

Your Northern Gas Networks Update

Whole System Planning for a Net Zero Future



Wholesale changes to the national strategic planning of energy networks is underway, with the creation of the National Energy System Operator (NESO) and up to 13 Regional Energy Strategic Planners (RESPs).

The RESPs will develop whole system strategic plans for each region, and these plans will need to align with both national and local net zero ambitions and energy security priorities.

Back in March, Northern Gas Networks secured discovery phase funding from round three of Ofgem's Strategic Innovation Fund, for the Regional Energy Strategic Modelling project (RESM).

This whole systems study is exploring how, through strategic planning and by keeping vulnerable customers at the heart of the process, gas, water and power networks can work better together to support regional decision-making for low carbon infrastructure.

The project aims to develop a decision-support tool that embeds coordination across the whole energy system and provides strategic steering for network development plans and infrastructure investment.

It's being led by Northern Gas Networks (NGN) and delivered by a diverse team from Northern Powergrid, Northumbrian Water, Durham University and DNV. Based on key learnings from the first phase, a submission for alpha phase funding is now being prepared.

We were delighted to welcome the full RESM team to our Low Thornley site near Gateshead last week, for a project review workshop and a look around our nine demonstrator homes at Futures Close.

This unique street, designed and built to trial heating and fabric improvements on homes from five different building eras - from the 1910s to the 1990s - is playing an important role in understanding the challenges and opportunities for shaping future decarbonisation of UK domestic housing stock.

Bradford's Dixon Trinity Academy School Triumphant in bid to create Net Zero Island



Students from Dixons Trinity Academy are celebrating after winning an inter-school competition to create a Net Zero island.

The challenge, set by Northern Gas Networks (NGN) in partnership with the University of Bradford, Bechtel, DNV, the SkillsHouse and Bradford Council saw

teams of year nine students, aged 13 and 14, develop ideas for sustainable living on a fictional Net Zero island.

The UK government has set a target of achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2050 as it looks to tackle and reverse the effects of climate change on the environment and the goal in Bradford, to achieve net zero carbon by 2038, is even more ambitious.

Pupils from Dixons Trinity, Woodhouse Grove, and St Bede's and St Joseph's schools in Bradford took up the challenge and, following a launch event in February, spent eight weeks developing their ideas.

At an event hosted at the University of Bradford this week, the three schools presented their ideas to judges Tim Harwood of NGN, David Siggins of Bechtle, James Machell of the University of Bradford, David Tomkin of DNV and Shafia Chowdhury and Sally Jones of Bradford Council.

In total 33 pupils pitched their ideas to the judges in a Dragon's Den style challenge, with a team from Dixons Trinity Academy named the winners. Whilst attending the event, pupils also took part in a workshop to explore fuel cells as a way of supporting the decarbonisation of transport.

Dixons Trinity's won the competition after presenting ideas for a robust energy production system, a waste management plan, a transport strategy and a plan for heating every home, to ensure that their island achieved Net Zero.

To find out more, click the button below.

[Find out more](#)

Other News

NGN shortlisted for Women in Utilities Award

We are delighted to share the news that NGN has been shortlisted for 'Best Equality Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Initiative' at the inaugural Women in Utilities Awards.

Our submission focussed on our Colleague Communities and the work they do to improve equality, diversity and inclusion throughout our business. There were more than 200 entries in this category alone, so just to be shortlisted is an incredible achievement.

The overall winners for each category will be announced at a lunchtime ceremony in London on Thursday 27th June.

For more info about the awards, please click the button below.

[Find out more](#)

Get Involved

Citizens' Panel March 2024

Our Citizens' Panel is the voice of our customers at Northern Gas Networks. We wanted to use this session to give the panel an opportunity to discuss the services that we are proposing in our next 5-year business plan, (2026 – 2031) and give the panel members a chance to reflect on each proposal, and to consider whether this was NGN's role and if associated customer costs were justifiable.



[Read our report](#)



Customer Perceptions Focus Groups April 2024

As an addition to this year's Customer Perceptions Research, we wanted to conduct a range of stakeholder focus groups to capture a wide range of perspectives from different participant groups, including current household customers, non-household customers, digitally excluded individuals, and key stakeholders.

[Read our report](#)

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