

### **Our commitment to a low-carbon energy future**

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At Wales & West Utilities, we serve a population of 7.5 million people, keeping communities safe, warm, and connected every single day of the year. With a well-established network of pipelines stretching over 35,000km, we transport gas across Wales and the southwest of England and deliver our responsibilities as a critical part of the UK's energy infrastructure. We are proud to support our communities, powering homes, businesses, and industries with energy they can trust and rely on, while connecting 57 electricity generation sites to keep renewables flowing when the sun is not shining and the wind is not blowing.

We recognise our responsibility as a regulated, sustainable business in playing a key role in the transition to net zero by 2050. Our mission is clear: deliver affordable, low-carbon energy solutions, protect jobs and vulnerable households, and drive inclusive economic growth across Wales. Over the next Senedd term, we are committed to work with the Welsh Government and partners to maximise the value of the existing gas infrastructure and the investment in the network over generations. As we advance the use of hydrogen and biomethane in a decarbonised energy system, the gas network will play a key role in maintaining security of supply for the people of Wales and supporting power generation when demand is high and renewables are constrained.

### **Our vision for Wales**

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We envisage Wales leading the UK in building a fair, resilient, and affordable low-carbon energy system. By working together with policymakers, industry, and communities, we can:

- **Repurpose** the existing gas network to deliver greener gases including hydrogen and biomethane and enable consumer choice in low carbon heating solutions.
- **Maximise** the role of the gas network in protecting and creating jobs in the industrial heartlands and rural communities of Wales.
- **Plan** for a just transition, so no household is left behind, including the ~80% of Welsh homes currently connected and reliant upon the gas network.
- **Contribute** to whole system plans that support Welsh industry to decarbonise and thrive, strengthening the economy, supply chains and local productivity.

### **Our calls to action for the next Welsh Government**

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To make this vision a reality, we call on the next Welsh Government to:

- **Maximise and build on the role of Wales' existing energy infrastructure including the gas network in establishing Wales' Low-Carbon Future by:**  
Recognising the importance of Wales' existing gas infrastructure and position a decarbonised gas network as part of the Energy System Plan for Wales to support a balanced, flexible and cost-effective transition to net zero, delivering flexible, low-carbon energy for homes, businesses, and industry, while preserving consumer choice and commercial resilience.
- **Accelerate Green Gas and Hydrogen Development in Wales by:**  
Committing to research, development, and investment in hydrogen and biomethane, to enable production, blending, transmission, distribution and storage across Wales, while ensuring innovation in Wales can benefit from the Green Gas Support Scheme and Hydrogen production, transportation and storage funding.

- **Drive Policy Clarity and Local Energy Planning in Wales by:**  
Working with the UK Government to provide clear direction on heat decarbonisation, empower Regional and Local Energy Plans, and position Welsh energy networks – including Wales & West Utilities - as a strategic partner in national and regional energy transitions.
- **Protect Consumers and Ensure a Just Transition for the people of Wales by:**  
Recognising the 85% of households connected to the gas network in plans which will safeguard vulnerable households from fuel poverty and costly retrofits, ensuring fairness and affordability throughout the energy transition.
- **Deliver Welsh Industrial Decarbonisation and Workforce Transition Plans by:**  
Supporting a fair funding allocation to Welsh Industrial Clusters to progress industrial decarbonisation at pace across Wales, focusing on the development of hydrogen pipelines, electricity infrastructure and carbon capture facilities as part of a whole systems solution and supported by skills development and training pathways to protect jobs and prepare the workforce for future energy needs.

## The benefits for Wales

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- **Energy Security:** Developing domestic green gas and hydrogen capacity reduces reliance on imports and strengthens energy resilience in Wales and across the UK.
- **Economic Growth & Jobs:** Hydrogen and biomethane investment could create thousands of skilled jobs in Wales, supporting industrial clusters and rural economies.
- **Net Zero Delivery:** Wales' existing gas network and industrial base provide a cost-effective platform for decarbonisation, accelerating progress toward 2050 targets.
- **Fair Transition:** Innovation which leverages the existing investment in the gas network will ensure Welsh communities are not left behind, offering consumers greater choice in energy decisions and protecting vulnerable households.

## Joint action for a greener future

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We urge the next Welsh Government, policymakers, industry leaders, and communities to join us in our contribution to the future of energy, where green gases including hydrogen and biomethane form part of the range of sustainable energy solutions to power Wales' future. Together we can:

- Develop a clear roadmap for green gases and hydrogen.
- Support decisions in investment in our infrastructure that enables industrial decarbonisation through the adoption of hydrogen
- Champion fairness and offer choice by planning to support and protect vulnerable households during the energy transition
- Collaborate to unlock rural opportunities and create a thriving green economy by supporting the scaling up of biomethane production and distribution.

## Looking Ahead

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The next five years will be critical in laying solid foundations for the future direction of energy in Wales. The role of gas in the net zero transition and the scaling up and adoption of biomethane and hydrogen offer a range of solutions to achieve net zero targets that the people of Wales can benefit from. We look forward to working together with the next Welsh Government, officials, policy communities and industry to galvanise strong, collective energy solutions to serve future generations in Wales.

**For further details** and to arrange a further discussion about our vision for energy in Wales and the support we can provide, please contact: [Ross.gregory@wwutilities.co.uk](mailto:Ross.gregory@wwutilities.co.uk)