

## YOUR NGN NEWS UPDATE

OCTOBER 2020

# Joining the pledge to boost social mobility in wake of COVID-19



As an award-winning employer across the North of England, Northern Gas Networks (NGN) is already well-placed to be a driving force for positive change in the communities it serves. But with the challenge of a post-Covid 19 recovery ahead, it's now time to go further; to level up the playing field for talent, and create more ambitious opportunities for young people in the region.

This month, we launched our **Opportunity Action Plan**, in partnership with former Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon. Justine Greening, and the **Social Mobility Pledge** campaign. The Opportunity Action Plan is a practical strategy dedicated to 'levelling up' the employment landscape, empowering everyone to develop their talents and fulfill their potential regardless of background or income.

The plan sets out NGN's best practice and a series of ambitions with the aim of ensuring that more people in local communities are connected to opportunities. The Pledge asks businesses and universities to commit to levelling-up Britain by partnering with local schools, offering apprenticeships and using open and fair recruitment practices. NGN will take a targeted approach to where we know that opportunities for social mobility are low. You can read the full **NGN Opportunity Action Plan** [here](#).

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

## Stakeholder Report 2020

**It's that time of year again when we share our activities and achievements over the past year.**

Our **2020 Stakeholder Report** brings the important facts and figures about our performance to life by including key examples of our work and how collaboration with charities, businesses, local authorities, education providers, government and other utility companies is benefiting our region.

The report also highlights where we are innovating new technology to provide even better service, and how we have worked proactively to engage with customers across all our communities, particularly during the ongoing Covid-19 lockdown when people needed additional support and reassurance. If you have any feedback on the report, we would welcome your comments. You can contact us at [stakeholder@northerngas.co.uk](mailto:stakeholder@northerngas.co.uk)

[DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE](#)

## GET INVOLVED

**Join us to explore focus areas for our innovation strategy and customer vulnerability on Tuesday 10 November.**

We are working with stakeholders to ensure that future innovation activity is aligned to key industry challenges, specifically the challenges that **customers in vulnerable situations** are facing both today and in future, as part of the energy systems transition.

As we focus on the key elements of our innovation strategy for the next six years we'd like to invite you to engage with us and help prioritise actions to ensure that our innovation community can collectively support essential research and development.

We would be delighted if you could attend a virtual workshop to discuss our plans and feed in your views on Tuesday 10 November, 1.00pm - 2.30pm.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



## COMMUNITY PARTNERING FUND

Our award-winning Community Partnering Fund in partnership with Northern Powergrid and Leeds Community Foundation is **open for entries**. Local community groups are invited to come forward with grants of between **£1,000 and £10,000**. The fund focuses on supporting innovative approaches to delivering sustainable initiatives that help broaden our reach and educate and support communities and individuals. Project must support at least one of the following objectives:

- Alleviating hardship associated with fuel poverty
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) awareness
- Encouraging interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects
- Promote use of the Priority Services Register and or energy efficiency advice

- This year, you can also apply for funding if you are an organisation working around food poverty for people particularly affected by Covid-19

The Community Partnering Fund is open for applications until 12 noon on Monday 2 November. For more information, search for #CommunityPartneringFund on social media or visit the link below.

*\*photo taken at an event in June 2019*

**APPLY NOW**

### 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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