**Monthly Stakeholder E Bulletin - November 2025**

# Your Northern Gas Networks Update

## Planting Trees in Our Communities | A RIIO-2 Success Story



National Tree Week marked the start of the tree and hedge planting season and encouraged people to get involved by planting, appreciating, and learning about trees.

NGN has been running a highly successful tree planting programme in our region since 2021.

Poor air quality in towns and cities contributes to tens of thousands of deaths in the UK annually. Many cities are trying to tackle this by introducing Clean Air Zones, such as Bradford in our region.

Trees are good at trapping pollutants but many of our towns and cities are low on tree cover. Our planting scheme aims to compensate for our negative air quality impacts by deliberately planting trees in areas of our region with known poor air quality. To deliver this we have set up a bespoke partnership with the existing community forests in our region, which are:

White Rose Forest – covering West and North Yorkshire and backed by Kirklees Council.

Humber Forest – covering East Yorkshire and backed by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council.

Using £400,000 of funding from our shareholders (not Ofgem), our 5-year partnership funds a project officer to identify planting sites, design schemes and gain approval, and also covers the tree planting and aftercare costs. Pleasingly, a lot of the planting is done by community volunteer groups. Our scheme prioritises planting in urban areas with known poor air quality, planting trees species that are good at trapping air pollutants, with particular preference for small plantations which the forests tell us they typically find difficult to secure funding for. The lifetime environmental benefits from our scheme have been valued at over £22m.

We set a target to plant 40,000 trees during RIIO-2 and amazingly we've already outperformed, reaching 52,700 trees planted across more than 70 sites, including many schools. This new woodland covers a total area equivalent to about 30 football pitches. We have also expanded the scheme to include planting 2,450m of new hedgerow following insight from our stakeholders about the benefits.

### Northern Gas Networks and Northern Cancer Voices – a partnership with northern soul

NORTHERN
Cancer Voices

One in two people will be affected by a cancer diagnosis in their lifetime. Coping with a diagnosis while also maintaining general health and wellbeing can be difficult. There are around 860 patients currently in treatment in the North East.

Our funding helps Northern Cancer Voices (NCV) improve the experience of cancer patients by increasing patient participation in the community, strengthening the network of patient and carer groups in the region, and promoting awareness of other support available including managing fuel costs and signing up to the Priority Services Register (PSR).

Since we partnered with NCV, they have helped over 500 people across their network, including getting 81 people signed up to the PSR and giving out 73 CO alarms.

Find out more

## Get Involved

# Young Innovators Council - Perceptions of AI



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 through meaningful and relevant engagement with our future customers.

We used our October session to explore young people's perceptions of AI, and to build an understanding of NGN's current AI strategy. It was important for us to identify potential benefits, challenges, and risk areas for AI use at NGN and gain insight into young people's perspectives on NGN's plan to adopt AI.
We wanted to gather youth views to help shape the governance and assurance around NGN's use of AI, particularly the AI impact assessment form, and to consider the ethical and sustainable impacts of AI and help NGN assess the customer impact and benefits of its adoption of the AI framework.

Read the report

# Our Annual Stakeholder Conference Report



On 16 October 2025, Northern Gas Networks (NGN) hosted its annual stakeholder conference which was hosted simultaneously in person in Leeds and remotely on Zoom. Each session consisted of a short presentation given by one or more NGN representatives (broadcast as a live feed to online participants), followed by facilitated

discussions at round tables and in virtual breakout rooms. In addition, stakeholders were asked to vote in a series of online polls using Slido.

The purpose of the event was to seek feedback from stakeholders on the following topic areas: current performance and readiness for GD3; customer experience; resilience; and low carbon transition to Net Zero. In the final session, stakeholders were invited to participate in a Q&A focused on collaboration.

Read the report

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