

***“yes, but....”***

**Tales from the frontline of energy policy  
....or, why we really need iGov**

**Rebecca Willis, iGov Conference, December 2016**





Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy



Can you help  
[community energy] to  
help us to meet our  
energy goals?



Yes. But....



Well, yes. But....

*\*mind races -where to begin?\**



Yes. But....  
It must be cost-effective

- *Costs are a function of market design, not (just) the technology*
- *Can we really talk about subsidies?*
- *Why £ per megawatt?*
- *Or different £ at different times of day?*





Well, yes. But....

*\*mind races -where to begin?\**



Yes. But....

We need a level playing field



- *What game are we playing?*
- *Who's the ref?*
- *Co-existence isn't inevitable*
- *It's political (there will be losers)*
- *So 'neutrality' is political too (in favour of incumbents)*

Well, yes. But....

*\*mind races -where to begin?\**



Yes. But....  
We must protect  
consumers

- *Why are you separating consumers from producers?*
- *Why the focus on price and competition (as a way of protecting consumers)?*
- *Why is demand taken as given and unchanging?*



Well, yes. But....

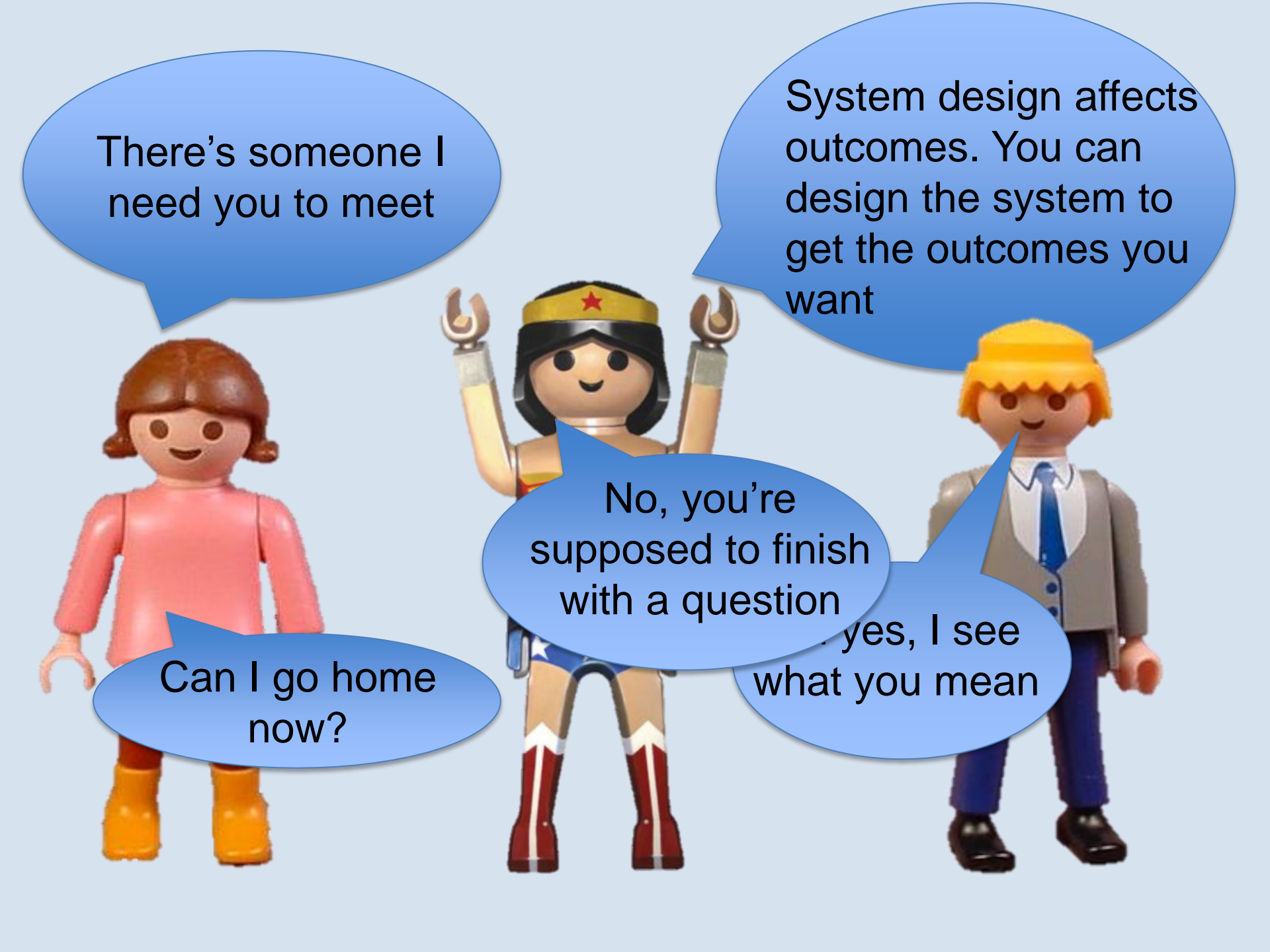
*\*mind races -where to begin?\**



Yes. But....  
The lights must stay on

- *Why is this all about supply? What about demand?*
- *Predict & provide?*
- *Why should I be allowed to put my washing machine on at morning peak?*
- *Would scarcity be such a bad thing in ALL circumstances?*



The image features three LEGO minifigures against a light blue background. On the left is a girl with brown hair in pigtails, wearing a pink long-sleeved dress and yellow boots. In the center is a superhero minifigure with black hair, a yellow headband with a red star, a yellow and red top, blue shorts with a white star, and red boots with white stripes. On the right is a man with blonde hair, wearing a grey suit jacket, a white shirt, a blue tie, and blue trousers. Each minifigure has a blue speech bubble containing text.

There's someone I need you to meet


System design affects outcomes. You can design the system to get the outcomes you want

No, you're supposed to finish with a question

Can I go home now?



Yes, I see what you mean





Ok. How about:  
Should we start  
thinking of the  
energy system as  
a public service,  
not a market?

Thanks. I'm off



great question