

From green grass to green gas – Suffolk (Ellough AD) plant set to fuel 7,000 homes

New biogas facility at Sotterley (Ellough AD), near Beccles, hooks up to National Grid's gas network

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- Sustainable 'green' gas made from local crops set to heat up to 7,000 homes
- Very first 'gas to grid' facility for renewable energy company Biocore

A brand new 'green gas' facility in Suffolk is set to fuel thousands of local homes with sustainable energy and benefit local farmers.

Gas made from home-grown crops is set to heat up to 7,000 local homes as the new plant, at Ellough, near Beccles, has been hooked up to the National Grid gas network.

Built and operated by renewable energy company BioCore Environmental Ltd, the plant costing over £15 million uses a process known as anaerobic digestion to turn locally-grown crops, such as maize, into sustainable gas. The gas will fuel up to 7,000 properties on average through National Grid's gas network.

The state-of-the-art facility marks the very first 'gas to grid' project for Biocore. For National Grid it is among the first of at least 80 projects around the country that the company is aiming to connect to its network in the next eight years.

Peter Carey Managing Director of Biocore, said: "We are delighted to have delivered this significant gas to grid plant with National Grid. This plant will provide a number of benefits to farmers in the region whilst contributing significant renewable energy to the local and national grid. It is one of the most efficient uses of biogas and reduces reliance on imported fossil gas, thus contributing to meeting the UK's renewable energy and climate change targets whilst improving our energy security."

Richard Court, head of stakeholder delivery at National Grid, said: "This is great news for Suffolk. Biogas, made from crops and other "biomass", can make a significant contribution to keeping energy supplies secure, affordable and green.

"We're committed to working with customers like Biocore to connect their projects to our gas network and ensure we can all benefit from alternative forms of energy like this."

The project is also bringing benefits to the local farming community. The project provides a market for farmers to sell their 'break crops' – crops planted by farmers in between other crops to keep the land healthy and fertile. As a by-product, the anaerobic digestion process also produces a valuable organic fertiliser.

Local farmer Jonathan Mitchell, Chairman of the Cantley Beet Group, who is supplying the plant, said: "We are delighted to be supplying Ellough AD with feedstock from the local area. This will give us another market and a secure source of organic fertiliser for many years to come."

Simon Thompson, the Farm Manager from Sotterley Farms, stated: "The Ellough Biogas project has brought an exciting new marketing opportunity to local farmers by an energy producer that is wholly committed to this pioneering renewable project. It has provided farmers with a profitable outlet for break crops and also allowed them to greatly increase the sustainability of their farming operations."

The plant at Sotterley processes feedstock, sourced from local farmers, every year. It can produce up to 29,000 cubic metres of gas per day.

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For photos relating to this news release please visit www.nationalgridmedia.com

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is one of the largest investor-owned energy companies in the world and has been named Responsible Business of the Year 2014 by Business in the Community. We own and manage the grids that connect people to the energy they need, from whatever the source. In Britain and the north-eastern states of the US we run systems that deliver gas and electricity to millions of people, businesses and communities.

In Britain, we run the gas and electricity systems that our society is built on, delivering gas and electricity across the country. In the North Eastern US, we connect more than seven million gas and electric customers to vital energy sources, essential for our modern lifestyles.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own the high-voltage electricity transmission network in England and Wales, operating it across Great Britain
- We own and operate the high pressure gas transmission system in Britain
- Our gas distribution business delivers gas to 10.9 million homes and businesses
- We also own a number of related businesses including LNG importation, land remediation and metering
- National Grid manages the National Gas Emergency Service free phone line on behalf of the industry - 0800 111 999 (all calls are recorded and may be monitored).
- Our portfolio of other businesses is mainly concerned with infrastructure provision and related services where we can exploit our core skills and assets to create value. These businesses operate in areas such as Metering, Grain LNG Import, Interconnectors and Property. National Grid Carbon Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of National Grid. It undertakes Carbon Capture Storage related activities on behalf of National Grid.

National Grid in the US:

- National Grid delivers electricity to approximately 3.4 million customers in New England and upstate New York
- We own 3.8 gigawatts of contracted electricity generation, providing power to over one million LIPA customers
- We are the largest distributor of natural gas in northeastern U.S., serving approximately 3.5 million customers in New York, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at www.nationalgridconnecting.com

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Notes for editors

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National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

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>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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