

Future of Energy Stakeholder Roundtable

Summary Report

December 2023



SGN

Your gas. Our network.

Event Summary

Why did SGN hold this event?

SGN recognise the need to decarbonise the energy used to heat homes and fuel businesses. We are committed to being part of the UK's transition to a net zero economy. Projects are already underway to understand the role that alternative, low- or no-carbon fuels like biogas and hydrogen might play in the future. This will help us build a whole systems approach to energy and what the gas network will look like as part of it. As we work on our plans for the next price control period 2026 -2031 (GD3), it's important to us to engage with our stakeholders to hear their thoughts on what we should or could be doing in this area. These insights will help us decide where it would be beneficial to invest more time, effort and money.

What did SGN share?

SGN shared information about its current hydrogen gas projects; LTS Futures and H100 Fife. Examples of engagement with local authorities surrounding their heat plans were also provided to aid the forthcoming discussions

What did SGN learn?

Stakeholders were split into discussion groups and asked for their thoughts on SGNs investment in the priority areas. The options were to invest less, the same or more time and money. The key insights gained where:

Key Event Info

- 5 December 2023**
- Specialist online event**
- 35 participants**
- 27 organisations representing nationwide interests**
- Public and private sector representatives in attendance**

Developing low-carbon solutions is a key focus area given the sense of urgency on meeting net zero targets.

- Strong support reflecting the major systems transformations needed to realise energy decarbonisation ambitions
- SGN should be part of a whole system approach borne from public-private sector collaboration at a national level
- Customers should be protected from fuel poverty and incentivised to use less energy overall

Increase the use of green gas - biomethane and hydrogen – to help decarbonisation while meeting future energy demand.

- Support for green gas investment as seen as a crucial component to decarbonisation of the energy sector
- SGN should collaborate with others in the energy sector to increase the use of green gas
- Green gas seen as a future alternative to provide flexibility when electricity can't meet demand
- Some feel biomethane shouldn't distract from hydrogen

Invest in hydrogen infrastructure as part of a matrix of energy solutions in a whole system approach to meet the UK's energy demand.

- Strong support for investment in hydrogen infrastructure to support a mixed whole systems approach
- SGN should act now to make the case for hydrogen – who uses it, where it's sourced and tailored regional approaches tailor
- More needs to be done to address concerns and engage audiences on potential benefits of hydrogen

Support Local Authorities (LAs) to ensure all options are considered, shaping policy and strategies to give energy users the best outcome.

- Strong support to collaborate with LAs to explore options and find best solutions
- More engagement and education work with public could help increase interest and support in new technologies
- Move fast to help LA's still working on plans
- Dedicate people to engage on and influence national and regional policy and strategies, in collaboration with others in the sector

What did stakeholders think of the event?

Stakeholders were invited to share their views on the event through a Slido poll. In summary:



100% agreed that they were satisfied overall with the event.



100% agreed that topics discussed were relevant to their area of work.



96% agreed the event had enhanced their understanding of SGN and its activities.



100% felt the facilitation was professional and effective.



100% agreed the format was appropriate and enabled them to have their say.



100% felt confident SGN will listen and act on the views.