

[Home / Press Releases / Archive /](#)

Hurricane Gonzalo fails to dampen National Grid team

Volunteers add dash of colour to school

24 Oct 2014

- **Calming sanctuary for children given make-over**
- **Pupils will benefit from team effort**

The tail-end of Hurricane Gonzalo – which this week swept across the country – failed to stop a group of 18 volunteers adding a dash of colour to a special school.

Despite the high-winds and lashing rain the National Grid team managed to complete its task at the Dorothy Goodman School in Hinckley in three days.

Before the storm took hold they painted in red, blue and green half the fences that lace through the school grounds.

And when conditions became too difficult they moved indoors and painted a classroom and a teacher's room.

After the wind and rain had died down an extra team of nine volunteers finished off the uncompleted fences.

All the paint was supplied by National Grid and the painting team came from Network Design at the company's Hinckley headquarters.

Laura Hall, the National Grid organiser said: "Despite the tail end of Hurricane Gonzalo the venture has been a fantastic team effort and everyone has worked so hard.

"In a short time we have transformed areas inside and outside the school. It's a brilliant feeling giving your time to help young people who'll benefit so much from our team efforts."

The Dorothy Goodman School caters for pupils aged between three and 19 years old with a wide range of learning disabilities.

It currently has 238 pupils who attend one of five bases at the school.

Dorothy Goodman Headteacher Janet Thompson said: "I have been impressed at the hard work and speed that the volunteers have worked despite the best efforts of Hurricane Gonzalo to slow them down. They have achieved a huge amount in the three days and for this the school is extremely grateful. It is so pleasing to see the space where our children play looking far more attractive and colourful, there are now clearer boundaries for those children with visual impairment and I look forward to seeing the children's reaction on Monday morning."

The painting project, linking National Grid and the Dorothy Goodman School, was organised by Leicestershire Cares.

Leicestershire Cares brings local business and communities together for the benefit of both.

National Grid already has a strong link with the Dorothy Goodman School. The company plays a leading role in EmployAbility – a scheme to help young people with learning needs and disabilities to find work.

National Grid is one of a few private UK companies with a defined programme to help students with learning disabilities to find employment.

It identifies a role that an intern can fill before they spend three months on the job while fully supported by a job coach and mentor.

Three teenagers from the Dorothy Goodman School are taking part in the scheme at National Grid in Hinckley.

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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 to Editors:

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- 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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In Media

- > [Press Releases](#)
- > [Media contacts](#)

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- > [Our business](#)
- > [Electricity](#)
- > [Gas](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)

United States

- > [Our business](#)
- > [Operating responsibly](#)
- > [Investor factsheets](#)
- > [Presentations and webcasts](#)
- > [Annual reports](#)
- > [Biographies](#)

