

# YOUR NGN NEWS UPDATE

JUNE 2020

## Leading the way for a cleaner, greener future



As the UK looks to rebuild the economy in response to the coronavirus pandemic, there is increasing focus on how to shape an economy and a society that are cleaner, greener and more resilient. Hydrogen has the potential to play a key role in addressing the decarbonisation challenge, and projects like H21, which is lead by Northern Gas Networks, are leading the way in supplying

government with the essential safety evidence required for policy change.

This week, the UK's Climate Change Committee made a recommendation for BEIS to develop a strategy for low-carbon hydrogen use (across power, industry, transport and buildings), production and infrastructure, aiming for large scale hydrogen trials to begin in the early 2020's. This followed the German government's announcement of €7 billion for hydrogen projects, as part of its green economic recovery programme.

## Pioneering hydrogen project takes first steps at South Bank

South Bank in Redcar and Cleveland could become the base for the next phase of a pioneering hydrogen energy project aimed at reducing carbon emissions, as the UK looks towards its Net Zero commitments. Our outlined proposal to lease an area of disused land, was approved at a council cabinet meeting this month. The proposal for South Bank is part of the next phase of the H21 project, a major collaborative UK gas industry hydrogen programme led by NGN.

Under the proposal, which is still subject to full planning approval, the existing gas pipes on the site would be used to test a series of standard gas network procedures using hydrogen. The site was chosen because the gas pipes, while all still intact, are disconnected from the rest of the network.

Hydrogen contains no carbon element, so when burnt only produces heat and water, making it a realistic future fuel for domestic heating and cooking. With Teesside already at the forefront of UK hydrogen production, the next stage of the process will bring more detailed consultation with local residents and councillors before the submission of the planning application.

## UK public perceptions of hydrogen revealed

Last month, we invited stakeholders to attend a virtual webinar presenting the findings of our H21 social sciences research. The independent study was carried out as part of the H21 project and explored customer views on low carbon hydrogen, its use as a domestic fuel and potential role as a future energy source.

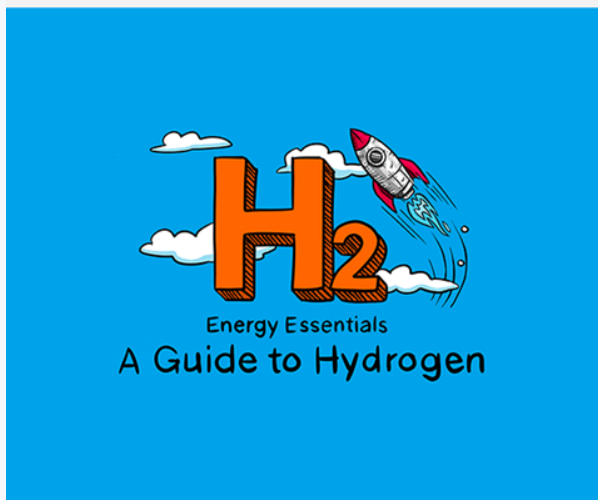
Overall, the research found cleaner hydrogen energy systems to heat homes across the UK would be supported by the public – but steps need to be taken to ensure customers aren't left behind in green energy discussions.

The key findings show:

- 68% of public are indifferent or undecided about clean energy solutions which would support climate change
- Energy customers would support a hydrogen gas network, providing questions on cost and safety are answered
- Public want decisive action now, to reduce environmental impact and avoid outlay on obsolete appliances

The findings highlight the importance of engaging with our stakeholders to ensure they are brought along on the journey to a net-zero future. Hearing customer voices and understanding the areas where they require industry and government to deliver clear answers, are central to energy transition and will help to inform the next steps enabling a greener gas grid.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE](#)



## Want to know more?

Using hydrogen for industrial processes is nothing new, but its use for heating, cooking and transport is very new indeed. You can find out about this exciting, green energy source in a new guide from the Energy Institute.

[Find out more](#)

## Looking for support during the coronavirus pandemic?

We are still encouraging community organisations, charities and local businesses to send in requests for support during this difficult time. NGN's staff can volunteer in a wide range of roles, from providing access to vehicles and drivers, to delivering care packages to customers' doorsteps and toiletries to care homes and hospices.

Anyone working for an organisation that is looking for support, or knows someone who does, can get in touch with Northern Gas Networks at [AskNGN@northerngas.co.uk](mailto:AskNGN@northerngas.co.uk)

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## GET INVOLVED

### Join us at our online Customers in Vulnerable Situations workshop on July 10

During 2019, we consulted with a wide variety of stakeholders to build a business plan for the next five years across a wide range of areas, including supporting customers in vulnerable situations.

We are now taking the opportunity to talk to our stakeholders regularly, not only about how their feedback has influenced and shaped our plan, but also how we can prioritise our commitments to support customers in vulnerable situations.

Please join us on July 10 to hear all about how NGN has been developing:

- Our commitments for supporting their vulnerable customers;
- Our approach working towards greener energy solutions;
- The impact of COVID-19 on our customers and communities.

**Sign up here**

### Get in touch...

If you have any feedback about this e-bulletin or any questions about our work, we'd love to hear from you. Just email [stakeholder@northerngas.co.uk](mailto:stakeholder@northerngas.co.uk)

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