

Hair-raising science show for Manchester school pupils

Pupils at Broad Oak Primary School in Didsbury enjoyed a hair-raising science show courtesy of National Grid

13 Jul 2017

- Pupils enjoy hair-raising experiments with electricity during school science show
- National Grid working locally on £3m project to upgrade power lines
- Work will keep the lights on and maintain National Grid's outstanding record for reliability of supply

Pupils at Broad Oak Primary School in East Didsbury enjoyed a hair-raising visit from a bunch of mad scientists during a special class on electricity recently.

National Grid is currently working on refurbishing the overhead power line which runs between substations at Bredbury and Sale and so organised the show to teach children about some interesting aspects of the science behind electricity.

During the event staged by Mad Science, 51 pupils from two classes learned about static electricity, using a metal ball to show how static could make hair stand on end. They also had the chance to use a Van de Graaf generator to create the electrostatic energy required for the experiment and learned about chemical luminescence.

Kevin Corteen, Headteacher said: "It was a great way for the children to understand some of the science behind electricity which is something we all use day in and day out and very much take for granted. The visit from the mad scientists really brought it to life for our pupils."

Ryan Hatcher, National Grid Project Manager said: "It was a fantastic opportunity to show the children the importance of the work we are doing locally to replace equipment on 30 electricity pylons to keep them working efficiently.

"Our upgrade to the electricity network will ensure communities across Manchester and beyond will have a reliable source of electricity for many years to come."

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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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