

# Cadent submits Hydrogen Village application

Cadent has submitted its application to government and Ofgem proposing Whitby, in Ellesmere Port to be the location of the UK's Hydrogen Village trial. Two proposals for the Hydrogen Village trial are being considered by government, Whitby in Cadent's license area, and Redcar in Northern Gas Network's area.

To meet the UK Government's Net Zero target by 2050 we need to displace the natural gas which is used to heat most homes in the UK with alternative technologies. One of those options is to use hydrogen instead of natural gas. The Hydrogen Village trial will demonstrate the role hydrogen could play in replacing natural gas for heating and cooking. It will focus on converting up to around 2,000 homes and businesses connected to the existing gas network to run on hydrogen for around two years. The programme will provide the evidence requested by the UK Government to inform their heat policy decision due in 2026, which will determine the extent to which hydrogen will be used nationally.

The trial will be funded by Cadent, British Gas, and both government and Ofgem. The Ofgem funding will be provided via the Net Zero Pre-construction Work and Small Projects Re-opener (NZASP) application process. As part of the governance of NZSAP funding process, Cadent has been asked to provide a summary of the Ofgem funded elements in accordance with the publication requirements for Ofgem Re-opener funding.

<https://www.ofgem.gov.uk/publications/re-opener-guidance-and-application-requirements-document-version-3>

In Cadent's Village submission for Whitby, it is proposed that Ofgem funding will be used to support three key activities:

- 1) Customer engagement:** The most crucial element of the project is ensuring that Cadent supports customers before, during, and after the trial. Their support is fundamental to its success, and Cadent has ensured customer and stakeholder engagement, throughout the lifecycle of the programme, is a priority. Cadent has included funding to support customer participation, which is phased over the duration of the project, as well as resources to sustain a dedicated customer team which will maintain face-to-face relationship with the residents.
- 2) Gas network conversion:** There are key several pieces of new infrastructure that are needed to transport hydrogen to Whitby. These include the construction of a new 3km, high-pressure pipeline, and associated hydrogen above ground installation (HAGI). This will transport green hydrogen from the production location to the HAGI. A new 6km, medium pressure pipeline will supply the hydrogen to two new district governors on outskirts of Whitby. Cadent will also install a parallel network to allow those who do not want to participate in the trial to remain on natural gas.

The existing network will be sectorised by the installation of line valves, splitting Whitby into smaller conversion areas which will be utilised at the point of conversion.

- 3) In-home conversions:** Important activities include carrying out house-to-house assessments ahead of the installation of hydrogen appliances. Delivering any in-home modifications that are required following these assessments. This funding also covers converting the properties to hydrogen on the day of transition and then reversing the process, converting back to natural gas, at the end of the trial.

Cadent expects the successful location to be announced and funding awarded at the end of the year.

More details on our proposal can be found at <https://hydrogenvillage.com/>