

National Grid set to light up Christmas for youngsters in poverty

National Grid staff dig deep for struggling families

09 Dec 2014

- **Hundreds of toys given to those in need**

Big-hearted National Grid staff in Hinckley put charity at the top of their Christmas shopping lists to bring joy to youngsters across Leicestershire

Employees have bought more than 100 new toys for some of the city's and county's most disadvantaged children after an SOS from Leicestershire Cares. Through its annual 'Collect 4 Christmas' campaign, the business and community charity is aiming to provide thousands of gifts so tots and teenagers alike will have a present to open on Christmas morning by supporting 'Toys on the Table'.

More than 26,500 children and young people in Leicestershire live in poverty. For many, a toy or a gift is a luxury too great for their struggling families.

Tanya Upton, National Grid organiser said: "Christmas is a wonderful time for giving and caring and to hear that some children are not able to join in the fun is quite shocking.

"We believe that it's important to share with others less fortunate. Our employees have responded magnificently to ensure that hundreds of children and young people will have something to open on Christmas morning."

Katharine Lightbown of Leicestershire Cares added: "We'd like to say a huge thank you to National Grid staff for their generosity and sterling efforts in collecting such a large number of toys and games. These presents will make a positive difference to so many families this Christmas."

National Grid has been involved in the Christmas campaign for a number of years and works regularly with Leicestershire Cares.

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 -

Contact for media information only:

Sara Wilcox
National Grid Media Relations
01926 655271

07899 983792

sara.wilcox@nationalgrid.com

Out of hours duty press officer:
0845 366 6769

Photos:

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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