulnerable energy users through the transition to low carbon domestic heating.

Participants were drawn from around the country: from energy network operators, public sector policy and regulation, third sector energy and advocacy groups, and academia. Discussions noted that for many vulnerable households, "low carbon tech is a world away from where people are"; and focussed on options for lowering network costs for vulnerable households; improving connection and disconnection processes; how networks can help support vulnerable energy users and the role of the new Warm Homes Agency; and the strategic and regulatory choices about the future of electricity, gas and heat networks.

A short briefing note giving a little more detail is in preparation, and the team are also exploring potential research projects arising from the workshop, including the impact of rental EPC legislation on networks, and the future of gas networks.

A big thank you to the University of Leeds team for hosting such an insightful and collaborative event. The discussions and shared expertise will support efforts to ensure the transition to net zero is fair, inclusive and responsive to those most at risk.

AI for Energy Networks Workshop

The University of Bath hosted the AI for Energy Networks workshop on 16 January 2026, bringing together an exceptional group of academic, industry and policy experts to explore how artificial intelligence can accelerate progress toward a smarter, cleaner UK energy system.

Supergen Energy Networks PI Professor Phil Taylor and COI Professor Furong Li, welcomed attendees and set the stage for discussions on both the transformative potential of AI and the responsibilities associated with its deployment in energy systems.

Throughout the event, a wide range of speakers generously shared their knowledge, insights and practical experience. Contributors included Tom Haines, Jack Kelly, Steve Haben, Phil Moseley, Julian Padget, Gabriel Griffin Booth, and Chris Budd, each offering perspectives spanning academic research, regulatory considerations, innovative AI applications and real-world operational challenges. Their talks provided a multifaceted understanding of how AI can support forecasting, optimisation, network planning and decarbonisation.

Interactive breakout sessions invited further input from participants on Clean Power 2030, Net Zero 2050, and the practical barriers and enablers shaping AI adoption across the sector. These sessions captured collective expertise and encouraged open dialogue between researchers, industry professionals and policymakers.

The workshop concluded with a forward-looking discussion led by Lucy Yu (UK Government AI Champion for Clean Energy), and Adrian Kelly (EPRI Europe), who synthesised insights from the day into priorities for future collaboration, governance and skills development. With thanks to every speaker and participant who contributed their time, ideas and expertise, the event strengthened cross-sector connections and reinforced the critical role of responsible AI in delivering a resilient and equitable energy future.

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Opportunities

EPSRC DLA: Where can energy demand reduction reduce network upgrade requirements?

PhD Scholarship Opportunity – School of Earth and Environment (2026/27)
University of Leeds

Friday March 27, 2026
Funded PhD Project (UK Students)

One fully funded UK scholarship available for 2026/27, covering UK tuition fees plus a UKRI-matched maintenance stipend (£20,780 for 2025/26).

Project focuses on how local energy demand reduction can lower electricity network upgrade costs, supporting the UK's transition to net zero.

MORE INFORMATION

March Events

We are looking forward to welcoming all attendees to this collaborative conference, bringing together sponsors from across the country

This two-day in-person event brings together Early Career Researchers to offer a fantastic mix of talks, poster sessions, and networking opportunities - perfect for building new collaborations and gaining valuable feedback.

Join us on 16 March 2026 at the University of Oxford for the launch of the Smart Energy Data Service (SENSE).

SENSE has been created to make accessing, linking and using smart energy data easier, faster, and more impactful. Whether you work on energy systems, consumer behaviour, EVs, networks, Net Zero, or multidisciplinary research – this is your opportunity to see what becomes possible when cutting-edge data infrastructure meets real-world research challenges.

🔍 **Why attend?**
- **Discover a one-stop shop for smart energy and contextual data, removing the pain of linking datasets to generate insight**
- **Learn about unique and hard-to-access datasets now available — with more being added all the time**
- **Hear how cutting-edge lakehouse architecture is transforming what's possible with smart energy data**

Launch of Smart Energy Data Service

REGISTER NOW

📍 **Event details**
🗓️ **16 March 2026**
⏰ **9:45am–6:00pm**
🏛️ **L2, Mathematical Institute, Andrew Wiles Building, University of Oxford**

SENSE is delivered in partnership with Energy Systems Catapult, the University of Oxford, and a powerful consortium of UK universities and research centres — all working to unlock the value of smart energy data for high-impact research and innovation.

If you're committed to accelerating Net Zero, shaping policy, or driving breakthrough insights using energy data, this event is the place to be.

🤝 **Join us and be part of the next chapter in smart energy research!**

University of Bath · University of Birmingham · Cardiff University · Manchester 1824 · UKRI Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council · University of Leeds · Newcastle University · University of Bristol · Catapult

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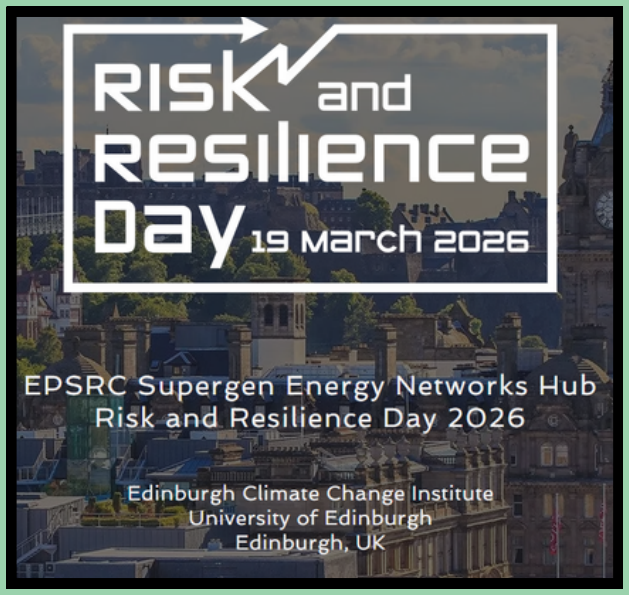

The EPSRC Supergen Energy Networks Hub Risk and Resilience Day is continuing the tradition of the previous Durham Risk Day series (2010-2014) and is an annual seminar for researchers involved in all aspects of risk and uncertainty analysis applied to current and future power and energy systems.

The event (on Thursday 19 March 2026) is an in-person-only event and will be a mix of keynote presentations, oral presentations, and posters. We need you and your research to make it a success so make sure you get involved and make the most of this unique opportunity to meet other researchers focused on these crucial topics.

REGISTER NOW

Further information on all news items is available on the Supergen Energy Networks Impact Hub Website