

Monthly Stakeholder E Bulletin - July 2024

# Your Northern Gas Networks Update

### **Get Involved**

#### Join our Annual Stakeholder Conference



Northern Gas Networks would like to invite you to participate in our upcoming stakeholder conference. This event will be held simultaneously in person, at our office in Leeds (with lunch provided), and online.

The purpose of the event will be to seek feedback from key stakeholders such as yourself on the work we are currently doing and, importantly, it will provide an opportunity for you to shape and refine the commitments we will make in our upcoming Business Plan period (2026 – 2031).

As the gas network responsible for delivering gas to 2.7 million homes and businesses in the North East, Northern Cumbria and much of Yorkshire, we are facing a number of huge challenges as the gas sector undergoes a period of significant change. Energy prices remain high for customers, meaning that we need to keep bills affordable. However, we must do this while continuing to provide a safe and reliable service and one that meets the needs of all our customers, including those in vulnerable situations.

Importantly, we must also work to support the transition to a net zero future by incorporating greener sources of gas such as hydrogen while ensuring that we continue to maintain a resilient and secure network and business.

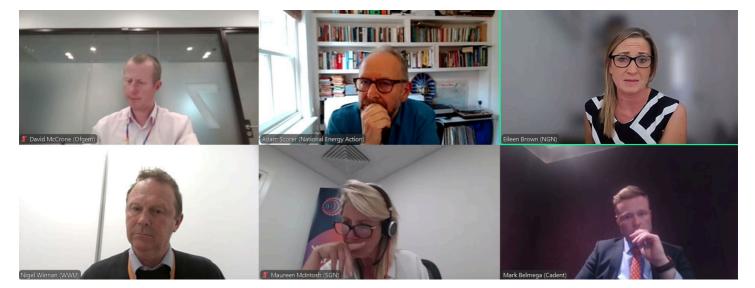
In order to address these many challenges, it is crucial that we engage with our key stakeholders and seek their feedback on our future plans. The conference will comprise a series of interactive discussion sessions with senior personnel at Northern Gas Networks on the topics that will form our Business Plan. To ensure that this event is accessible for everyone we are giving you the option to attend in person at our offices in Leeds (with lunch provided) or online, if you prefer.

We do hope you are able to participate. To find out more and register your interest, please use the button below.

Sign Up

## **Other News**

### VCMA Annual Showcase and 2024 Report



This year, we hosted the 2023-2024 Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) Annual Showcase, alongside Cadent Gas Limited, SGN and Wales and West Utilities.

The online event comprised of presentations from the UK's four Gas Distribution Networks, showcasing how they have utilised their VCMA funding during the last twelve months to support customers in vulnerable situations.

The Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance (VCMA) was a newly created fund for the Gas Distribution Networks (GDNs) funding period April 2021 to March 2026 (GD2).

For Northern Gas Networks, the initial amount available to spend was approximately  $\pm 1.3$  million per annum. During March/April 2022, as a result of changes to ECO4 funding, it became evident that there would no longer be support for first time central heating. As a result of this, Fuel Poor Network Extension Scheme (FPNES) connections significantly declined, which led to a review by Ofgem in late 2022.

Whilst FPNES will remain open, Ofgem have since repurposed the unspent allowance into the Vulnerability and Carbon Monoxide Allowance. This now means that the overall allowance for GDNs has increased from  $\pounds$ 60m to  $\pounds$ 171m.

The purpose of this report is to provide an annual update detailing how investment of the VCMA has been progressing, any stakeholder engagement linked to the VCMA, an overview of all projects that have been funded so far and a look ahead to the next year and beyond. For NGN, the total VCMA allowance increased from £6.85m to £19.64m.

Read our report



#### Homeless sleep pods idea scoops award for pupils

A team of Bradford schoolgirls have scooped a national award for a plan to create sleeping pods for homeless people to use.

The Bradford Girls' Grammar School group were named among the five winners of a school's competition called Big Ideas, facilitated by our partners Solutions for the Planet.

The team said their pods would be a safe space for the homeless, offering shelter as well as mental health support and skills training to help them gain confidence and boost employability. After building a model of a pod and coming up with a marketing strategy, the pupils now hope to build a prototype of their design.

Elle Griffin, our social media manager, worked with the girls on their project and called it a great idea. She said that "they are very passionate about it and how it affects their local area, so knew the idea would get them far.

It's such a big achievement, and NGN will be offering further assistance to help the group to develop the idea further".

Jen Baughan, Solutions for the Planet chief executive officer, said "the competition overall had shone a light on how young people can address society's biggest challenges, and she explained that given the freedom and creativity to think outside the box, they could find the solutions we need to save the planet".

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