

Your Northern Gas Networks Update

Congratulating successful apprentices ahead of National Apprenticeship Week



To mark the upcoming National Apprenticeship Week (10 – 16 February), Northern Gas Networks congratulated the latest group of successful apprentices who will be helping shape the future of energy.

With climate change one of the biggest issues to face future generations, an apprenticeship is a great way to be at the heart of the solution.

The group of 13 apprentices received their certificates at Northern Gas Networks' head office in Leeds from CEO Mark Horsley – who started out as an apprentice himself aged 16.

They are now all officially qualified as a 'Gas Network Craftsperson' and demonstrated fantastic enthusiasm, commitment and talent to pass the four-year programme which combines on the job training with college work.

They have spent much of their apprenticeships joining more experienced colleagues to help install and maintain gas network equipment in this innovative sector – which is playing a key role in the UK's transition to net zero.

Mark said: "A huge well done to all of our apprentices who have worked so hard. It's inspiring to see their energy and enthusiasm, and I know they will go on to have long, happy and successful careers. I started out as an apprentice at 16 as a cable jointer and I loved it, it taught me so much.

"They are joining our industry at an exciting time as we get our network ready to support the transition to net zero, so it's essential we invest in future talent to meet the challenges ahead."

[Find out more](#)

NGN Education Team judge Net Zero Island a success



Pupils at several schools in Bradford put their creative and scientific minds to the ultimate test – supported by Northern Gas Networks - in an exciting challenge to create a Net Zero island.

NGN ran the competition across the autumn term in partnership with the University of Bradford, Bechtel, Yorkshire Water, SkillsHouse and City of Bradford Council.

Students developed ideas for sustainable living on a fictional Net Zero island by exploring ways to produce energy for heating and cooking, fuel transport and manage waste and water for a population of 30,000 - without creating carbon emissions.

The contest saw pupils from various schools pitch their ideas to judges in a 'Dragon's Den' style format.

The 'Dragons' included NGN's Rebecca Miller, Ryan Mallinder from N-Gen, Steph Renshaw from Yorkshire Water, James Machell from University of Bradford and Barry Cusack from City of Bradford Council.

Carlton Bolling won the competition, with their use of diagrams and statistics alongside their decision making and explanations showing a real understanding and passion for the topic. Judges were also impressed by their focus on the natural geography of the island and habitat conservation.

As well as collecting a trophy and certificates, the winners secured a trip to visit Yorkshire Water's Headingley Water Treatment Works and Education Centre.

[Find out more](#)

Other News

Everybody needs good neighbours...

New research conducted by Northern Gas Networks has revealed that building a close relationship with neighbours boosts wellbeing - making people feel safer (58%), part of a community (49%) and happier overall (35%).

Almost a quarter of respondents said having strong relationships with their neighbours makes them feel less lonely, and well over half turn to a neighbour to ask them for help with a significant number asking for support on a regular basis. Many confirmed that having a close relationship with neighbours helps improve their mental health.

The research also highlighted ways that people help their neighbours – with helping putting out the bins topping the list. Good neighbours help in many positive ways including looking after their house while they're away, lending them items, feeding their pets and helping in the garden. Almost a quarter have given a neighbour a lift and helped them out with DIY. Supporting our neighbours builds great communities and makes everyone feel better.

The research was conducted by Northern Gas Networks to highlight the Neighbourhood Pipeline initiative, which encourages people to check in on neighbours who may need extra support this winter and pass on potentially life-saving information about gas and carbon monoxide safety, energy efficiency and additional support services.

[Find out more](#)

Get involved

NGN GD3 Stakeholder Webinar



Thank you to everyone who attended our GD3 Stakeholder Webinar.

We discussed our business plan and our six key commitments, all focused on delivering the outcomes that matter most to our customers and stakeholders – a high quality, reliable, sustainable and value for money service.

There was also an opportunity for stakeholders to ask any questions about the plan to our senior management team.

If you were unable to make this session but want to find out more, please contact us stakeholder@northerngas.co.uk

Low Carbon Technology Research

Our collaborative Low Carbon Technology Tracker runs every spring and autumn and helps us to understand customer perceptions of low carbon technology, and track how they change over time.

We have now conducted wave 6 of our LCT tracker. The following report gives an overview of some of the results from the most recent wave, with fieldwork taking place in October 2024.

Our research found that just over a quarter of GB consumers feel highly empowered to act toward achieving Net Zero, with slightly lower confidence observed in the NGN sample.

Interest in heat pumps and hydrogen boilers is driven by climate concerns and their availability. While awareness of hydrogen boilers is relatively high, many need to be made aware of installation requirements for heat pumps.

[Find out more](#)

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