

National Grid charity climb set to 'pylon' the pounds for Macmillan

National Grid office staff to climb 150-foot training pylon in charity climb

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- Challenge set to raise over £20,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support

Plucky National Grid employees are scaling the heights of fundraising success in a bid to generate thousands of pounds for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Ten intrepid, office-based staff will be swapping their day jobs in Solihull, Warwick and London for an adrenaline-fuelled climb to the top of a 150-foot National Grid training pylon that is taller than Nelson's column.

The white-knuckle fundraiser will take place at the company's training academy in Eakring, Nottinghamshire, on Thursday (4 June). The team, led by Corporate Strategy and Business Development Director Stephanie Hazell, hope to raise over £10,000 which will be matched by National Grid, making a total of more than £20,000.

Climbing electricity pylons is a routine part of the job for National Grid's force of overhead line engineers but Stephanie's team are more used to having their feet firmly on the ground.

"We are all feeling apprehensive but excited too," she explained. "By doing something a little out of the ordinary – and very challenging – we are aiming to support Macmillan's excellent work in caring for people with cancer.

"Everyone has been touched by cancer in some way. I was diagnosed with a tumour in my leg while at university. My prognosis was excellent and I am left with just a large scar but many others face far more serious challenges."

Macmillan was voted by National Grid employees as the company's chosen charity. In a two-year fundraising partnership, staff are aiming to raise half a million pounds to fund heating grants for people with cancer.

Full safety precautions will be taken for the climb. The ten-strong team will don protective equipment before being harnessed to the training pylon, which is connected to non-live wires, and is used to train linesmen. They will be accompanied by qualified National Grid engineers throughout the event.

Members of the public should never attempt to climb pylons. It is extremely dangerous as they risk death or serious injury from high voltage electricity or falls.

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Notes for editors

Notes to Editors:

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>

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