

Your Northern Gas Networks Update

Whole System Planning for a Net Zero Future



Wholesale change 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 (NGN) 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 customers in vulnerable situations 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 NGNand delivered by a diverse team from Northern Powergrid, Northumbrian Water, Durham University and DNV.

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.

Independent Stakeholder Group (ISG) Annual Report



Our Independent Stakeholder Group's latest report is now live!

Earlier this year, NGN's former Customer Engagement Group, known as the CEG, underwent some changes in its membership and role, and even in its name. This has included a refresh of the CEG remit following draft guidance from Ofgem which mandated Independent Stakeholder Groups (formerly CEG's) for the next regulatory price control, known as RIIO-GD3 (2026 – 2031), under its Framework for Future Systems and Network Regulation (December 2023).

The ISG has continued to monitor how NGN is delivering its commitments to customers and stakeholders, and its latest report relates to the third year of the current five year price control period, known as RIIO-2, for commitments delivered between April 2023 and March 2024.

The key objectives for the ISG for the regulatory year 2023-24 have been to:

- Assess, challenge and monitor Northern Gas Networks' preparedness ahead of the submission of its next business plan and delivery of commitments during the RIIO-2 period.
- Ensure the needs of millions of customers, including those in the most vulnerable situations, are truly reflected in the services they receive.
- Contribute to both the local and national desire to innovate and decarbonise a vital element of the UK's energy mix.
- Promote the economic growth of a large swathe of the North of England, by steering the strategy of one of its largest employers and investors.

The report sets out the ISG assessment of how NGN have ensured that stakeholder and customer views have shaped investment and delivery and outlines how the group is starting to shape the company's new business plan for RIIO-3.

Read the full report by clicking the button below and scrolling to the CEG Report and Impacts Appendix.

[Read the report](#)

Other News

UK healthcare system impacted by increasing number of 'hidden carers' warns expert

With over 10 million people in the UK aged 65 and over and the percentage of people aged 85 plus likely to double over the next 15 years, The Carens Room, has issued a warning about the impact increasing numbers of 'hidden carers' could have on the country's healthcare system.

Working closely with Northern Gas Networks and Cadent, The Carens Room can access funds to support customers in vulnerable situations. The energy sector directs funding to organisations whose mission it is to provide support, energy advice and health information to thousands of customers in vulnerable situations.

Eileen Brown, Customer Experience Director at Northern Gas Networks said:

“By partnering with The Carents Room, we are ‘helping the helpers’ who give their time and energy to look after others. The team at The Carents Room are doing a fantastic job of supporting families and individuals to look after loved ones, friends, and neighbours.

“We are particularly grateful to the team for the work they do to promote the Priority Services Register, helping us to look after customers who need a little extra help.”

Founded in 2020, The Carents Room set out to lend a hand to those struggling *carents* – *carers looking after older parents*, who are at a life juncture undertaking a multitude of activities; first aiders, homemakers, care coordinators, personal shoppers, chauffeurs, secretaries and financial or legal advisers. The Carents Room is a holistic online platform, providing a ‘one stop shop’ of information and support, while enabling carents to engage with other carents and building a supporting community.

[Find out more](#)

Get Involved

Young Innovators Council May 2024

Young Innovators Council (YIC) is the voice of young people at Northern Gas Networks. Its aim is to provide young people’s perspectives and help ensure young people’s thoughts and opinions are put at the heart of our decision making. During our recent session, we wanted to help to clarify the net zero future and NGN’s potential role within it, for the YIC members, and to understand the YIC’s perspectives on NGN’s priorities for future energy in GD3.



[Read our report](#)

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