



Monthly Stakeholder E Bulletin

March 2024

Your Northern Gas Networks News Update



Innovation funding secured for projects exploring the role of gas in supporting net zero

Northern Gas Networks (NGN) has been awarded £300k innovation funding for two feasibility studies exploring how a future gas network would support delivery of net zero to the UK.

The projects are funded through the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), an Ofgem programme managed in partnership with Innovate UK.

The fund's purpose is to support network innovation that will contribute rapidly to achieving net zero at lowest cost, deliver real net benefits to networks, energy users and consumers and help the UK become a 'Silicon Valley' of energy.

NGN will use the funding for two project 'discovery' phases, an initial research step essential to understanding the potential outcomes, challenges and resources required for further development.

PATCH (Production and Long-Term Containment of Hydrides) is examining the feasibility of alternative hydrogen storage mediums.

Working in partnership with Teesside University and Frazer-Nash Consultancy, it seeks to understand the market for using chemical hydrides (a chemical compound containing hydrogen) as a storage vector for hydrogen and coupling their production to industrial hubs, reducing energy requirements, and distributing storage throughout the UK.

Meanwhile, the Regional Energy Strategic Modelling project (RESM) is a whole systems modelling study exploring how all gas, water and power networks can work better together through strategic planning to support regional decision-making for low carbon infrastructure, and support constraint management of the electricity system.

You can **learn more about both projects by clicking the image above**, and watching both short films.



Northern Gas Networks partners with NEA and UK gas distribution networks to launch 'Warm Homes, Healthy

Futures'

Northern Gas Networks (NGN) in partnership with National Energy Action and together with the UK's other gas distribution networks, Cadent, SGN and Wales & West Utilities, has launched 'Warm Homes, Healthy Futures', a nation-wide fuel poverty and health programme.

This multi-year project will connect health professionals and local public health bodies with energy advice and other specialist services including income maximisation, servicing, and home improvements, to support people to live in warm and safe homes and improve their health.

The programme was launched at an event at the House of Lords last week (19 March 2024) with Minister Solloway, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State and Minister for Energy Consumers and Affordability at the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero; Baroness McIntosh, President, National Energy Action: Action for Warmer Homes; and Adam Scorer, CEO, National Energy Action (NEA).

The collaborative programme will be coordinated nationally, and delivered locally in communities where there is high need and limited existing support with the aim of leaving a lasting legacy.

Mark Horsley, CEO, Northern Gas Networks, said: "We're delighted to be working with National Energy Action and the other UK gas distribution networks to lead 'Warm Homes, Healthy Futures', our most ambitious collaborative project to date, which will help to understand and address the root causes of fuel poverty and target those who need support most, improving the quality of life for thousands of people living not just here in the North, but throughout the UK."

Find out more about the project by clicking the image above.

Get Involved

Customer Perceptions Research



At the start of this year, we completed our flagship annual perceptions research with over 1,400 customers from across our network.

The survey explores customers' opinions and their perceptions of key areas of our business, including customer priorities, energy use & concerns, sustainability commitments, future of energy, vulnerability/recruitment, complaints and also safety.

We surveyed 1,403 domestic and business customers, which has helped us understand what our customers are thinking and feeling around each of our key business areas - something that is crucial to help us make better decisions. **To read the report or view our key findings, please click the image to the right.**

February Young Innovators Council



2024 marks the fourth consecutive year of Northern Gas Networks' Young Innovators Council (YIC). The YIC continues to be the voice of young people at NGN, and it provides us with young people's perspectives, ensuring that their thoughts and opinions are put at the heart of the business' decision making.

The aim for the first session of 2024 was to bring as many members of the YIC together in person as possible. Most of the YIC sessions take place online to make them accessible to young people across a wide geographical area, but having the chance to meet face-to-face proved invaluable to the YIC last year and was something the majority of members asked for again.

This session played host to three detailed discussions about NGN, and some of our environmental responsibilities. **To find out more, and view the key insights please click the image to the right.**

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