

# National Grid's Christmas cracker for older people

National Grid teams play Father Christmas

07 Dec 2015

- **Hundreds of practical gifts help the elderly**
- **Seasonal cheer brings happiness to the lonely**

Kind hearted National Grid and Pertemps employees have brought Christmas cheer to the region's elderly by giving hundreds of much needed gifts.

Teams at Hinckley and Leicester are ensuring people keep warm over the cold winter months. They have loaded Santa's sleigh with duvets, hot water bottles, flasks, scarves, gloves and hats.

And they topped it up with slippers and socks. Also included in the presents were torches, mini-radios, magnifying glasses and toiletries.

National Grid has worked tirelessly with Leicestershire Cares and Age UK to provide the right gifts for the right people during its Collect 4 Christmas campaign.

More than 45% of people in Leicestershire and Rutland are aged over 50 years. And, half of the over 85s could face a lonely Christmas.

Research has shown that being alone, coupled with social isolation, can cause physical and mental damage. To add to their plight many elderly live on a low income and struggle to make ends meet.

Tanya Hutchison, National Grid organiser, said: "Winter can be a worrying time for older people. They need to keep warm and wrap-up well. We have made sure that people can have that extra comfort. Our gifts are everyday essentials, but they will make a positive difference to so many.

"We have proudly worked with Leicestershire Cares and Age UK for many years on a number of worthy projects, but Christmas is always a special time for everyone to share."

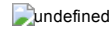
Katharine Lightbown of Leicestershire Cares added: "Once again, National Grid teams have shown kindness and generosity in helping people less fortunate than others. We have worked together for more than ten years and they continue to be big-hearted, caring and understanding."

Leicestershire Cares brings local businesses and communities together, for the benefit of all, through employee volunteering.

Leicestershire-based companies who are interested in supporting future initiatives should contact Leicestershire Cares on 0116 275 6469.

ENDS

Loading up Santa's sleigh – pictured left to right: Sarah Rowley, Tanya Hutchinson and Liz Roberts.



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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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