



YOUR NGN NEWS UPDATE

May 2022

NGN Starts Search for New Partners and Net Zero Innovation Projects



The Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) is a new £450million funding mechanism available to us through Ofgem and Innovate UK to find and fund ambitious, innovative projects with the potential to accelerate the transition to net zero.

In March 2022, Ofgem confirmed we had been successful in receiving just under £500,000 initial funding to take forward five key projects from Round 1 into a two-month 'Discovery' phase to test proof of concept and, if successful develop further into implementation through a 6 month 'Alpha' phase.

Successful projects included a review of existing research around the barriers and adoption of smart home technologies, a strategy for hydrogen transport for heavy duty vehicles, decarbonation of the rail network and an assessment tool for PE pipe replacement programmes.

This month, Ofgem announced the new themes for Round 2 following extensive collaboration and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and interested bodies, including Northern Gas Networks:

- Accelerating decarbonisation of major energy demands (enable cost-effective integration of heat and transport decarbonisation solutions aligned to net zero timescales)
- Supporting a just energy transition (delivering net zero technologies and services that works for all consumers whilst protecting the vulnerable)
- Preparing for a net-zero power system (supporting the safe and reliable operation of a net zero power system by 2035)
- Improving energy system resilience and robustness (strengthening whole system resilience and robustness to achieve net zero)

We are inviting innovators and other potential project partners to work with us to develop project proposals ahead of the application process opening in September 2022.

The SIF is a major opportunity for businesses and academics to work with energy networks on innovative projects that will deliver benefits faster to consumers. It is there to help energy networks and the electricity system operator: help save consumers money, reduce CO₂, improve access to energy market and develop new products, processes or services.

If you have an idea which fits into any of the above themes or for more information, please send us your ideas!

[Send us your ideas here](#)

Solutions for the Planet –
helping schools develop big

ideas



Over the last six months a team of volunteers from NGN have been mentoring pupils in schools across our network to tackle sustainability issues as part of the Big Ideas sustainability competition

The competition is organised by social enterprise Solutions For the Planet and this month saw pupils in six schools from across our network battle it out in the Northern regional finals.

Our team of mentors have been helping pupils aged 11-14 to generate big ideas to solve sustainability challenges whilst building confidence, teamwork and STEM skills. It led to amazing design concepts being turned into creative business plans and projects, generating real solutions including a 'Fire Fighting Drone'.

The first Northern regional final took place at Leeds University where our Business Operations Lead Russ Kaye joined the judging panel, and saw Bishop Young C of E School claimed the top prize against North Durham Academy and Outwood Academy Freeston.

At the second Northern final held at Bradford University, Dixon Kings Academy from Bradford, Halifax Academy and Titus Salt School from Shipley went head-to-head with Settle College.

Settle College were chosen as the winners, while Titus Salt and Halifax Academy finished runners-up.

NGN Operations Director John Richardson joined the judging panel for the second regional final and said: "I'm genuinely excited to be involved in this year's competition, seeing the

ideas being brought to the table and the clever thinking underpinning them. As a regional business working within our communities, it's brilliant to be able support the progression and talents of young people across our network."

The regional winners will now progress to the Big Ideas national final, taking place at the end of June in Westminster.

GDN Donations to Ukraine



Northern Gas Networks (NGN) has joined up with Britain's gas transmission and distribution networks to assemble key specialist components to help to repair and replace infrastructure damaged during Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

NGN teamed with Cadent, National Grid Gas Transmission, SGN and Wales & West Utilities, with further support from IGEM, to donate large-scale specialist equipment, gathered at an operational site in the East Midlands before being shipped to where it is desperately needed in Ukraine.

The industry effort also received financial support from the Institution of Gas Engineers & Managers (IGEM), and engagement help from the Polish Government's Strategic Reserve Agency 'Help Ukraine' scheme and the European Energy Community's Ukraine Support Task Force.

Mark Horsley, CEO of Northern Gas Networks, said: "Our colleagues have been shocked and saddened by recent events in Ukraine, and were motivated to help Ukrainian citizens and our counterparts in the Ukrainian energy sector, using our specialist expertise.

“Alongside the terrible human toll, the war has caused immense damage to Ukrainian energy infrastructure and has seriously disrupted the provision of warmth and energy to their citizens.

“We hope that our action in gathering equipment over the past few weeks can restore to civilians some of the infrastructure required to restore warmth and power, and we will continue to offer our skills and knowledge however we can.”

Get Involved!

Join us at our next online CIVS Physical Disability Webinar - on 29th June 2022 - 10-11am

We recently had our CIVS annual strategic workshop to help us understand stakeholder and NGN priorities for the next year and how these can align to best support our customers in vulnerable situations. If you're interested in what our stakeholders had to say, you can read the full workshop report on our website([link](#)).

Stakeholders were asked to help provide ideas about how the new Vulnerability and Carbon monoxide Allowance funding could best align to the Customers in Vulnerable Situations Strategy. Stakeholders told us one of the areas of our we needed to consider more was physical disability and challenges.

In response we are now planning a webinar to explore this topic further and identify partnerships we can make with disability stakeholders. This webinar will also provide stakeholders with the opportunity to network with organisations that specialise in physical disabilities.

If you're interested in joining us for our Physical Disability Webinar on 29th June, register your interest and we will add you to our invite list.

[Register 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

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