

Green gas set to 'amaize' as Euston Biogas powers up to fuel 1,000 homes

Euston Biogas Ltd's new plant near Thetford hooks up to National Grid's gas network

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- Sustainable 'green' gas made from local crops set to heat up to 1,000 homes
- Project set to benefit local farmers

A brand new 'green gas' facility in Euston, Suffolk, has started delivering gas into National Grid's pipeline network and is set to fuel 1,000 local homes with sustainable energy while at the same time offering benefits for local farmers.

Gas made from home-grown maize is being pumped into National Grid's local gas network with the opening of Euston Biogas Ltd's brand new facility at the Euston Estate, close to the Suffolk/Norfolk border, near Thetford.

Built and operated by renewable energy company Euston Biogas Ltd, the plant uses a process known as anaerobic digestion to turn locally-grown crops into sustainable gas. The facility can deliver up to 1,000 cubic metres per hour and fuel some 1,000 homes on average through National Grid's gas network.

The state-of-the-art facility marks the very first 'gas to grid' project for Euston Biogas Ltd. Crops and agricultural bi-products for the plant will be provided by Strutt and Parker (Farms) Limited – Euston Biogas' parent company – and by other local farmers.

For National Grid it is in the vanguard of at least 80 projects around the country that the company is aiming to connect to its network by 2020. It also represents the third biogas plant the company has connected in Suffolk.

Charlie Fillingham, Managing Director of Strutt and Parker (Farms) Limited, said: "We are delighted to have worked with National Grid in this venture. Whilst not only producing a significant quantity of renewable energy, the project will provide a great opportunity for farmers in the area to improve their crop rotation by introducing maize and other energy crops. Furthermore, a co-product – known as digestate – which is produced during the process will also be used as a natural fertilizer and improve the much-needed nutrient levels in the light soils of this region."

Richard Court, head of stakeholder delivery at National Grid, said: "This is great news for local people. Biogas, made from crops and agricultural bi-products can make a significant contribution to keeping our energy supplies secure, affordable and green. I'm particularly proud of this project. We've enabled our customers to have a greater choice and say about how they develop sustainable energy. Developers are rapidly expanding the bio-methane-to-gas-grid market and we are committed to playing our part fully in helping them bring their projects to fruition and flow gas into the network."

The project brings benefits to the local farming community and provides a market for farmers to use their 'break crops' – crops planted by farmers in between other crops to keep the land healthy and fertile.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

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National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

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