

National Grid reveals total TV pick-up ahead of Rugby World Cup final

National Grid reveals how demand for electricity has soared throughout the tournament.

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- **As Australia and New Zealand prepare to face each other in the Rugby World Cup final, National Grid reveals how demand for electricity has soared throughout the tournament.**
- **Trick or treating this Halloween means a lower TV pick-up for the final at Twickenham.**

Energy experts at National Grid have calculated that the total TV pick-up throughout the tournament so far currently sits at 12,522 megawatts (MW) – the equivalent of 835 million fridge doors being opened at once, or enough power to cook over two million pizzas.

Known as a 'TV pick-up', this increase in demand occurs when people boil kettles, open fridge doors or turn the lights on at the same time, often when a television programme has ended or during an ad break.

Analysts expect demand during the final at Twickenham on Saturday afternoon to increase by 650 MW at half time – the equivalent of 43 million fridge doors being opened at once.

Jeremy Caplin, energy forecasting manager at National Grid, said: "Throughout the course of this Rugby World Cup, we've seen an interesting pattern of TV pick-ups during half-time and at full-time. This is a strong indication of how popular the tournament has been, despite none of the home nations progressing past the quarter finals.

"Because the Rugby World Cup final lands on the same day as Halloween and none of the home nations are involved, we're expecting fewer people to be at home watching the game. Families may be attending Halloween parties or out trick-or-treating instead, as they did last year, when we saw demand go down by 1500 MW, owing to the Halloween effect."

Jeremy added: "It's our job here at National Grid to balance the national transmission network, ensuring supply and demand are matched second by second. It's something we are very good at but the forecast shows it will be an interesting day for TV pick-ups."

The biggest peak ever recorded during a Rugby World Cup occurred when England beat Australia in the final in 2003, as electricity demand reached 2110 MW at half-time – the equivalent of two million kettles being turned on.



National Grid's electricity control centre.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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