Balancing the system during the eclipse

On Friday morning there will be a drop in solar energy generation

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- **There will be a drop in demand for electricity**
- **National Grid will be managing the swings in demand and balancing the system**

When the moon moves over the sun tomorrow morning there will be a marked effect on the electricity network.

National Grid's expert forecasting team predict a loss of 850MW of solar power on the system; however this will be largely offset by a 1100MW drop in demand for electricity as people as people venture outside to see the phenomenon.

The net effect of the eclipse will be a 200 MW drop in demand at 9.30 as people watch the eclipse, similar to the typical demand for Glasgow.

Jeremy Caplin forecasting manager at National Grid's said: 'This loss of solar is entirely manageable and will be largely offset by demand suppression. We started planning for this in May last year and have a range of tools in place to manage any effects of the eclipse and balance the network, including demand side services and extra generation'.

Read our Connecting article about the eclipse here.

Infographics showing what happened to demand during the eclipse in 1999 and our predictions for tomorrow are available for use.

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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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