

Biomethane and Gas Entry Connections Roundtable

Summary Report

May 2024



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 biomethane 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 biomethane initiatives, including feedback from the recently conducted Biomethane and Gas Connections Survey (which many of the participants had completed). The organisation's whole system concept was introduced, detailing the vision for biomethane's role within it and the factors and policies which will need to be navigated to achieve desired outcomes.

What did SGN learn?

Stakeholders were split into discussion groups and asked for their thoughts on SGNs ambitions regarding biomethane supply on our network. Their thoughts on factors within and outside of SGNs control were taken to understand what SGN could do to improve processes surrounding biomethane and where it could advocate for policy changes with decision makers.

Key Event Info



14 May 2024



Specialist online event



22 participants



17 organisations representing nationwide interests



Public and private sector representatives in attendance

Standardising the new connections would support increased efficiency and cost savings

- Standardising the process and infrastructure requirements both across SGN projects and on projects across the gas Distribution Networks, would address current challenges and inefficiencies
- Currently, each project can feel like starting from scratch which can cause frustrations

Reducing the amount of propane added to biomethane, or remove it completely would support increased production

- Reducing or removing propane from biomethane would reduce the complexity of biomethane productions, helping reduce costs
- As propane itself is an additional cost to biomethane producers, removal is preferred
- Some questioned if this was a viable option and requested more information on the role of propane in biomethane

Addressing capacity constraints would be beneficial to achieving ambitions to increase the volume of biomethane in the network

- Current approach which delivers a simple yes/no response following capacity surveys is seen as unhelpful
- Participants at this event raised that they would prefer a proactive approach from SGN where solutions to address the capacity constraints were explored and shared giving stakeholders more options and/or clarity

SGN should use its voice to advocate for policy changes that encourage more production of biomethane in the UK

- Some stakeholders present felt SGN could go further with its advocacy for biomethane
- Some think SGN should do more to identify potential pathways and champion these in engagement with policy decision-makers

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.