

YOUR NGN NEWS UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2020

Leading the way with hydrogen



Last week, NGN welcomed Boris Johnson's ambitious **Ten-point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution**, which lists hydrogen as a potential green fuel of the future as a key component. The pledge forms part of the Government strategy which the Prime Minister believes will deliver on net zero commitments by 2050, and regenerate industrial heartlands in the North, creating jobs, prosperity and economic growth.

The details of the plan include the aim of heating a neighbourhood with hydrogen gas by 2023 and then an entire town with tens of thousands of homes, by the end of the decade. Our **flagship**

hydrogen programme H21, a suite of projects delivering essential evidence on which policy can be formed, has been developed to ensure that customers continue to have choice in terms of low carbon energy, which can be delivered with minimal impact.

Earlier this month, we also marked the next phase of our H21 project with leading boiler manufacturer, Worcester Bosch installing the **first pure hydrogen burning boiler** in a house outside of their own hydrogen laboratories.

'HyStreet', the demonstration site where the boiler is installed, was built at DNV GL's specialist test site at Spadeadam to research and prove the safety of converting homes and gas networks to hydrogen. The fully functioning prototype will evolve into Bosch's first hydrogen-ready boiler. Hydrogen-ready boilers are like-for-like replacements for existing boilers that start life running on natural gas and can be quickly and conveniently converted to burn 100% hydrogen as networks switch over.

These recent developments demonstrate hydrogen gas has great potential as a zero carbon alternative to natural gas for heating and hot water in the UK and beyond. The ambition is there for UK to lead on climate change strategy and ensure those plans support green recovery and job creation.

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HyDeploy pilot in Gateshead

As part of our Hydeploy project, in early 2021 the residents of Winlaton, Gateshead will become the first community to receive a 20% blend of hydrogen in their public gas supply. A major benefit is that the pilot will require no disruption for customers in terms of their gas appliances or the way they use gas at home. The Winlaton demonstration will run for 10 months and provide important evidence to inform how hydrogen could be used more widely in a practical, affordable way, and will be the first time most customers will have experienced using it for energy in their homes.

[WATCH OUR VIDEO](#)

Our environment workshop

In September, we invited our environment stakeholders to collectively attend a workshop to explore how understand whether stakeholders' environmental priorities have changed during 2020, and hear challenge and feedback on the initiatives detailed in our Environmental Action Plan.

Highlights

- there was an approximately even split between whether stakeholder's environmental priorities have changed during 2020 or not
- of those that had changed, stakeholders now place greater priority on environmental issues e.g. biodiversity crisis, or increasing client demands for reduced environmental impact

They said...

- improving carbon literacy among colleagues and stakeholders potentially has a large role to play in the transition to net zero and is an area where they would be interested in exploring potential collaboration
- single use plastics are still one of the main priorities, we rate them 7.5 out of 10 for importance
- we're interested in talking to you again about a range of topics including biodiversity, net zero, science based targets and the circular economy

So we will...

- explore how we can collaborate with our stakeholders from the workshop to co-create a Carbon Literacy programme to offer to our colleagues across the business and stakeholders
- continue to prioritise eradicating single use plastics from our depots and offices
- set-up a regular stakeholder engagement programme to discuss the topics of interest (see below for an invite to our next session)

We are now working hard together as a team to make sure that we bring to life the ideas that we heard, and to also make certain that our future engagement programme is structured around the priority areas highlighted.

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE](#)

GET INVOLVED

Join us at our next online Environment workshop on Wednesday 16 December.

Following our September workshop, the discussions gave us a lot of food for thought and we want to continue those conversations in December, with a particular focus on:

- Sustainable procurement – what would you expect to see in a Supplier Code of Conduct?
- UN Sustainable Development Goals – where are we five years on

We would be delighted if you could attend a virtual workshop via Zoom on Wednesday 16 December, 10.00am - 12.00pm. There will be plenty of opportunities to contribute to these areas of discussion, and for you to continue to shape our plans.

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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

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