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CCS and Hydrogen to Decarbonise Heat

The Carbon Capture and Storage Association (CCSA) welcomes today's publication of the H21 Leeds City Gate report, which sets out how the gas grid in Leeds can be converted to hydrogen. The report, a collaboration between Northern Gas Networks (NGN), Wales & West Utilities, Kiwa Gastex and Amec Foster Wheeler, recommends that a UK-wide conversion from natural gas to hydrogen could reduce emissions from the heat sector by 73% - making a dramatic contribution towards meeting the UK's decarbonisation goals.

Converting natural gas into hydrogen takes place via a process called Steam Methane Reforming – this turns the gas into hydrogen and carbon dioxide. To achieve the significant emissions reductions from this process, the H21 report proposes to use CCS to capture and store the carbon dioxide from the conversion – with hydrogen remaining as a zero-carbon fuel that can be used for heating, transport and electricity.

Dr. Luke Warren, Chief Executive of the CCSA, commented:

“To meet the UK's ambitious climate change goals will require decarbonisation across the economy – this report sets out an excellent proposal to turn the UK's gas grid into a hydrogen network, which can reduce emissions and provide a long-term future for the UK's gas infrastructure.

However this option largely depends on the availability of CCS and we therefore call on the Government to come forward with their new approach to CCS as soon as possible and to ensure that this new approach enables the use of CCS to produce low-carbon hydrogen, as well as to reduce emissions from energy intensive industries and power.

Today's report highlights the value of CCS to the UK economy, and we therefore need a collaborative partnership between industry and Government to develop this crucial low-carbon infrastructure".

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Notes to Editors:

1. On Monday 11th July 2016, Northern Gas Networks together with Wales & West Utilities, Kiwa Gastex and Amec Foster Wheeler published the H21 Leeds City Gate report. The executive summary of the report can be found [here](#).
2. CCS has a vital role to play in meeting the UK's climate change targets at least cost. The Committee on Climate Change has concluded that CCS "*could almost halve the cost of meeting the 2050 target in the Climate Change Act*". CCS is also the only technology available that allows deep decarbonisation in energy intensive industries, and is therefore crucial in enabling a long-term sustainable future for these important industries.
3. The Carbon Capture and Storage Association exists to represent the interests of its members in promoting the Business of Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS). The Association works to raise awareness, both in the UK and internationally, of the benefits of CCS as a viable climate change mitigation option, and the role of CCS in moving towards a low-carbon global economy. <http://www.ccsassociation.org/>

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