



Boston Spa & Wetherby

Feel the BEET benefits.

BEET: helping customers in Boston Spa and Wetherby save energy and cut carbon emissions.

Introducing the Boston Spa Energy Efficiency Trial (BEET) – helping tackle climate change by reducing CO₂ emissions, whilst saving customers money.

At Northern Powergrid, we manage the electricity network that powers everyday life for eight million people across the North East, Yorkshire and northern Lincolnshire.

We're always looking for innovative ways to deliver best value for our customers, by acting today to lead the drive towards decarbonisation and deliver the cleaner, greener and smarter network of tomorrow.

That's why we're investing £1.3m in Boston Spa, Wetherby, and the surrounding areas with the Boston Spa Energy Efficiency Trial – aka BEET.

BEET is the brainchild of Keith Jackson, a retired electricity supply engineer who lives in the community. He told us his idea...

"I approached Northern Powergrid about an idea that would use real-time data from smart meters to optimise voltage levels and deliver CO₂ and cost savings for the community. Through BEET, all residents will benefit, without having to do a thing".

Keith Jackson, Boston Spa Green Group, whose idea led to the BEET project.

We worked with Keith to develop the project, and specialist engineers created the BEET-Box. This innovative technology harnesses data from local smart meters and optimises the voltage supplied, turning the voltage up or down, keeping it at the optimal level. Customers with or without smart meters should benefit without having to do a thing. We'll keep your lights on, fridge cool and Wi-Fi streaming, but now it should cost less and help cut carbon emissions.

Through BEET, we'll lower household energy consumption – cutting carbon emissions by approximately 20 kg a year, which is the equivalent of each individual household driving 46 miles in an average car. We'll also deliver savings of around £28 per year on the average electricity bill*.

Overall, BEET could save around £400,000 in energy costs for the 15,000 homes and businesses in the BEET trial area and cut customers' carbon emissions by up to 301 tonnes of CO₂ a year.

BEET shows how data can be used to support the transition to net zero with all, including fuel-poor and vulnerable customers, standing to benefit from reduction in their energy costs, without the need to invest in low carbon technologies. On completion of the trial, we will look at how we can roll out the project across our region, with the aim of up to 80 per cent of our customers benefiting by 2033. To maximise the benefits to vulnerable customers, we'll look to prioritise those areas where there are increased levels of fuel poverty.

If BEET was rolled out nationwide, we believe it could save £770m from household energy bills each year, and potentially cut up to 1.1 million tonnes of CO₂ from the UK in total – that's the equivalent of removing up to 200,000 cars from the road. And it will all start here, in and around Boston Spa and Wetherby.



What is BEET?

BEET is a Northern Powergrid innovation project that will use smart meter data to automatically adjust and optimise network voltage, saving customers money and reducing their carbon emissions. It will take place in and around Boston Spa and Wetherby from January 2024 to September 2025.

What is voltage?

Voltage is electrical pressure measured in volts (V) – think of it in a similar way to water pressure, which can be turned up and down.

What will happen during the trial?

Northern Powergrid will use its specially developed BEET-Box to analyse smart meter data from homes in the trial area and safely turn the voltage up or down every 30 minutes – lower voltage should mean lower energy use.



Will BEET affect my power supply?

Customers shouldn't notice any change to their energy supply.

Do I need to have a smart meter?

No. You should still feel the BEET benefits without having a smart meter, but more smart meters mean more data for the BEET-Box to analyse.

How will my smart meter data be kept safe?

We take your data privacy very seriously. BEET will not use energy data. We will only use voltage readings, not your personal data or data about your personal energy consumption.

What do I need to do?

Nothing but if you would like to know more about the project, ask questions or give feedback we'd love to hear from you, you can get in touch with us at:

BEET@northernpowergrid.com

How can I get a smart meter?

To request a free upgrade to a smart meter, visit smartenergygb.org or talk to your energy supplier directly.

You can find out more about smart meters by visiting:

northernpowergrid.com/smart-metering



Find out more

Go online and visit:

northernpowergrid.com/beet

Speak to the project team:

email BEET@northernpowergrid.com
or call 0800 011 3332

What happens if I need support?

BEET shouldn't affect your power supply and we don't anticipate customers noticing any change during the trial. We're here for you 24/7, so if you have any concerns, or your power supply is ever interrupted you can call 105.

Join our Priority Services Membership, for customers who might need extra support during a powercut: northernpowergrid.com/care