

Tomorrow's Utilities—a preview of two linked half day events

Cornwall Energy is to host a half-day event on 6 October focused on how the energy sector will change over the next few years. It will be preceded by a seminar organised by our friend and collaborator Perry Sioshansi.

Free to our customers, the afternoon event comes at a time of continuing uncertainty regarding the future pathway of the GB energy markets. Five years ago, David Cameron entered Downing Street pledging to lead “the greenest government ever”; however, ministers were, by the end of the last Parliament, sharply divided on the right balance between the three prongs of the energy trilemma. Much had been accomplished in delivering improved competition in the retail markets, but consumer trust in the sector remained low and the affordability of the UK's decarbonisation objectives was being openly questioned. Much of this uncertainty remains under the new Conservative majority, with many concerned that its rhetorical commitment to tackling climate change is as yet unmatched by policy action.

Our event's keynote speech will be delivered by former energy and climate change secretary **Ed Davey**, who will outline his views on the coalition government's most important accomplishments in the energy sector. This will be followed by market participants—including First Utility head of trading and pricing **Jon Smith** and Haven Power's director of supplier management **David Crossman**—providing a view on how the changes introduced over the past few years have impacted upon their businesses.

The next session will focus on the future of retail energy markets, with contributors including Cornwall Energy director Robert Buckley, former electricity regulator **Stephen Littlechild**, and **Catherine Waddams** from the University of East Anglia's Centre for Competition Policy, and a former competition commissioner. The event will close with a further discussion about how the energy sector is likely to change over the coming five years. Presentations will be delivered by Cornwall Energy managing director **Nigel Cornwall** and Lazarus partner **Edmund Reid**.

Separately, we will, on the same morning, jointly host an event with **Perry Sioshansi** of Menlo Energy Economics that will more broadly examine the future of the European utilities sector. The transformation of the electric power sector has, over recent years, accelerated in a number of dimensions including generation, transmission, distribution and, most noticeably, on the customer end. Rapid technological advancements plus falling costs of distributed energy resources—which includes energy efficiency improvements plus distributed generation—is turning an increasing number of consumers into *prosumers*, eroding utility revenues and threatening the historical business model.

Equally important are rapid advances in energy storage, electric vehicles, micro-grids, demand aggregation, and demand response, all pointing to a different future with a different role for the incumbents, particularly for the distribution business.

Contributors will examine these issues and their ramifications for the power sector. Menlo's Perry Sioshansi, editor of a new book on the future of utilities, will consider technological innovations in distributed energy resources, before Poyry's **Stephen Woodhouse** considers what's in store for European utilities.

Further speakers will include: **Christoph Burger** of the European School of Management and Technology; **Rahmat Poudinet** of the Oxford Institute for Energy Studies; and Copenhagen Business School's **Luis Boscan**.

The event will conclude with a panel session that will involve Imperial College's **Richard Green**, EEE director **Alex Henney**, Trilemma UK's **Simon Skillings** and **Catherine Mitchell** from the University of Exeter.

For invitations, contact Georgie Graver on 01603 604422 or training@cornwallenergy.com.

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Event details

The two events will be held on 6 October at the Institute of Directors in London.

The morning event will run from 10.30am-1pm.

The afternoon event will take place between 2pm-5pm, and will be followed by a drinks reception. It is free to attend for Cornwall Energy customers.

For further information or to book your place at either event, please contact Georgie Graver on 01603 604422 or via [email](#).