



YOUR NGN NEWS UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2021

Launch of East Coast Hydrogen



This month, we launched East Coast Hydrogen, which is our exciting new collaboration with National Grid and Cadent.

Heating in the UK is currently responsible for a third of carbon emissions. Because hydrogen produces no carbon at the point of use, it is a viable alternative for heating homes and businesses. East Coast Hydrogen aims to make a valuable contribution to the UK's Net Zero target by creating a cost-efficient hydrogen network.

The global gas shortage we are currently experiencing emphasises the huge importance of investing in the transition to Net Zero. A flexible, zero-carbon energy system reliant on domestic production and diverse interconnection, will help protect the reliability of UK energy supplies in the long term.

The East Coast Hydrogen project will re-purpose our existing assets and develop new infrastructure to connect the hydrogen produced in the Humber and Teesside industrial clusters with demand points across the East of England. The project will connect production with local storage and neighbouring hydrogen schemes, eventually expanding to bring a hydrogen network to urban city centres, reaching over 10 million people.

East Coast Hydrogen aims to deliver thousands of highly-skilled jobs, significant inward investment and position the UK as a global leader in hydrogen.

The project was launched at a webinar last week with 250 key stakeholders in attendance. In November, we'll be holding a parliamentary reception to share progress and our plans in person. You can watch the full, one-hour webinar [here](#) and click below to watch a short project video.

WATCH THE VIDEO

NGN community using hydrogen blending for the first time

The next phase of a ground-breaking green energy trial that could help dramatically cut carbon emissions and open the door to a low-carbon hydrogen economy has begun.

Our HyDeploy project is blending hydrogen with natural gas on the NGN public gas network in Winlaton, Gateshead. **HyDeploy is a £22.5m Ofgem Network Innovation Competition project** delivered by a consortium, including ourselves, Cadent, Progressive Energy Ltd, Keele University, HSE – Science Division and ITM Power.

In a ten-month long pilot which started in August, HyDeploy is now blending up to 20% of hydrogen (by volume) into the gas supply of **668 homes, a school and some small businesses in Winlaton**. We've engaged with Winlaton community over the past two years and, with the support of Gateshead Council, undertaken safety checks on customer appliances to reassure residents that they can continue to use their gas as normal whilst playing a vital role in the decarbonisation of the gas network. The gas appliances found in homes today are designed to operate with a blend of up to 23% hydrogen so for

customers, there is no change to the way they heat their homes and cook.

Supplying blended hydrogen gas at Winlaton builds on the successful completion of a trial on a private gas network at Keele University. From October 2019 until March 2021, customers living in 100 homes and 30 university buildings safely received a supply of blended gas to heat their homes and cook with.

Fast facts

- If hydrogen was blended with natural gas across the UK at a similar level to HyDeploy, it could save around 6 million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions every year, the equivalent of taking 2.5 million cars off the road
- Hydrogen was a major component in 'town gas', gas created from coal and used widely throughout Great Britain before the discovery of North Sea gas in the 1960s.
- Across Europe, permitted levels of hydrogen in the gas supply vary, from 0.1% in the UK to up to 12% in parts of the Netherlands
- Blending hydrogen is a non-disruptive way to kickstart the transition to 100% hydrogen, allowing a significant hydrogen supply to be built up without requiring changes to domestic consumers appliances or installation
- As hydrogen has a lower calorific value than natural gas, customers in Winlaton will use a little more gas during the project. HyDeploy is compensating customers by paying for the hydrogen element of their bill during the pilot.

GET INVOLVED



Join us at our next **Environment Workshop** on **Wednesday 6th October** to help us design the delivery of one of our flagship

projects in our Environment Strategy - the planting of **40,000 trees in our communities over the next five years.**

In recognition of the benefits that tree planting can deliver to air quality within communities, a key focus of our Environment Strategy, we've partnered with the Community Forest Trust to deliver a tree planting project. We'd like your help to inform our long-term programme and refine our site prioritisation method to include other factors that optimise and broaden the benefits that the planting scheme will deliver.

Our upcoming workshop will focus on:

- The who, what, why, where and when of our tree planting scheme
- How we are selecting planting sites for 2021/22 season
- The benefits the scheme can deliver – what are we missing?
- How can we adapt and refine our site selection process for future years?
- Opportunities to get involved
- Who else should we be talking to about this?

We'd be delighted if you could join us at this workshop, which will be held via Zoom. There will be plenty of opportunities to contribute to these areas of discussion, and for you to continue to shape our plans. Further details of the scheme, and our other commitments to improve air quality, can be found in our [Environmental Action Plan](#).

SIGN UP 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

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