

Contents

Welcome to the second instalment of **DeliveringDecarb** in 2023. We're only two months into the new year and already considerable change has happened within the energy industry. In this month's newsletter, we'll be taking a look at February's most notable news outcomes, recapping UK's first Hydrogen Week and looking forward towards key industry events.

For those who enjoyed our first DecarbDiscussions podcast of the year, we've followed it up with another exciting instalment which is now available. It's a must-listen for industry professionals interested in the Hydrogen Village trial, and the challenges in launching the UK's first Hydrogen Town. More info below.

And don't forget to check our Dates for your Diary section if you would like to join one of our panel discussions and add your voice to the conversations taking place about gas decarbonisation during 2023.

01 Notable news

02 Spotlight on... Celebrating the UK's first official Hydrogen Week

03 Things to look out for

04 Policy milestones

05 Dates for your diary

06 Keeping in touch

01 Notable news

New Department for Energy Security and Net Zero announced

On 7th February, Prime Minister Rishi Sunak announced the creation of the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero following the breakup of the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The new Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, headed by former Business Secretary Grant Shapps, has been tasked with securing long-term energy supply, while reducing energy bills and halving inflation.

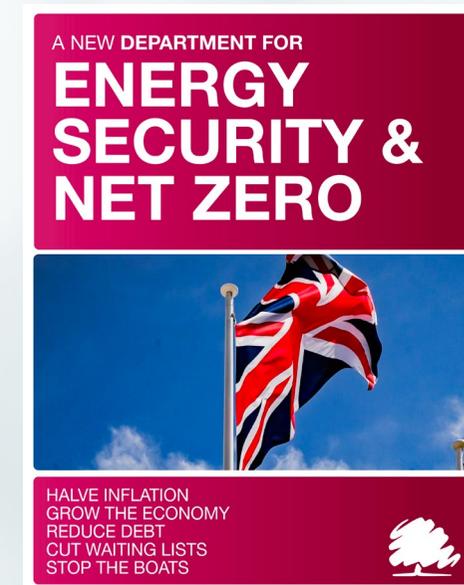
A separate update was announced the following day which listed six priorities for the Department in 2023. In addition to its tasked objectives, the Department will ensure the UK is on track to fulfil its legally binding net zero commitments; improve the energy efficiency of UK homes, businesses, and public sector buildings; support energy consumers with their bills, while providing a long-term reform to the electricity market; seize the economic benefits

of net zero, including the jobs and growth; and pass the Energy Bill which will support the emerging hydrogen and carbon capture, utilisation and storage sectors.

The energy industry on the whole welcomed the new Department, however there are some concerns surrounding the department's ability to bring well-timed change into effect with Energy Institute's External Affairs Director Nick Turton FEI questioning whether "this is simply moving deckchairs around or putting real clout where it's needed."

Energy Secretary Grant Shapps has already faced backlash from Conservative MPs over a plan to introduce a new hydrogen levy from 2025 to fund the low carbon hydrogen production and the necessary infrastructure.

[Read more](#)



01 Notable news

New UK certification to boost British hydrogen sector

The UK government announced plans for a new, globally-recognised certification scheme to verify the sustainability of low carbon hydrogen and build sector transparency on 9th February. Currently, there is no accepted method for low carbon hydrogen manufacturers to verify the quality of their product. The scheme intends to use the methodology set out in the UK's Low Carbon Hydrogen Standard as the basis of the certification with the goal of implementing the certification scheme by 2025.

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero Minister Graham Stuart said, "Consumers and businesses care about investing sustainably. Thanks to this new scheme, investors and producers will be able to confidently identify and invest in trusted, high-quality British sources of low carbon hydrogen, both home and abroad."

The consultation on the scheme seeking views on the design elements of a low carbon hydrogen certification scheme will close on 28 April 2023.

[Respond here](#)



01 Notable news

The Government seeks views on improving boiler standards and efficiency

The Government are seeking views on improving boiler standards and efficiency primarily focusing on improving boiler and heating system effectiveness, mandating that from 2026 all newly-installed gas boilers are 'hydrogen-ready', and the potential role of gas boiler-electric heat pump hybrids in heat decarbonisation in the 2020s and 2030s.

Part of the Department's proposals to improve the performance of newly installed natural gas boilers by up to 6% is to revise requirements for controls installed with boilers to modulate boiler output and to deliver lower flow temperatures. They're also seeking views to address boiler oversizing and improve design and maintenance requirements. The consultation also sets out proposals for all new domestic-scale natural gas-fired boilers to be hydrogen-ready from 2026, assuming they meet

regulatory requirements to operate on 100% hydrogen gas and are similarly priced with natural gas boilers. The consultation further outlines the government's thinking on the role of hybrids within the existing target to reach 600,000 heat pump installations in the next five years, and the hope that hybrid systems may potentially become the new minimum energy performance product from 2028.

This consultation closes on 21 March 2023.

[Read more](#)

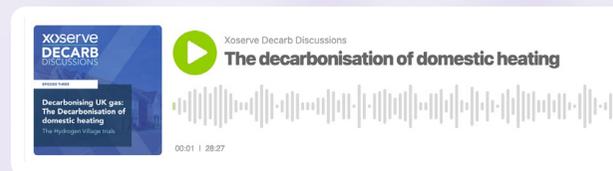


02 Spotlight on... Celebrating the UK's first official Hydrogen Week

The UK's first official Hydrogen Week took place on 13th - 19th February 2023 promoting the role of hydrogen in reaching net zero. During the week, we shared a range of resources covering hydrogen topics spanning across the energy sector including a brand-new episode of our Xoserve Decarb Discussions podcast - "The decarbonisation of domestic heating". Find out about how some of the gas industry experts are collaborating to trial hydrogen as an alternative to natural gas for heating UK homes in our latest podcast - a must-listen for any gas industry professionals. Looking for more? Check out one of our Hydrogen Week blog posts where we explore decarbonising the UK's ageing housing stock and H100 Fife: The future of gas.

If you didn't get your fill from our last metering podcast, Xoserve's Victoria Mustard is back in discussion with our metering experts, for the second instalment of the gas metering journey to net zero.

[Listen here](#) | [Read here](#)



Hydrogen projects at a glance

Hydrogen energy trials are part of the plan to **reduce CO2 emissions of the average household by 95%**, to reach the 2050 net zero goal.

Natural gas, used by most homes, accounts for **23%** of the UK's overall CO₂ emissions.

However, **hydrogen** – which produces no greenhouse gas emissions – **could potentially replace natural gas** as a low-carbon source of energy for heating, hot water and cooking.

A series of trials will help us inform the UK strategy on the decarbonisation of heat.

<p>H100 The world's first green 100% hydrogen to homes trial</p> <p>Where? Fife How many? 300 homes</p>	<p>Hydrogen Village A trial of occupied homes, offices and other buildings</p> <p>Where? 2 possible trial sites - Redcar or Whitby How many? up to 2000 homes</p>
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Overall, the decision around domestic heat is expected in 2026.
To find out more about these exciting hydrogen projects visit our knowledge centre: www.xoserve.com/decarbonisation/decarbonising-gas/decarbonisation-knowledge-centre/

03 Things to look out for

4th UK CCUS & Hydrogen Decarbonisation Summit: Projects & Innovation

The 4th UK CCUS & Hydrogen Decarbonisation Summit will bring together 500+ government officials, regulators, key industry stakeholders, leading academia and service companies on the 21st and 22nd March. The Summit will assess and review the opportunities within the UK Energy Sector and also consider how hydrogen can help the UK develop its own green energy source. It will also consider how carbon capture storage and utilisation can decarbonise the energy intensive sectors while producing a carbon circular economy.

Speakers include representatives from Equinor, National Grid, HyNet, Lloyds Banking Group, and Energy Safety Research Institute.

[Read more](#)

International Energy week

International Energy Week 2023 will run from 28th February until 2nd March bringing oil and gas industry leaders together with senior officials and influencers from the wider energy world, as well as government representatives, environmental NGOs, and scientists and academics, to assess the technologies, business models, and skills needed for a net zero future.

Speakers include Good Energy and Energy Institute founder, Juliet Davenport OBE, BP CEO Bernard Looney, Prof. Jim Skea CBE from Imperial College London and Masdar CEO Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi

[Learn more](#)

Hydrogen and Fuel Cells – Fuelling the Future NOW event

Climate Solutions Change and Hydrogen UK are hosting the 19th annual Hydrogen and Fuel Cell conference on 6th - 7th March at the National Conference Centre in Solihull. The conference is chaired by Hydrogen UK CEO Clare Jackson and will showcase the latest developments in hydrogen and fuel cell technologies, and projects in the UK and internationally. Panel sessions will focus on production, distribution and end use of hydrogen as well as discussions on how regional and international collaboration can support the emerging hydrogen sector. Speakers include UK Hydrogen, RWE, Centrica and SSE Thermal.

[Learn more](#)

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.xoserve.decarbonisation@xoserve.com

Don't miss these upcoming sessions:

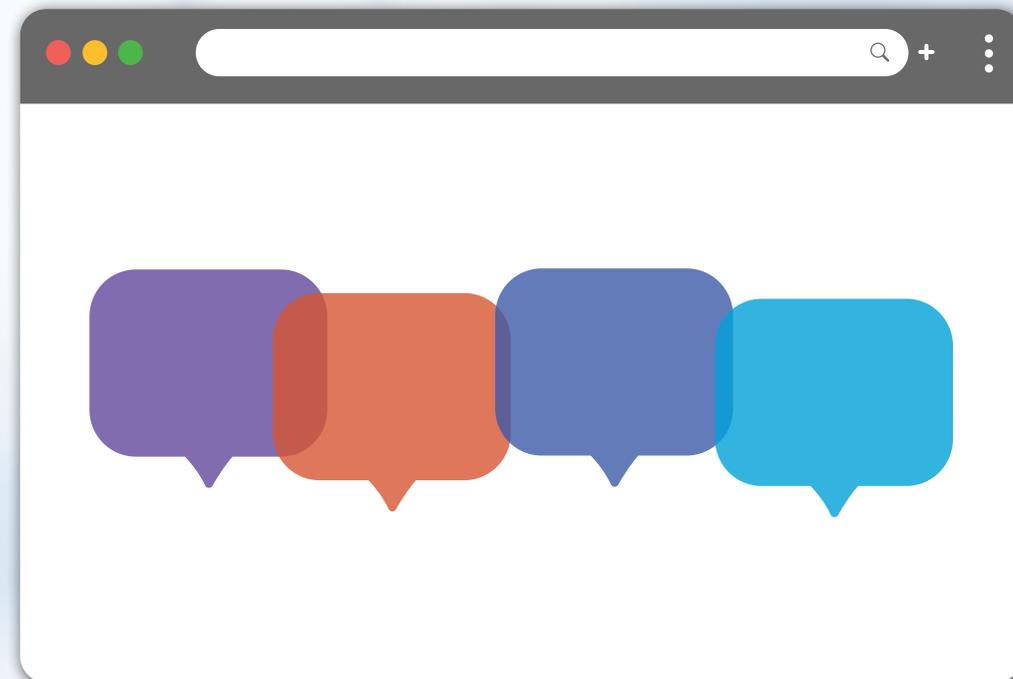
Shippers working group	Friday 10th March	11.30 - 13.00
Metering working group	Friday 17th March	10.00 - 11.00
IGTs working group	Friday 24th March	10.00 - 11.00
DNs working group	Tuesday 28th March	10.00 - 12.00



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. Now launched, our **DecarbDiscussions** podcast will cover 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:



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