

National Grid staff help Strood residents with employability skills

Responsible Business Week (20 - 26 April 2015)

17 Apr 2015

Strood residents looking to get back into the world of work are set to get a helping hand from National Grid next Wednesday (22 April) as part of Responsible Business Week.

Volunteers from the energy company will be working with service-users at the Strood Community project to hone the skills that will help them land a coveted job or training place. National Grid will run a morning and afternoon employability workshop, giving local young people the chance to practise their interview skills and receive constructive feedback from a team of professionals.

The session is one of 17 countrywide events organised by National Grid to mark Responsible Business Week, which aims to champion the role of businesses in creating a fairer society and a sustainable future.

Simon Culkin, National Grid's Isle of Grain Importation Terminal Manager, said: "As Responsible Business of the Year, National Grid is keen to promote the benefits of employee volunteering during Responsible Business Week.

"Sharing our time and skills is one of the best ways that we can support the communities where we live, work and operate. It's a great opportunity for our staff to develop their own skills and broaden their experiences— it's also hugely rewarding!"

Strood Community Project aims to empower the local community and help improve fundamental issues such as education, safety, increase employment, life skills and lower crime. Since 2006, Strood Community Project has supported over 700 individuals.

Mark Harvey, Outreach Project Manager at Strood Community Project enthused: "We try to empower local people by offering guidance and support to help them overcome barriers. The skills training that National Grid are providing is invaluable and really helps the Strood community. It'll help bridge the gap between where they are now and help them think more widely about their future".

Last year National Grid was named Responsible Business of the Year by Business in the Community (BITC). The prestigious accolade is awarded to organisations which make efforts to operate responsibly in everything they do, making a positive difference to society and the environment.

National Grid was particularly commended for its employee volunteering programmes. National Grid works closely with Community Service Volunteers (CSV), a leading volunteering charity which co-ordinates and manages the company's employee volunteering programme and has organised many of the activities for Responsible Business Week.

Over the last year, around 3,000 National Grid employees were involved with volunteering, citizenship and fundraising activities with the charities and organisations that the company supports.

ENDS

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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>

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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