



We are the network

Your NGN news update
February 2020

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Gearing up for the future

Our industry is constantly evolving, as we look for new ways to improve efficiency and deliver sustainable energy for customers, now and in the future. Here at NGN, we're committed to helping our customers be more energy efficient to help reduce bills, keep homes warm and reduce our impact on the environment. To future proof our business, we're investing in our workforce and trialling new processes, to keep moving forward.

Slow Stew campaign drives message about energy efficiency

With fuel poverty still a pressing issue in our region, we teamed up with Community Action Northumberland and an award-winning chef in Northumberland to promote the key messages of healthy eating, well-being and economic cooking. Together we launched a competition to encourage entrants to create an appetising, easy-to-prepare recipe made with affordable ingredients, prepared in a slow cooker, which can deliver savings of up to 63p per hour compared to using a traditional cooker which can make a huge difference to many householders.

The recipe competition was launched at the



Warm Hubs Lunch

Watch a clip from residents in the village of Longframlington hosting their first Warm Hub lunch, providing a warm and friendly welcome, a hot meal and good company to members of the community, who were also able to access advice on how to lower their energy bills.

inaugural Warm Hub Luncheon Club at St Mary's Church, Longframlington, near Morpeth at the end of January, where residents who are off grid have to rely on more expensive alternatives to gas to heat their homes. As well as receiving a delicious hot meal of homemade soups and apple crumble and advice regarding energy efficiency, attendees at the Warm Hub were treated to a demonstration of a Vegetable Moroccan Stew recipe, specially designed and prepared by Michael Hall, regional winner of Chef of the Year at the 2016 North East Culinary Trade Association, and chef at The Granby Inn, Longframlington nr. Morpeth.

The competition was launched ahead of the Nation's Biggest Housewarming event (5 February), an event, created by National Energy Action, aimed at increasing awareness fuel poverty throughout the UK & Ireland. NGN held its own Nation's Biggest Housewarming event which saw NGN whip up Michael's vegetable stew for lunch, with colleagues throughout the network enjoying a warm and healthy lunch and learning about fuel poverty and energy efficiency, in return for a donation to the charity. A huge thank you to all who took part in our competition. The prize includes a slow cooker, provided by NGN, essential kitchen utensils and a hamper of locally sourced ingredients to make a range of delicious slow-cooked recipes. Keep posted to @NGNgas, where we will be announcing the winner!

NGN helps schools across Yorkshire find solutions for the planet

Last month, we supported Solutions for the Planet hosting hundreds of pupils from schools across Yorkshire to take part in Big Ideas Day. As the scheme's partner, NGN delivered mentioning to key stage 3 pupils, highlighting the importance of sustainability and raising awareness of career opportunities within the engineering sector. Ideas generated by the pupils will be entered into a regional heat in May, with the finalists competing at a national level, presenting their ideas to a panel of judges at the Palace of Westminster in June.

We believe employing and developing talent is vital to ensure that businesses is equipped with the skills

[Watch here](#)



£30m Hydrogen Boost

As we work towards becoming a cleaner, greener business for a low carbon, sustainable future, we welcomed the news of the government's £30 million investment in hydrogen demonstration projects contributing towards reaching Net Zero targets last month. This demonstrates the determination the government has for driving Hydrogen processes forward.

NGN is leading the H21 project, a collaborative gas industry programme focused on conversion of the UK gas network to safely carry 100% hydrogen, a fuel that when burnt produces water and energy and nothing else.

[Read more](#)



Workforce for the future

NGN is on a mission to further expand its opportunities for communities throughout the North of England, following a £3.7 million investment in employee training in the last two years. Through its ambitious

it needs for the future. Initiatives such as the Big Ideas programme are a great way to help to raise young people's career and work aspirations through experiencing real-world business challenges and developing their employability skills.

apprenticeship programme, NGN is committed to providing comprehensive training in STEM careers for people from a wide variety of backgrounds and with different levels of experience.

Aiming to help employees play to their strengths, NGN has recruited over 130 apprentices since 2005 and today, more than 50% of the workforce now aged 40 or under.

[Read more](#)

Round two of our grass roots grants scheme is open for applications!

The second phase of our award-winning Community Partnering Fund in partnership with Northern Powergrid and Leeds Community Foundation is open for entries. Local community groups that demonstrate an innovative approach to sustainability are invited to come forward with grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 from a £50,000 fund pot, which will be distributed to grassroots projects and third-sector organisations.

The Community Partnering Fund focuses on supporting innovative approaches to delivering sustainable initiatives that help broaden our reach and educate and support communities and individuals on the following objectives:

- Alleviating hardship associated with fuel poverty and promoting innovative energy-related environmental impact, energy efficiency or carbon reduction
- Educating and informing communities about safety in relation to domestic gas and power including the dangers from Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning and how to protect against it
- Encouraging interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects and related career opportunities
- Promoting use of the Priority Services Register, a free service provided by electricity distribution network operators and energy suppliers to customers in vulnerable circumstances within communities

The Community Partnering Fund is open for applications until 12 noon Tuesday 10 March 2020. For more information, search for #CommunityPartneringFund on social media or visit <https://leedscf.org.uk/community-partnering-fund-r4> to apply for a grant.

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