Carbon footprint

We have a number of initiatives in place to reduce our carbon footprint. These include waste recycling, improving the energy efficiency of our buildings, controlling business transport & travel and the control of the theft of energy. These are reported in our SSE Group Corporate Responsibility Report.

Electrical losses on the network, together with losses from the theft of energy represent the vast majority of our greenhouse gas emissions, and may account for up to 98% of the carbon impact. Electrical losses occur in distributing energy across the network, and are measured as the difference between the amount of electricity generated and that consumed by customers.

One option for us is to invest in loss reduction equipment, or in changes to network design and operation, which would reduce electrical losses on the network, and could be achieved for new network extensions, or in replacing older equipment. We would want to do this where the additional costs of doing so are lower than the costs associated with losses.

As part of our broader commitment to reducing carbon gases, we are very keen to see cleaner forms of generation, including renewable generation, connecting into the network to make its contribution to energy provision and energy security.

We are still to see significant growth in small distributed generation (DG) connecting throughout the networks, close to the demand centres of towns and communities. However, in the north of Scotland, we are seeing relatively large generators (1-10MW) looking to connect in rural situations. We are keen to see such small-scale generation able to connect locally, without the need to await for national reinforcements to take place on the transmission grid system. We are also keen to continue developing innovative proposals to connect DG and support the concept of Registered Power Zones where innovative ideas can be developed