

# SGN press releases (archive)

January – July 2019

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# SGN

Your gas. Our network.

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## Warning siren to be tested at our Stornoway LPG site

8 January 2019

We'll be conducting a routine test of our warning siren at our Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) site in Sandwick Road, Stornoway, on Thursday 10 January 2019.

The siren is used to warn people living or working near the site of any potential incidents. It will be tested on Thursday 10 January from 10am. The test will last for a maximum duration of one hour, during which both 'warning' and 'all-clear' sirens will sound several times.

We conduct tests every six months at all our LPG sites, always notifying residents and businesses by letter beforehand. This test is a requirement as part of the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015.

Project Manager Craig Macleod said: "We carry out these tests every six months because the safety of the communities in which we work is at the heart of everything we do. While the test scheduled at 10am on Thursday 10 January is routine and nothing to be concerned about, it's important nearby residents and businesses are familiar with the sound of the siren and know what they need to do in case a real incident ever takes place. That's why we're sending letters to everyone in the vicinity with essential information and guidance, so please take some time to read it carefully."

## Locking cooker valve highlighted on BBC Radio Scotland with Kaye Adams

28 January 2019

Our locking cooker valve was mentioned on BBC Radio Scotland this morning as part of a discussion about caring for relatives with dementia.

Kaye Adams, broadcaster and panellist on ITV's Loose Women, was hosting the phone-in when a caller mentioned she had removed the gas cooker from her mother's home as she would often leave empty pots and pans on the hob, causing safety issues and running the risk of fire.

After hearing the customer's call, we contacted BBC Radio Scotland to let them know about our locking cooker, a free safety device fitted to existing gas cooker pipework. Press Officer Bradley Barlow spoke with Kaye Adams in a three-minute segment explaining that when our locking cooker valve is locked, the gas supply to the cooker is stopped. This eliminates the risk of the cooker being unintentionally turned on or left on, giving peace of mind to the carer or relative that the cooker can't be used when they leave the room or the home.

We've partnered with the other UK gas distribution networks – Cadent, Northern Gas Networks and Wales & West Utilities – to offer this free service nationwide, regardless of a customer's gas supplier. This means customers across Great Britain with dementia can live gas safe, independent lives.

You can listen again to the segment on BBC Radio Scotland [here](#) (from 1 hour 7 minutes).

To find out more about the locking cooker valve, or to make a referral, visit the locking cooker valve website [here](#).

## Looking back on how we supported our local communities in 2018

31 January 2019



Link to watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rG9XONeV2k>

We've been taking a look at how our kind-hearted colleagues gave something back to our local communities last year, through CAP and Into Action.

Our Community Action Programme (CAP) gives all employees a day on company time to volunteer in our local communities. In 2018, over 600 of our people used their CAP day to help nearly 50 charities and organisations with activities such as cleaning up beaches and revamping outdoor areas for local charities.

Through our Into Action scheme, we support our colleagues raising money for great causes by matching the funds raised. Last year, we contributed over £33,000 to 46 different charities and organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support and Parkinson's UK.

Our Head of Community Pamela Goe commented: "It's great that so many of our people took advantage of our Into Action scheme and CAP last year. I'd like to say a big well done to all of them, and we look forward to supporting many more worthy causes in 2019."

## Our mentors support creative Worthing pupils with Big Ideas to help the planet

31 January 2019



SGN mentor Paulius Vitkunas (far right) supports Bohunt School's Big Ideas Day

Our mentors spent a productive day with pupils at the Bohunt School in Worthing, helping them solve some of the biggest challenges affecting our planet.

The Big Ideas Day held on Friday 25 January was one of several taking place across the UK as part of the Solutions for the Planet (S4TP) Big Ideas programme. The programme is focused on businesses working with local schools to generate solutions to key environmental, economic and social issues faced in the community and beyond. It also encourages young people to explore opportunities and careers within science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Supported by a team of our mentors, as well as mentors from other programme partner companies SUEZ and Tarmac, around 180 Year 8 students brainstormed ideas to solve their chosen issues. Working in small groups, they collaborated to develop and refine these ideas throughout the day.

Paulius Vitkunas from our Design & Quote team helped mentor the students on the day and said: "S4TP has an amazing vision and the Big Ideas Days significantly contribute to raising awareness about critical issues affecting our planet.

"It was great to build a rapport with the pupils and some of the ideas they constructed were really innovative and creative. It was interesting to watch their spontaneous ideas develop over the course of the session and how groups plan to implement solutions to reduce plastic in the oceans or protect endangered wildlife in rainforests, for example."

Jen Baughan, CEO of S4TP, said: “The confidence that young people develop and the belief they have in their ideas is fantastic. It’s largely down to their commitment, but also that of their teachers and mentors, from our partner organisations.

“Through the Big Ideas programme, students develop outstanding entrepreneurship, teamwork and presentation skills, and broaden their knowledge of how STEM skills can be universally applied.”

Student teams will now work to hone their ideas and generate sustainable business plans from their concepts. Our mentors will support these teams ahead of submitting their plans for review at the end of March, as part of the S4TP Big Ideas Competition.

Successful teams will be invited to compete in a regional final held at the University of Portsmouth on Wednesday 15 May, where they will present their ideas to a panel of judges. The National Final will take place in London on Wednesday 26 June.

## Creative Portsmouth pupils develop Big Ideas to help the planet with support of our mentors

18 February 2019



**Dan Brown (third from left) from our communications team mentored students from Mayfield School during their Big Ideas Day**

Our colleagues supported pupils at three Portsmouth schools last week as mentors, helping them solve some of the critical issues affecting our planet.

The Solutions for the Planet (S4TP) Big Ideas programme focuses on businesses working with local schools to develop innovative ideas that could help solve sustainability challenges facing small communities or the world. The programme also encourages young people to explore opportunities and careers within science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Over 400 Years 7, 8 and 9 students from three Portsmouth schools – Priory School, Mayfield School and Castle View Academy – participated in Big Ideas Days last week. Working with a team of mentors from programme partner companies SGN, Tarmac, Mears Group and SUEZ, small groups of students collaborated to identify economic, environmental and social problems and developed unique, creative ideas to improve or eradicate these issues. Student teams embellished and refined their ideas throughout their Big Ideas Days and presented these to peers at the end of the sessions.

Dan Brown from our Communications team helped mentor students at Mayfield School on Tuesday 5 February and said: “The S4TP programme provides an excellent opportunity for students and businesses alike to help identify where we can have a positive influence and impact on our local and global environment.

“I was really impressed with the students’ knowledge, enthusiasm and creativity during the Big Ideas Day. The pupils demonstrated great entrepreneurship and teamwork skills to develop innovative ideas that would make



a real difference to our planet, before presenting their ideas with confidence and solid, well-researched information about how they could be implemented.”

Over the coming weeks, student teams will hone their ideas and generate sustainable business plans from the concepts created at the Big Ideas Days. Our mentors will support these teams ahead of submitting these plans for review at the end of March, as part of the S4TP Big Ideas Competition.

Successful teams will be invited to compete in a regional final on Wednesday 15 May at the University of Portsmouth. Teams will attempt to amaze the panel of judges when presenting their ideas, with a view to reaching the National Final on Wednesday 26 June in London.

Jen Baughan, CEO of S4TP, said: “Bringing business mentors, teachers and young people together provides a skills and knowledge sharing platform with the power to make a real difference. Through the Big Ideas programme students, teachers and mentors alike develop entrepreneurship, teamwork, and presentation skills, and broaden their knowledge of how STEM skills can be universally practically applied.”

## We held a Parliamentary Reception to launch our pathway to decarbonising the gas network

28 February 2019



Clare Adamson MSP with our Director of Energy Futures Angus McIntosh

MSPs, academics and local authorities were among those who joined us at the launch of our pathway to decarbonising the gas network in the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday night.

We distribute natural and green gas to 5.9 million homes and businesses across Scotland and in the south of England. With peak heat demand provided by our gas network at least four times higher than peak electricity demand, low carbon solutions using our network could allow for the decarbonisation of heat at the lowest cost and with least disruption for customers.

At this week's event in Holyrood, which was hosted by Clare Adamson MSP, we introduced our gas quality decarbonisation pathway, which we've developed in collaboration with the other GB gas networks. The pathway sets out a series of technical and commercial steps to a fully decarbonised gas network, which could achieve 'net-zero' emissions. Each step is underpinned by research, development and demonstration projects that seek to evidence both the technical and commercial viability. For example, our H100 project will look to demonstrate the world's first 100% hydrogen distribution network from renewable sources in Scotland.

Our Director of Energy Futures Angus McIntosh explained as we develop our plans for RIIO-GD2, there will be a continuing need for research and development, but also regulatory mechanisms to facilitate the roll out of successful schemes.

He summarised: "Meeting the UK and Scottish Government's 2050 targets for reducing carbon emissions will require significant decarbonisation of heat. We believe our network is key to delivering a reliable future low-carbon energy system at the least cost and with the lowest impact on homes and businesses across Great Britain."



In closing the event, Clare Adamson MSP, noted: “I was delighted to be able to welcome SGN to the Scottish Parliament once more and to be part of the very lively debate that SGN stimulates about a wide range of issues in relation to energy production and distribution. The focus on decarbonisation of the gas network in pursuit of ‘net-zero’ emissions was lively, innovative and – crucially – encouraged all present to consider the issues in a much wider and integrated context.

“I look forward to continued discussion of these issues and continuing development of a positive partnership, whole system approach.”

## New report shows mean gender pay gap at SGN lower than national average

7 March 2019



**The gender pay gap report from SGN shows our mean gender pay gap has decreased by 1.0%**

SGN is pleased to report our mean gender pay gap has decreased by 1.0% to 8.8% compared with 2017, well below the national average.

The news comes as we release our Gender Pay Gap Report 2018 in accordance with recent legal requirements in which organisations with more than 250 employees must publish details of the gap in pay and bonuses between their male and female employees.

HR & Services Director Kate Naylor commented: “We’re fully supportive of pay gap reporting, believing it acts as a catalyst to ensure businesses embrace diversity and inclusion. We’re encouraged our continued focus on both diversity and inclusion has resulted in positive change. With women comprising 16% of our workforce, we’re committed to addressing the imbalance, with initiatives to attract, develop and retain female employees.”

Kate added: “We’ve started to make some positive changes but accept change will take time. We are however committed to building a more diverse SGN and creating a culture of inclusion where everyone, regardless of difference, is valued.”

The full report can be found [here](#).

## **Our gas network upgrade in Broughton Street is completed ahead of schedule**

**11 March 2019**

We have completed our work upgrading the gas network in Broughton Street, Edinburgh, three weeks ahead of schedule.

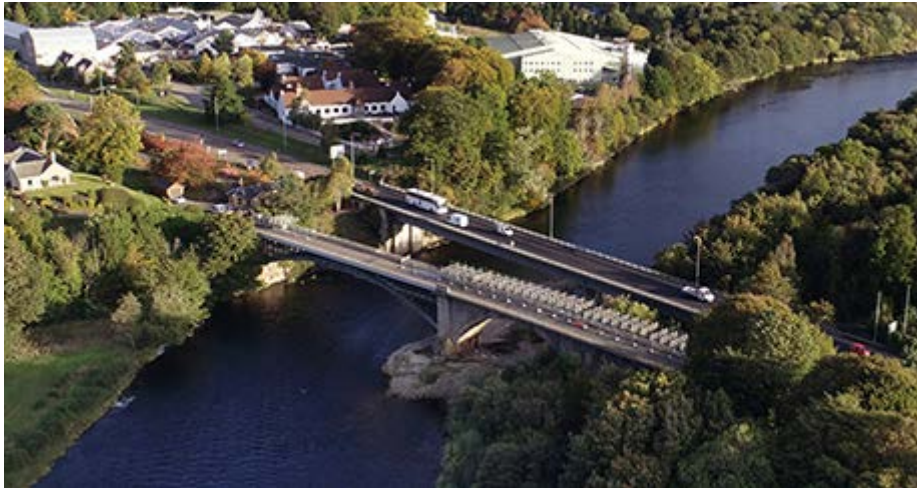
Our engineers have been working extended hours and weekends throughout our project in Broughton Street, meaning our work has finished early. We have now moved on to the next stages of our project, in London Street and Forth Street.

The northbound closure of Broughton Street will remain in place as Laing O'Rourke continues its planned works as part of the Together for Edinburgh programme.

Our Project Manager Matt Ferguson said: "I'd like to thank local business owners, residents and motorists for their continued patience and understanding throughout our time in Broughton Street. We'll be handing the work site over to contractor Laing O'Rourke this evening."

## We've embarked on a £500,000 engineering project to replace the gas main in Fochabers Bridge

2 April 2019



**An aerial view of Fochabers Bridge crossing the River Spey**

We're partway through an engineering project to upgrade the gas network in Fochabers.

We're investing £500,000 to replace an old, metal gas main, which runs alongside Fochabers Bridge, with a combination of new metal and plastic pipe to ensure a safe and reliable gas supply for many years to come.

Fochabers is situated on the A96, between Inverness and Aberdeen. Where the road crosses the River Spey, there are two bridges – the original bridge used by pedestrians and a newer bridge for vehicles. Our old gas main, which is being replaced, is fixed to the side of the pedestrian bridge.

Following careful planning with the local authorities, our engineers are partway through a highly complex engineering challenge to replace all 153m of our old 12 inch steel gas main. In addition, the engineers will replace over 100m of cast iron pipe which is buried below ground on either side of the bridge.

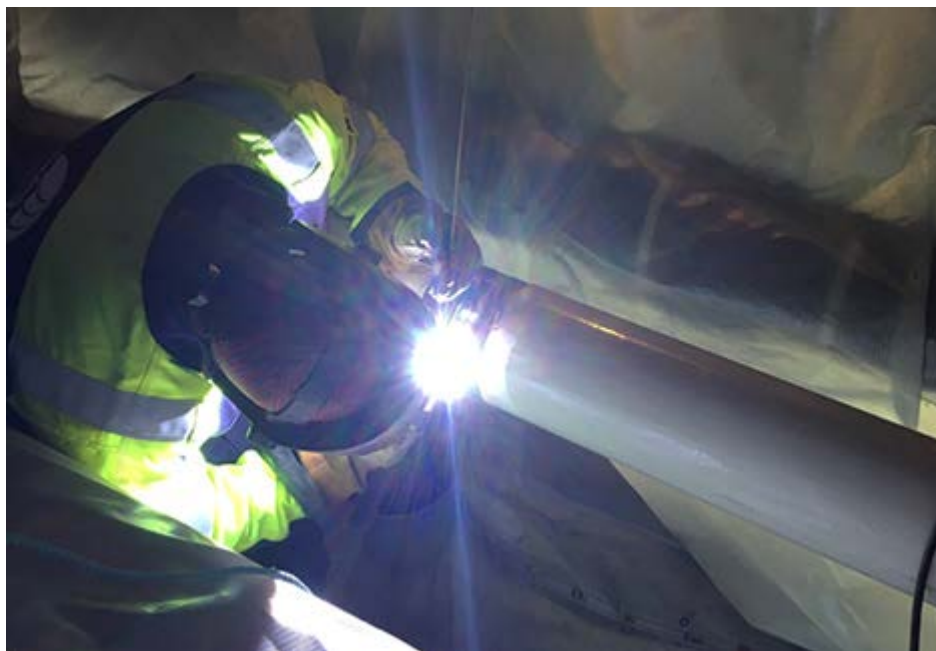
SGN Project Manager Iain Stuart said: "We're using a new six inch steel gas main to replace the 12 inch cast iron gas main which runs along the pedestrian bridge. Our new main is being expertly welded to the underside of the bridge right now. We've already replaced the gas main on either side of the bridge with new plastic PE pipe which has a minimum lifespan of 80 years. At the end of the project, which we hope will be completed in June this year, we'll remove the old gas main from the pedestrian bridge.

"Throughout the project, we've been liaising very closely with the local authorities and stakeholders including The Moray Council Ranger Service, the trunk road authority BEAR Scotland, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), The Spey Fisheries Board and local land owners. We want to ensure the impact of our work on residents, local businesses and the local wildlife is minimised as much as possible.

"The new plastic pipe has a minimum lifespan of 80 years. This means once the work has been completed, Fochabers' homes and businesses will enjoy the benefits of a continued safe and reliable gas supply for many years to come."



A view alongside the pedestrian bridge. We're replacing the old 12" steel gas main with a smaller six inch steel pipe (centre)



Our expert engineer welding the new gas main in place

## London pupils experience outdoor learning with support of our employee ambassadors

3 April 2019



**Our employee ambassador Paul (centre) supports students from Archbishop Tenisons on their Outward Bound expedition**

Two colleagues from our Horley office supported students from South London to implement their school values while experiencing adventures in the wild as part of their Outward Bound course.

Our team of ambassadors accompanied 21 pupils, aged between 12 and 13, from Archbishop Tenisons School in Kennington on the five-day residential trip to UK educational charity The Outward Bound Trust's (OBT) Howtown centre near Ullswater.

OBT helps young people defy their limitations and build their self-confidence through outdoor learning.

During the week, students participated in several outdoor adventures including canoeing, orienteering, gorge walking, an overnight expedition and other teambuilding activities.

Our Communications Officer, and one half of our ambassador team, Dan Brown, said: "I was impressed at the enthusiasm, determination and courage shown by the students. Over the course of the week, it was pleasing to see the students had gained confidence in their own abilities and demonstrated they could work well in teams to complete physically and mentally demanding activities."





**Students participated in outdoor activities like gorge walking**



**Our employee ambassador Dan (second from left) with members of the Fiennes team after climbing the peaks on their expedition**

Clara Waygood, EAL Teacher at Archbishop Tenisons School, said: “It has been a special journey for the students where they’ve pushed themselves and gained so much confidence and interpersonal skills that will set them up for the future, putting key words like ‘resilience’ into reality in a very meaningful way.

“Through SGN, our students have had an invaluable experience and one they will never forget. Thank you, SGN, for your support that is literally changing lives and shaping futures.”

We've worked with OBT for several years now and we'll be supporting another five schools to have challenging, adventurous and safe outdoor experiences during 2019. Our partnership with OBT is important to us as it helps us create sustainable links to schools, provides disadvantaged young people the opportunity to develop new skills and raise aspirations, and gives us an insight into some of the issues faced by the communities we serve.

Lucy Sharma, Corporate Partnerships Lead for OBT, said: "We are incredibly proud of our fantastic partnership with SGN, supporting young people across the UK to access true adventure in the wild and change their lives for the better.

"Not only are their employee ambassadors providing support through our courses in the great outdoors, they are helping young people back at school and beyond in the form of careers support, CV writing workshops and work experience. This involvement is a real testament to SGN's commitment to their communities, delivering real and longstanding benefit to their school partners."

Our employee ambassadors Dan and Paul are planning to build on the relationship they've established with the pupils at Archbishop Tenisons by organising sessions to develop their presentation and communication skills as well as setting up mock interviews to prepare the students for the world of work.

Our Principal Solicitor, and the other half of our ambassador team, Paul Castell, said: "The Archbishop Tenisons students displayed many qualities and characteristics during their OBT course that companies like SGN will be looking for in the future.

"We're thrilled to be able to continue working with the students through these classroom-based sessions, to build on the foundation of transferable skills and values gained through the outdoor activities and support them in being able to apply these as they approach further education and careers."



**Our ambassadors worked with course instructors to plan activities that would help put the school's CHART values into practice**

## Planned gas network upgrade in Crieff postponed until 2020

9 April 2019

Following a recent public consultation in Crieff, our planned upgrade work in the North Bridge Street area will now begin in January 2020.

The project, which was originally planned to take place during the summer months of this year, has been postponed to reduce disruption for local residents, business owners and motorists as much as possible.

Our Project Manager Andy Furye said: “The aim of holding a consultation with the public was to gain feedback and any relevant information which would help us in the planning stages of our project.

“There was concern around the time of year our work would take place, and the potential impact on tourism trade and events taking place throughout the summer in Crieff.

“After close consultation with the local authority and community, we’ll now start our project in the North Bridge Street area of Crieff in January 2020. We’ll keep the local community up to date with our plans and prior notification will be given.”

## Ofgem Chairman visits our Littlehampton Help to Heat project

11 April 2019

Ofgem Chairman Martin Cave, along with colleagues from the energy regulator, has visited our latest Help to Heat project in Littlehampton to see how we're helping residents heat their homes for less by connecting them to our gas network.

Our CEO John Morea joined the Ofgem group as they met residents who are enjoying gas central heating for the first time, thanks to our Help to Heat scheme. The scheme helps households who are struggling to pay their energy bills or are finding it difficult to afford keeping their home warm by providing free or discounted connections to our gas network.

Through our Help to Heat scheme, we're connecting more than 400 Arun homes to our network at no cost to the residents. We've also granted Arun District Council a further £700,000 towards the cost of installing new central heating systems in these properties, which will ensure these families will have access to affordable heating in their homes for the first time. Arun District Council is delivering this project as part of its Arun Warmer Homes project with support from Mitie Property Services and Affordable Warmth Solutions CIC.

Since 2013, we've helped to lift more than 24,000 households out of fuel poverty in the south of England and across Scotland. We're currently preparing our business plan for the next Ofgem price control RIIO-GD2 that starts in 2021. Making a positive impact on our communities, with initiatives like our Help to Heat scheme, is one of three commitments at the heart of our plan. Read [our blog](#) to find out from our Head of Community Pamela Goeë how we provide social value now and what more we could do in future.

## Our mentors support shortlisted student teams as sustainability competition regional finals approach

2 May 2019

Colleagues from across our business are working with student teams to develop their ideas to solve critical issues affecting our planet ahead of regional finals for a national sustainability competition.

Our mentors have been supporting schools across our gas network regions in Scotland and south-east England to create innovative ideas and enter them as part of the Solutions for the Planet Big Ideas Competition 2019. The shortlisting panel deliberated the 169 submissions to the competition last month and have selected 63 to advance to the regional finals.

Students have received feedback following their submissions and will be working with mentors from SGN, Tarmac, IGEM, Brammer Buck & Hickman, Mears Group and SUEZ to progress their business plans and hone their presentation skills over the next couple of weeks before demonstrating their Big Ideas to judges.



### Shortlisted Mayfield School teams progress their Big Ideas in development sessions with support of business partner mentors

Dan Brown from our Communications team supported five shortlisted student teams at Mayfield School in Portsmouth during a development session on Tuesday 30 April. Dan said: "It's fantastic to see how determined each team is to refine their ideas and work on how they will present these to the judges in a fun and creative way. There's a diverse selection of solutions to challenges facing local communities and the world and it's great to see that the Mayfield students' effort, knowledge and enthusiasm has been recognised through the shortlisting.

"Although the programme encourages young people to explore opportunities within science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), students are also gaining valuable teamwork skills as well as confidence

in being able to communicate their ideas both in writing and through presenting to an audience, which will benefit them in further education and future careers.”

The five teams from Mayfield School will be pitching their ideas against teams from Priory School, Ark Charter Academy and Castle View Academy at the University of Portsmouth on Wednesday 15 May. Ten other teams from the south-east region will present their Big Ideas at the Museum of London on Friday 17 May.

Five teams from Larbert High School and four teams from Biggar High School mentored by our colleagues in Scotland will participate in the Scottish regional final held at the University of Glasgow on Thursday 9 May.

The competition is also open to schools in the West Midlands and the north of England, where 22 teams and 11 teams have made it to the respective regional finals.

Sarah Milburn, Programme Coordinator at Solutions for the Planet, said: “Another year of creative Big Ideas, and yet more indication that if we can just give our young people guidance, a voice, and a platform from which to speak, the future could be in safe hands. I can’t wait to see the regional finalists present in May!”

Successful teams who amaze the judges will advance to the National Final at the Houses of Parliament in London on Wednesday 26 June.

## SGN introduces 70 employee Mental Health Supporters across its network

14 May 2019



### SGN's Mental Health Supporters are on hand to offer support to their colleagues

Gas distribution company SGN has introduced a team of Mental Health Supporters across the company to support the wellbeing of more than 4,000 colleagues.

We've trained 70 people on how to assist someone who comes to them for help, whether it's stress, anxiety, or generally struggling to cope. Their role is to be there for members of our SGN Family, offering support and directing them to find the most suitable source of help, such as our Employee Assistance Programme.

In preparation for their role, all of our Mental Health Supporters have attended Advanced Mental Health Awareness at Work workshops, organised in collaboration with RehabWorks.

Our HR Managers have all received the same training and we've also introduced ten Mental Health Awareness webinars to the majority of our line managers to help increase their knowledge and understanding.

John Morea, CEO, said: "We're committed to looking after the wellbeing of everyone in our company and a really important part of our new wellbeing strategy is to support the mental health of our people and create a supportive environment for everyone. I'm delighted we now have 70 new Mental Health Supporters who have attended workshops all over the country to prepare them for the role. We all need to change the way we think and act about mental health and with this week's Mental Health Awareness Week, it's a great time to think about it even more."

Val Scott, HR Business Partner (Scotland and Northern Ireland Operations) and HR Wellbeing Project team lead, said: "It's fantastic to see so many colleagues volunteering to become our Mental Health Supporters. The webinars and workshops have been very successful, and it's great to finally have our Mental Health Supporters available for those colleagues who may need them."

As part of Mental Health Awareness Week, we're also sharing our personal stories of struggles with mental health issues, as well as some of our coping mechanisms, on our social media channels and on our internal employee app. Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @SGNgas to find out more.



## We're named 'Company of the Year' at the Gas Industry Awards 2019

15 May 2019



### Taking the stage as winners of the 'Company of the Year' award

We've scooped the prestigious 'Company of the Year' award at today's 2019 Gas Industry Awards, organised by the Institution of Gas Engineers and Managers (IGEM) and the Energy and Utilities Alliance (EUA).

Leading the way on customer satisfaction, investing in our people and playing our part in the UK's transition to a low-carbon energy future are all reasons behind our award win this afternoon.

We believe the gas networks have a vital part to play in the UK's future low-carbon energy mix and we're developing a decarbonisation pathway for the gas networks to become 100% low carbon. We're seeking to demonstrate this potential through projects like H100 and Aberdeen Vision, which we're showcasing at next week's Utility Week Live Conference in Birmingham.

Our CEO John Morea said: "Our company is made up of highly professional, dedicated engineers and supporting teams doing an exceptional job delivering gas to our customers 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. This award recognises the hard work and commitment of all our people who go above and beyond to look after our customers and stakeholders. I'm exceptionally proud that we've received this award today."

Steve Edwards, IGEM President and Chair of Judges, said: "This year's shortlist is a masterclass of innovation, engineering excellence and creativity. The entrants have excelled once again in demonstrating their professionalism and we are reminded just how fortunate we are to have so many talented people working in our industry."

## Five SGN-mentored teams impress judges to reach national final of sustainability competition

31 May 2019



**SGN-mentored Renewabus have progressed to the National Final after impressing judges, including our General Manager Stephen Mills (back right), at the University of Portsmouth**

Students from five secondary schools in Scotland and the south east of England, working with mentors from across our business, have reached the final of a national competition to find solutions to key sustainability issues.

The Solutions for the Planet (S4TP) Big Ideas Competition gives pupils the opportunity to work with businesses to create ideas that could solve societal and environmental problems facing the world while exploring opportunities within science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Mentors from SGN, Tarmac, IGEM, Brammer Buck & Hickman, Mears Group and SUEZ have supported student teams during the academic year to develop their ideas, progress their business plans and help hone their presentation skills to amaze the judging panels at each stage of the competition.

Twelve teams have made it to the National Final of the competition after a series of regional finals were held at universities and museums earlier this month. S4TP Programme Coordinators were joined by business partner employees and guest judges on the regional final judging panels, including three of our colleagues who had the tough task of deciding which teams to send through.

Our Energy Futures Manager Colin Thomson, who judged at the Scotland Regional Final at the University of Glasgow, said: "All of the ideas were fantastic and made our job as judges very difficult when it came to decide on a clear winner. From an organisational perspective, it's great to build up relationships to encourage young people to take an interest in engineering, technology and the impacts on the environment."

Glenn Norman, our Director of Operations (Southern), deliberated over presentations at the Museum of London in a South East Regional Final and said: "It was a privilege listening to all of the presentations as the passion and energy the teams displayed was infectious. Teams explored a real range of ideas that would have a positive impact on climate change for example, and they'd certainly taken on board the feedback from the previous round."

Our Solent depot General Manager Stephen Mills formed part of the judging panel at the University of Portsmouth in the other South East Regional Final. Stephen said: "Each entry was well-conceived and articulated making the final decision very difficult. Energy Gym stood out for me as their initial idea was detailed through a clear and concise business plan, coupled with some great research and enhanced with an impressive scale model of their concept. In addition to their excellent presentation, they also handled questions from the judges in a confident manner demonstrating their knowledge and research."

Five of the 12 teams who will present their ideas at the National Final on Wednesday 26 June have been mentored by SGN employees.

The Renewabus team from Mayfield School in Portsmouth have been working with our Communications Officer Dan Brown since January and Dan said: "I'm delighted that the team's efforts and ideas have been recognised by the judges. They've worked tirelessly to hone their self-sufficient renewable energy bus service idea and their knowledge and experience of presenting the first time will benefit them when they present at the Palace of Westminster in the National Final."

## Volunteers from our HR team give Revitalise respite centre a makeover

11 June 2019



Volunteers from our HR team gave up their time to spruce up a local respite centre through their Community Action Programme (CAP).

Last month, 47 volunteers from our HR team helped rejuvenate Netley Waterside House Revitalise centre, based in Southampton, by sprucing up the large garden areas and painting some guest bedrooms.

Revitalise is a national charity providing respite care in a holiday setting for disabled people and their carers – allowing them to enjoy a much needed holiday with all of their needs catered for.

Our CAP scheme gives all employees one day off each year to spend volunteering for a cause close to their hearts. Our Employee Experience Officer Kirstin Gemmell was part of the team there on the day and invited her colleagues to help out by organising the say.

Kirstin said: "It's a pleasure to give something back to the local community and humbling to see the staff and guests enjoying the beautiful gardens after our hard work. It was really lovely to see the difference we had made.

"This was also an excellent opportunity to participate in some teambuilding with members of our HR team as we're not all based in the same offices."

## WORK180 announces SGN is an endorsed employer for women

11 June 2019



Gas distribution company SGN has been announced as an endorsed employer for women by global jobs network WORK180.

We join HSBC, Microsoft and BAE Systems who have previously been endorsed by WORK180, the UK's only jobs board which pre-screens employers with a genuine commitment to supporting women at work against a set of criteria before they can advertise jobs.

We passed WORK180's screening process which involved reviewing our policies and processes relating to pay equity, flexible working, women in leadership and paid parental leave.

WORK180 was also encouraged by our plans for two new development programmes for our female colleagues, including a structured programme for women working in our offices to job shadow our female engineers, and our RISE programme focusing on supporting women to develop their confidence, achieve their goals and reach senior positions at SGN.

Speaking about the endorsement, our Head of HR Service Centre Raj Ghai said: "Partnering with WORK180 was an obvious step forward in our push to build on our diversity and increase opportunities for women across the company.

"A balanced workforce promotes innovation and new opportunities for our existing employees. We're excited to explore a new channel that will endorse our continuing commitment for SGN to be a diverse and inclusive place to work."

## Our Head of Replacement Tracey walks it in the fight against Crohn's disease

1 July 2019



**Tracey and the team with their medals after the walk**

Our Head of Replacement (Southern) Tracey is on the way to raising more than £1,500 for Crohn's and Colitis UK after her family was touched by the condition in the most tragic of ways.

Tracey McIntyre, who is based at our St Mary Cray office, was among hundreds of people who took part in the 10km WALK IT London event on Saturday 8 June.

Crohn's and Colitis UK is a charity very close to Tracey's heart. Her son's partner Charlotte tragically lost her mum after an operation for Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis earlier this year. The leading UK charity helps those affected by the diseases and gives them a better quality of life, with the ultimate mission of finding a cure.

Tracey explained that her fundraising efforts were inspired by Charlotte, and that raising awareness of the illnesses is so important: "To see a young woman of 20 struggle to come to terms with the loss of her mum, and yet continue to support her brother and sisters in all ways possible has been incredible to me. Charlotte's strength in wanting to raise awareness and give support by sharing her family's story is also an inspiration to me.

"Charlotte's mum Emma was diagnosed with Crohn's when she was 16 years old. Since being diagnosed, she was on a combination of drugs to treat the symptoms of this cruel disease, including regular injections of morphine for the pain she suffered. This disease took a toll on Emma over the years and she also suffered from other illnesses - many attributed to her body's fight against Crohn's and Colitis and the lack of nutrients her body was able to absorb – including Rheumatoid arthritis, restless leg syndrome, asthma, eczema, acid reflux, gallstones and rapid deterioration of her eye sight.

“She’d already undergone surgery a few times, but in 2018 Emma started deteriorating, losing weight rapidly and was unable to eat and drink without being sick. She was admitted to hospital and was there for nine weeks with pneumonia and sepsis. Further surgery was then her only option and a total bowel removal was required. Emma had her operation on 4 April, telling Charlotte that morning that at last she would be able to live a normal life once fully recovered. Though the surgery went well, Emma died the following day from sepsis, never regaining consciousness.

“These diseases are often not discussed or shared due to the sensitivity of the symptoms and embarrassment of seeking medical advice, so please read and seek medical advice if needs be. Any changes are always worth getting checked out.”

Donations are still coming in, but so far Tracey, Charlotte and the rest of the team have raised nearly £1,500 for Crohn’s and Colitis UK in sponsorship from family, friends and colleagues. This total has been boosted even further by a £500 donation from our Into Action fund, which supports employees who give up their time for charity.

## There's no stopping SGN-mentored RenewAbus as team wins national sustainability competition

5 July 2019



A team of secondary school pupils from Portsmouth mentored by SGN have won this year's Solutions for the Planet Big Ideas Competition National Final.

The five-strong RenewAbus team from Mayfield School amazed judges and MPs at the Palace of Westminster on Wednesday 26 June with their idea of a recycled bus reliant on seven forms of renewable energy to power it. The judging panel was impressed with the team's scientific knowledge, prototype, presentation skills and the connections they've made with local companies.

Business partner mentors from SGN, Tarmac, iGEM, Brammer Buck & Hickman, Mears Group and SUEZ have supported teams during the academic year as part of the Solutions for the Planet (S4TP) programme. The S4TP Big Ideas Competition gives pupils the opportunity to work with businesses to create ideas that could solve societal and environmental problems facing the world, while exploring opportunities within science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



RenewAbus designed a prototype for the judges as part of their presentation



Our Communications Officer Dan Brown worked with the winning team this year, helping and encouraging the team to develop their idea from its conception to presenting it in London. Dan said: "It's fantastic that the RenewAbus team's creativity, entrepreneurialism and dedication has been rewarded with this well-deserved accolade.

"It's pleasing to see the development of this innovative idea and the individuals' confidence growing all the time. They're working as a fluid small organisation where each member has positively contributed and taken responsibility to help the team achieve its goals. It's been brilliant to work with such a talented group of people who are genuinely passionate about helping the environment and I can't wait to see this idea progress beyond the competition."

Twelve teams in all presented solutions to sustainability issues at the National Final last week after progressing from regional finals held at local universities and museums. Mentors from across our business had been working with five of the finalists on their ideas, and all those who reached this stage can be extremely proud of their achievements and unique ideas.

Our Head of Community Pamela Goeë was on the judging panel and said: "The standard of ideas, business plans and presentations at this year's final were excellent. The knowledge and entrepreneurship demonstrated is astonishing when you consider the ages of the people producing these ideas. It made it very difficult to decide upon a winner, but their deep understanding of an environmental problem and creative skills of how to help solve that, gave RenewAbus the edge.

"Our partnership with S4TP and the local community is as beneficial to us as it is to the students we work with. Our involvement creates a connection between our business and the communities we serve, while shaping and developing the skillset of potential future employees. Well done to everyone who has been involved in the programme this year."

Jen Baughan, CEO of S4TP, said: "The Big Ideas programme has given over 3900 young people opportunities to imagine and innovate entrepreneurial solutions to challenging sustainability issues with the help of their business mentors.

"The confidence that the young people have developed and their belief and passion in their ideas is inspirational, and it's largely down to their dedication and commitment, and that of their teachers and business mentors from SGN, and our other partner organisations."

## We're testing our warning siren at our Sandwich Road LPG site in Stornoway

9 July 2019

We're conducting a routine test of the warning siren at our Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) site in Sandwich Road in Stornoway on Thursday 11 July.

The siren is used to warn people living or working near the site of any potential incidents. It will be tested on Thursday 11 July from 10am. The test will last for a maximum duration of one hour, during which both 'warning' and 'all-clear' sirens will sound several times.

We conduct tests every six months at all our LPG sites, always notifying residents and businesses beforehand. This test is a requirement as part of the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015.

General Manager Finlay MacDonald said: "We carry out these tests every six months because the safety of the community in Stornoway is our number one priority. While the test scheduled at 10am on Thursday 11 July is routine and nothing to be concerned about, it's important nearby residents and businesses are familiar with the sound of the siren and know what they need to do in case a real incident ever takes place."

If the siren sounds during a real incident which is not part of a scheduled test, you should be aware of what to do. Click [here](#) to find out more.

## SGN and Murphy link-up to announce exciting new venture

16 July 2019



SGN and Murphy have today announced they've entered into a new 50:50 joint-venture in utility asset ownership.

This new venture has been formed through SGN acquiring 50% ownership in Murphy Utility Assets (MUA), a recently established utility connections asset owner with expertise in the utility market.

MUA will initially focus on the adoption of gas and electricity infrastructure assets across the UK, owning and maintaining residential and commercial connections for clients. In the longer-term, the joint-venture has plans to develop a full multi-utility offering, providing a 'one-stop shop' for all utility infrastructure on new developments, including future energy solutions such as heat networks. Greg Addison-Smyth from J Murphy & Sons Ltd has been appointed as the Managing Director of the new venture.

Simon Reilly, Commercial Director at SGN commented: "This is an exciting opportunity for us to enter a new market. As well as aligning neatly with our property development business SGN Place, this new venture leverages our group's core skills and experience as an infrastructure owner and operator combining with Murphy's established presence in the construction market."

Simon added: "This move will allow us to build a platform for growth into the delivery of heat networks and other alternative heat solutions as the challenge of decarbonisation begins to change the mix of utility connections to new housing developments."

Kevin Moriarty, Group Investment Director at Murphy commented: "Since we started our connections and assets business, we always knew it had potential to grow. We are delighted that SGN has now joined us on this exciting new venture. By bringing together our complementary skills and experience, it will support the growing business to acquire and deliver new utility assets. It also sits perfectly with our investment strategy at Murphy to invest in long-term assets and create sustainable income streams for the business."

## Budding Glasgow and Wimbledon artists win regional prizes for annual school CO safety campaign

26 July 2019

Cody Motherwell, aged 10, from Glasgow and Owen Campbell, aged 6, from Wimbledon have won the regional prizes for an annual school carbon monoxide safety competition at an awards ceremony in Westminster.

Organised by the UK's four gas distribution networks and supported by the Energy Networks Association, the competition calls for budding artists aged five to 11 to help raise awareness of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.



**Winning artist Cody Motherwell with her award and her friend Sophie holding Cody's poster**

We received 1,143 entries in this year's competition from school children across our Scottish and southern England network area. Entries ranged from videos, posters, cartoons and poems, all designed to warn of the dangers of the silent killer.

Cody, who attends St Bridget's Primary School in Glasgow, trumped the rest of the competition by designing an informative and eye-catching poster showing the symptoms of CO poisoning, to win the regional award for students aged eight to 11.

Owen attends St John Fisher RC Primary School in Wimbledon and was inspired to enter the competition after we buried a time capsule at his school following our recent gas pipeline upgrade work in the area. He won the regional award for students aged five to seven.

On Thursday 11 July, Cody, Owen and their guests attended the national awards ceremony held in Portcullis House, Westminster. Hosted by MP Barry Sheerman, who co-chairs the All-Party Parliamentary Carbon Monoxide Group (APPCOG), Cody and Owen were presented with their awards alongside the other regional winners.



**Winning artist Owen Campbell with his award and MPs Barry Gardiner (left) and Barry Sheerman (right)**

Sharon Dorrington, SGN Stakeholder and Community Manager, said: “Along with the other gas network companies, we were impressed by the number of creative entries that were submitted to this year’s competition and we hope that the process involved has helped the students recognise the potential dangers of CO.

“CO has no smell, taste or colour and lives are lost every year because of CO poisoning. It’s through awareness initiatives like this competition that safety messages such as getting gas appliances safety checked every year by a Gas Safe registered engineer, and the need for an audible CO alarm can reach more people across Great Britain and save lives.”

The competition has now reopened and we’re on the lookout for next year’s winners. Budding artists have until Sunday 10 May 2020 to submit their entries and can find out more information [here](#).