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Welcome!

Last month's newsletter featured significant activity from the UK energy sector, with the new Labour Government coming quickly out of the gate with its vision for the future. While August is typically quieter, there has still been plenty of activity on the path to a decarbonised energy system. We've seen a decrease in energy consumption, as well as a recent report on low-carbon solutions for off-grid homes. Plus, an exciting new technological advancement was unveiled and the first energy mission board meeting.

It seems even the summer break can't slow down the push for a renewable future! So please take a moment to get caught up with the latest news shaping our industry in the August edition of DeliveringDecarb.

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01 Notable news

Gas and electricity usage drop in the UK's non-domestic buildings.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero published its energy consumption analysis of 1,755,000 non-domestic buildings in England and Wales (ND-NEED 2024). The report showed minimal changes from 2022 compared to the previous year, with a slight reduction in electricity and gas use.

Key messages:

- Electricity consumption in non-domestic buildings decreased slightly in 2022 compared to 2021 but was 5% higher than in 2020.
- Gas consumption in non-domestic buildings decreased significantly in 2022, likely due to higher gas prices, with all sectors affected.
- In 2022, for both electricity and gas, the highest consuming building use is factories (29% and 38%) respectively.

- Large buildings, over 1,000m², are responsible for 61% of electricity consumption and 71% of gas consumption.

[Access the ND-NEED 2024 framework](#)

New report highlights the role of gasifying waste in decarbonising off-gas grid homes

A new report from Gemserv and Liquid Gas UK suggests that converting waste-based feedstocks into biogas is an effective way to decarbonise properties not connected to the gas grid.

The report compared several waste-treatment and recycling options including municipal solid waste and found that the 'best use case' was to produce renewable liquid gases, via gasification for use in renewable-ready boilers. The results could provide a low-carbon option for the 20% or more of off-grid homes not suitable for a heat pump, according to UK Government estimates.

[Download the report](#)

DESNZ published the UK and Global Bioenergy Resource Model 2024

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has published research estimating the potential sustainable bioenergy resource available to the UK up to 2050. The UK and Global Bioenergy Resource Model (UKGBRM) has been used to inform the UK

government biomass strategy since it was originally developed in 2011 to support the 2012 Bioenergy Strategy.

The UKGBRM 2024 includes up-to-date data which allows users to explore the potential availability of bioenergy resources in the UK for the next 26 years. By adjusting various settings, users can create different scenarios to understand how much bioenergy might be available in the future.

[Access the full UKGBRM model](#)

01 Notable news

New technology to harness hydrogen energy from wastewater unveiled

A new technology for capturing hydrogen energy from wastewater has been unveiled. Wastewater Fuels has developed a new technology called a Microbial Electrolysis Cell (MEC). This innovation treats wastewater using microbes that consume organic matter, transforming it into hydrogen ions. These ions are then converted into hydrogen gas and stored within the rod.

According to the business, traditional wastewater treatment methods are efficient but can be energy-intensive or costly and 80% of wastewater produced globally goes untreated. Their method, not only treats wastewater but simultaneously utilises it as a fuel source, to produce more energy than it consumes.

Following successful initial testing, the initiative has received additional funding from Coventry

City Council and is set to launch in a full-scale sewage facility at RAF Digby.

[Discover more about the technology](#)



Looking at the wider energy industry....

National Grid has switched on the first circuit of the London Power Tunnels

The first part of the London Power Tunnels project operated by National Grid has gone live, connecting the Hurst substation to Crayford with a 2.5km circuit. The £1 billion project is

part of a larger scheme to upgrade London's electricity network, which includes constructing an additional 30km of tunnels and a new substation. Due for completion in 2027, a total of 32.5km of tunnels are being constructed between Wimbledon and Crayford.

Energy minister Michael Shanks said on the project: "It is feats of incredible engineering, such as this, that will be the driving force behind our race to become a clean energy superpower and help to revive communities across the UK with new skilled jobs."

[Read more about the project](#)

01 Notable news

Exploratory tunnel for pumped hydro storage scheme completed

Another tunnel project has also reached a milestone, this time in Scotland. SSE has completed a 1.2km exploratory tunnel at the site of its proposed Coire Glas project in the Scottish Highlands.

If constructed, the project would be the UK's first large-scale pumped storage scheme in four decades. The Coire Glas project aims to provide 30GWh of long-duration electricity storage, which would allow for the delivery of renewable power to three million homes for up to 24 hours continuously.

[Find out more about the project](#)



UK Government announces record-breaking funding for clean energy in Britain

UK Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, Ed Miliband, announced an increase of £500 million to the budget for this year's renewable energy auction. In total, the funding equates to over £1.5 billion towards building new infrastructure as part of the mission to deliver clean power by 2030.

To accelerate the delivery of clean, affordable, low-carbon electricity generated by renewable energy, the funding includes £1.1 billion for offshore wind, which has more budget available than all the previous auctions combined. The auction includes wind, solar, geothermal and tidal, but not low-carbon gas.

Energy Secretary Ed Miliband said:

“Last year's auction round was a catastrophe, with zero offshore wind secured, and delaying our move away from expensive fossil fuels to energy independence.”

[Read the full announcement](#)

02 Spotlight on...First energy Mission Board set to accelerate net zero

Before the UK Government's summer recess, Energy Secretary Ed Miliband brought together key ministers to focus on the Clean Energy Superpower mission. With the twin objective of achieving clean power by 2030 and delivering a successful net zero, the Mission Board aims to secure the nation's energy independence, protect consumers, and bolster employment opportunities.

Chaired by the Energy Secretary, the first meeting built upon several early actions taken by the Government, such as removing the onshore wind ban, promoting solar energy production, and establishing a partnership between Great British Energy and The Crown Estate.

DESNZ also launched its Mission Control, under the guidance of Chris Stark, and is set to supercharge the Government's mission to decarbonise Britain's power system by 2030. Working alongside the Mission Board, this initiative will concentrate on speeding up the shift away from fossil fuel to domestically produced clean energy sources.



03 Things to look out for

Following a busier than usual July, full of energy announcements and activity after the new Labour government was announced, August is a bit quieter in the energy sector. However, decarbonisation efforts are still ongoing, with several projects in the pipeline working towards reducing the UK's reliance on fossil fuels.

Last year, the previous Government announced its decision to support the blending of up to 20% hydrogen by volume into GB gas distribution networks. However, we are yet to hear whether the new Labour Government will continue to support this decision and strategy for rolling out the necessary frameworks for testing and initial deployment. As we move further into the second half of the year, we expect to see more decisions from DESNZ regarding their plans for implementing clean energy, including a roadmap for GB Energy.

Watch this space.



04 Policy milestones

Here are key Government Energy policy/regulatory milestones:

- **2024** - Energy Bill expected to complete
- **2024** - Future systems operator appointed
- **2024** - Smart meter rollout completed
- **2025** - H100 trial to commence
- **2025** - New business models for hydrogen transport and storage infrastructure designed
- **2025** - Hydrogen certification scheme introduced
- **2025** - Target for reaching 1GW electrolytic hydrogen production capacity and price competitive annual allocation rounds
- **2026** - Final policy decision on whether hydrogen will support domestic heating
- **2026** - MHHS (Marketwide Half Hourly Settlement) begins
- **2030** - New target for creating up to 10GW low carbon hydrogen production
- **2030** - Hydrogen town trial to commence



05 Dates for your diary

We'd love to see you at our Hydrogen Implementation forums. To join, please email decarbonisation@xserve.com

DN Update	Monday 2nd September 2024	10:00 - 11:30
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Shipper Update	Friday 20th September 2024	10:00 - 11:00
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IGT Update	Friday 20th September 2024	11:30 - 12:30
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Metering Update	Friday 20th September 2024	14:00 - 15:00
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Hydrogen Information Sharing Group	Friday 6th September 2024	10:00 - 12:00
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06 Keeping in touch

If you've found any of the topics in this month's newsletter particularly interesting, please get in touch or share your comments on LinkedIn, tagging @Xoserve. You can also delve deeper into decarbonisation with our Decarb Discussions podcast, which covers topics from different industry perspectives. To get involved and have your voice heard on our podcast channel, please get in touch.

Don't forget to sign up to our industry 'intranet'. An exclusive resource for the gas industry, the intranet is designed to keep you up to speed with the latest news, new projects and policy changes. It acts as a central repository for essential information related to your industry, some of which may not yet be available as a public resource. If you would like access to this site, please contact:

decarbonisation@xoserve.com

