



SP Energy Networks
Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1)

Representative imagery

Connecting Scotland's clean energy across the UK

SP Energy Networks (SPEN) is delivering the Scottish section of the Eastern Green Link 1 (EGL1) - a major new electricity connection that will carry renewable energy under the North Sea from East Lothian to County Durham.

As more wind power is generated across Scotland, stronger network links are needed to move that clean electricity to where it is used. EGL1 will help by strengthening the UK's energy network and supporting the transition to net zero. The project is a joint venture with National Grid Electricity Transmission who are responsible for the section in England.



EASTERN GREEN LINK



What's happening in East Lothian?

EGL1 is a 2GW high-voltage direct current (HVDC) link. Most of the cable will run under the sea, but SPEN is responsible for the Scottish onshore works. In East Lothian, this includes:

- The landfall site where the subsea cable comes ashore near Cockburnspath.
- Underground cables connecting inland.
- A new converter station at Torness.

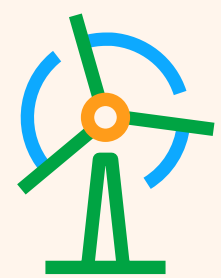
The scheme will enable large volumes of renewable electricity - particularly offshore

wind - to be transported to homes and businesses across the UK. Construction is taking place in phases, with work in Scotland starting in spring 2026. The link is expected to be operational by 2029.

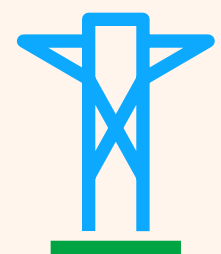
Branxton substation

EGL1 will also involve building a new substation at Branxton. Work on this phase is due to start in the autumn 2026, and will have its own dedicated Community Benefit Fund.

Once complete, the EGL1 connection will:



Unlock renewable energy: The substation and converter will allow more Scottish wind power to flow into the overall UK network, helping reduce carbon emissions.



Improve reliability: Improved power capacity reduces the chance of disruptions and keeps supply stable for customers.



Keep bills down: By upgrading now, we can avoid bigger and more expensive works later - helping to protect customers from higher costs.



Did you know?

HVDC stands for high-voltage direct current (HVDC). This technology moves electricity efficiently over long distances, including under the sea. It reduces energy losses and helps connect renewable energy at scale.

Converter station changes electricity from alternating current (AC) to direct current (DC), or back again. This makes it possible to send power long distances offshore and then safely connect it into the local grid.

Representative imagery

Who will benefit?

Communities across East Lothian, Scotland and the wider UK will benefit from a stronger, more flexible electricity network. EGL1 will help move more renewable energy across Britain, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, as well as improve security of supply and support the growth of offshore wind.

Why it matters

The overall EGL1 project will:

- **Support net zero:** Connect more clean power to the grid, helping Scotland reduce carbon emissions.
- **Strengthen energy security:** Create a new high-capacity link between Scotland and the rest of the UK to improve system resilience.
- **Boost network capacity:** Strengthen the electricity network enabling it to handle more power – and prepare for future growth in demand.
- **Support future growth:** Ensure the grid is ready for the growing demand from technologies like electric vehicles, battery storage, and heat pumps.
- **Reduce costs for customers:** Expand network capacity now, helping to avoid costlier network upgrades in the future, protecting consumer bills.
- **Bring investment:** Create employment opportunities during construction and bring more local jobs into the sector.

Community Benefit Fund

As with all our major transmission projects, a Community Benefit Fund will be made available to support local initiatives. This is a voluntary scheme designed to ensure the community shares in the benefits of the project.



SP Energy Networks: Who are we?

SP Energy Networks are Transmission Operators (TO) - we look after the high voltage power lines and pylons that carry electricity across central and southern Scotland, moving energy from where it's made to where it's needed. Our job is to help deliver cleaner, greener energy to homes and businesses by connecting more renewable energy, adding substations and lines, and improving the grid.



Learn more and get in touch



Visit our site:

spenergynetworks.co.uk/pages/community_benefits_funding.aspx



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