

## Contents

Welcome to the latest edition of **DeliveringDecarb**, bringing you all the latest news on gas decarbonisation, as well as project updates and the usual useful dates for your diary.

This month, we're delighted to be able to share a new blog created in collaboration with Darren Elsom, Cadent's Director of Hydrogen Operations and Development. Find out why he believes both biomethane and hydrogen will have a crucial role to play in decarbonising our energy system and hitting those all-important net zero goals. There's also a new DecarbDiscussions podcast on gas blending live in our Decarb Knowledge Centre, along with an accompanying blog, so be sure to head over there when you have a spare moment. You'll find all the links you need below.

### 01 Notable news

### 02 Spotlight on... the role of gas in the energy transition

### 03 Things to look out for

### 04 Policy milestones

### 05 Dates for your diary

### 06 Keeping in touch

## 01 Notable news

### National Grid completes record-breaking pour of Earth Friendly Concrete®

In Spring 2020, National Grid embarked on a project to 'rewire South London' via deep underground tunnels. It's a project that will allow for new cables to be installed to meet future energy demand. It will also ensure construction and maintenance work can be carried out without disruption at street level.



On April 22nd (Earth Day) the London Power Tunnels project saw the largest ever continuous pour of Earth Friendly Concrete®. The cement-free concrete was used to fill the base of the 55m deep tunnel drive shaft at National Grid's Hurst Substation. Its use had been driven forward by a team of young engineers and supported by contractor HOCHTIEF-MURPHY Joint Venture (HMJV). It's just one of the measures being taken by National Grid to reduce the environmental impact of construction.

[Read about the other measures they are taking here.](#)

### Floating wind could decarbonise North Sea platforms

The North Sea Renewables Grid (NSRG), led by Cerulean Winds, is a project to develop three 333km<sup>2</sup> sites with hundreds of floating wind turbines. Its aim is to kick-start net zero oil and gas production and green export.

The renewable energy generated at NSRG will be used to power North Sea oil and gas platforms. It is a measure being taken to help the oil and gas sector overcome the challenges of meeting the North Sea Transition Deal emission reduction targets.

[Read the full story here.](#)

## 01 Notable news

### Renewable energy developers left frustrated by 'lack of vision'

A recent piece from the Guardian has given a voice to organisations with projects 'stuck in gridlock' as the UK's energy infrastructure fails to keep pace with the appetite for clean energy. The article states that, 'the delays threaten to undermine decades of work to attract investment to support the UK's clean energy ambitions, and risks derailing progress towards legally binding climate targets.'

The momentum behind renewable power development is likely to rise as UK demand for electricity is forecast to increase by around 50% by 2035 - but many projects are stuck in queues waiting for grid connection. For those interviewed, the blame lies with the UK Government's failure to plan and lack of vision.

[Read the full story here.](#)

### Government urged to act fast to maximise industrial potential of green hydrogen

A new report this month from RenewableUK: 'Surveying the UK's Green Hydrogen Supply Chain Capability', urges the UK Government to work closely with the green hydrogen industry to develop a large-scale hydrogen market.

The report warns that the UK stands at a 'critical juncture', with other countries set to overtake us in the race to create thousands of jobs and attract billions in private investment during the decades ahead.

Key recommendations include setting up a joint working group, to establish how tax incentives and financial institutions could help to make the UK a more competitive market for investment, and the expediting of support scheme roll outs, including the Hydrogen Business Model and Net Zero Hydrogen Fund.

[Read the full report here.](#)



## 01 Notable news

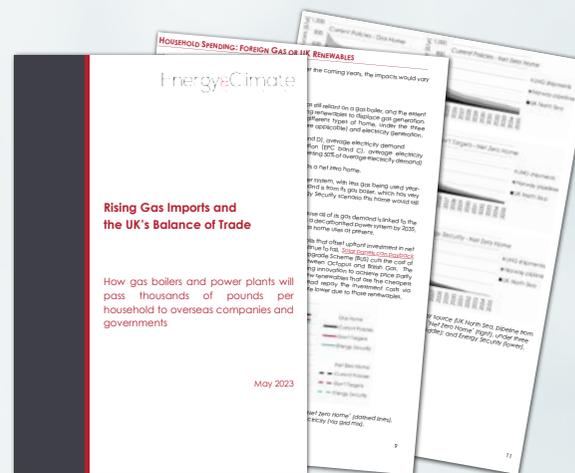
### Gas imports could rise to 85% by 2035 unless we invest in alternatives

New insight from the Energy and Climate Intelligence Unit (ECIU) forecasts that UK homes could be paying around 6K a year to foreign gas producers by the middle of the next decade, unless efforts are made to reduce the UK's dependence on imported gas.

The UK currently imports around half its gas, but that could rise to 85% by 2035. The ECIU has stressed the importance of deploying energy technologies, including renewable power, as well as home insulation and heat pumps. Mike Tholen, OEUK's Director of Sustainability has added his voice to the conversation, saying, 'The UK has 24 million homes heated by gas boilers, gets 42% of its power from gas fired power stations and has 32 million petrol and diesel vehicles. Overall, the UK gets about 76% of its energy just from

oil and gas. We need to move to lower carbon energy, but the scale of the change means it will take years. There is no simple choice between oil and gas and renewables – for the foreseeable future we will need both'.

[Read the full report here.](#)



### Progress on H100 Fife

The H100 Fife project, located in Levenmouth on the east coast of Scotland is an interesting one for our industry, with the potential to inform a wider rollout of 100% hydrogen for domestic heating - and significantly alter the UK gas landscape. The project has marked some major milestones in recent months, including the start of construction on its hydrogen demonstration homes, the appointment of a main works contractor for the Fife Energy Park hydrogen production and storage site, and work getting underway on its world-first hydrogen-to-homes network. We take a closer look at the latest developments in our new blog.

[Read it here.](#)

## 02 Spotlight on... the role of gas in the energy transition

### Raising awareness of the crucial role of gas

Xoserve's CEO Stephanie Ward, and Decarbonisation Strategy Lead Victoria Mustard have made an appearance in a number of industry publications recently, with the aim of raising awareness of the crucial role gas will play in the UK's energy transition. Find out what they had to say using these links:

#### Could natural gas lead the way for a new era of low-carbon energy?

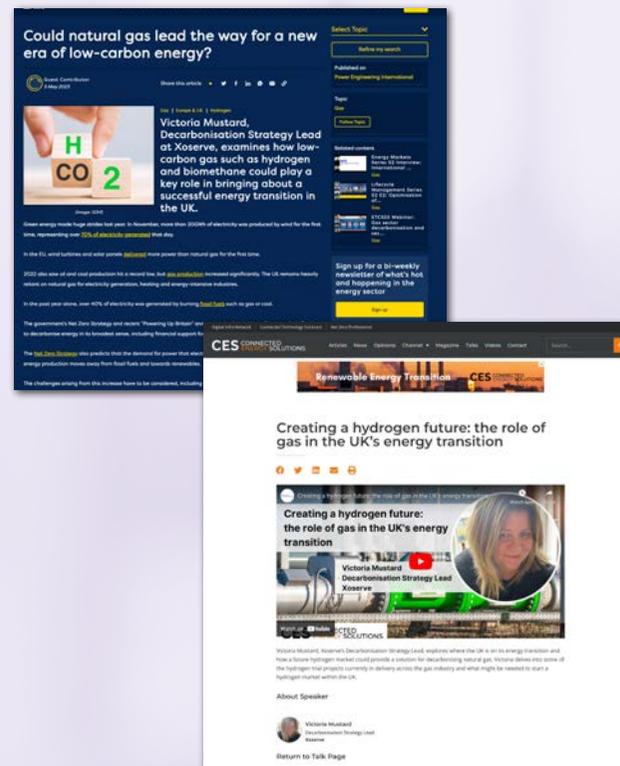
- Read it in [Enlit](#)
- Read it in [Power Engineering](#)

#### Creating a hydrogen future: the role of gas in the UK's energy transition

- Read it in [CES](#)

#### Delivering net-zero: the difficult questions we need to ask

- Read it in [Utility Week](#)



### Expert insight on how gas is supporting energy decarbonisation

Over in the [Decarb Knowledge Centre](#), there's new expert insight on the future of gas from our valued guest contributors:

Read the [Creating a carbon-neutral, flexible gas network](#) blog, or listen to the latest installment of our [DecarbDiscussions Podcast](#) to hear what Darren Elsom, Cadent's Director of Hydrogen Operations and Development, thinks is next for hydrogen and biomethane.

## 03 Things to look out for

### May's Energy Price Cap Review

Back in February, it was decided that the energy price cap for the quarter running from 1 April 2023 would be set at an annual level of £3,280 for a dual fuel household paying by direct debit based on typical consumption. This represented a reduction of almost £1,000 from the previous level of £4,279, which reflected falls in wholesale energy prices.

The decisions from the next energy price cap review will be announced on 25th May 2023, to cover the next quarterly period from 1 June to 30 September 2023.



### New in the Decarb Knowledge Centre - Gas blending

This month, we've been lucky enough to speak to industry experts about the role gas has to play in the UK's energy transition. Next month's hot topic will be gas blending. Look out for our next DecarbDiscussions Podcast and blog, to increase your understanding of gas blending and what the changes will mean for your organisation. Coming soon!

With guest contributors:

- **James Earl**, Director of Gas, Energy Networks Association
- **Megan Bray**, Market Development Lead, National Gas Transmission
- **Bethan Winter**, System Operation Manager, Wales and West Utilities
- **Joel Martin**, Gas Entry Connections Manager, SGN

In the meantime, take a look at all of our [DecarbDiscussions Podcasts](#) available now.



## 04 Policy milestones

Here are the key Government policy / regulatory milestones:

- **2023** - Final policy decision on [hydrogen blending](#)
- **2023** - First [hydrogen support contracts](#) allocated
- **2023** - Decision on hydrogen village location
- **2024** - H100 trial to commence
- **2025** - New business models for hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure designed
- **2025** - Hydrogen certification scheme introduced
- **2025** - Hydrogen village trials to commence
- **2025** - Target for reaching 1GW electrolytic hydrogen production capacity and price competitive annual allocation rounds
- **2026** - Final policy decision on whether hydrogen will support domestic heating
- **2030** - New target for creating up to 10GW low carbon hydrogen production
- **2030** - Hydrogen town trial to commence



## 05 Dates for your diary

As always, we'd love to see you at our Hydrogen Implementation forums.  
To join, please email [box.xserve.decarbonisation@xserve.com](mailto:box.xserve.decarbonisation@xserve.com)

### Don't miss these upcoming sessions:

<b>Shipper working group</b>	Friday 9th June	11.30 - 13.00
<b>DN working group</b>	Tuesday 27th June	10.00 - 11.30

Please note that the **Metering** and **IGT** working groups are now bi-monthly, with dates to be released in next month's newsletter.



## 06 Keeping in touch

We've been working on a range of initiatives designed to help raise awareness of gas decarbonisation and keep everyone in the industry connected. Our DecarbDiscussions podcast is one such initiative and covers a range of topics from different industry perspectives. If you'd be interested in getting involved and hearing your voice on our podcast channel, please get in touch.

And don't forget to sign up to our industry 'intranet'. An exclusive resource for the gas industry, the intranet is designed to keep you up to speed with the latest news, new projects and policy changes. It acts as a central repository for essential information related to your industry, some of which may not yet be available as a public resource. If you would like access to this site, please contact:

[box.xoserve.decarbonisation@xoserve.com](mailto:box.xoserve.decarbonisation@xoserve.com)

