
Future Gas Series: Part 2 – The Production of Low Carbon Gas Inquiry Outline

Outline

Carbon Connect is undertaking a research project to investigate the opportunities offered by low carbon gas to reduce the UK's greenhouse gas emissions and the policy developments which are required to enable its deployment as a source of energy. Natural gas (methane) currently provides around 77 per cent of domestic heating needs and shifting the UK's heat supply from its reliance on natural gas to low carbon sources is arguably the most significant challenge facing future heat policy.

The *Future Gas Series* will draw on the recent work which has highlighted the considerable potential for low carbon gas to contribute to the UK's attempts to decarbonise heat at an affordable cost (as well as make a contribution to this objective in other sectors) and, in particular, assess the practical steps which are required to achieve this. Part 1 of the *Future Gas Series* – *Next Steps for the Gas Grid* – was published in September 2017 and investigated the suitability of the gas grid to be re-purposed to distribute low carbon gas and the current impediments to doing this, as well as exploring the opportunities offered by low carbon gas.

Part 2 of the *Future Gas Series* will focus on issues related to the production, bulk storage and bulk transmission of low carbon gas. The inquiry will look at what is required to develop the production of low carbon gas and evaluate the options for doing this.

Inquiry Process and Methodology

The research and report compilation will be conducted by staff at Policy Connect but the work will be overseen by parliamentary co-chairs and a steering group of relevant experts. The research will mainly take the form of desk research and semi-structured interviews but written evidence submissions are also being requested. Additionally, Carbon Connect will run evidence session roundtables in Parliament to inform the project and steering group sessions in Parliament to discuss the findings.

Co-Chairs

This inquiry will be co-chaired by **Dr Alan Whitehead MP**, Labour Member of Parliament for Southampton Test, **James Heapey MP**, Conservative Member of Parliament for Wells and **Alistair Carmichael MP**, Liberal Democrat MP for Orkney and Shetland.

Dr Alan Whitehead MP is Shadow Minister for Energy and Climate Change. James Heapey MP is a former member of the Energy and Climate Change Committee and serves as PPS to the Secretary of State for Transport. Alistair Carmichael MP is a former Secretary of State for Scotland, and is a former member of the Energy and Climate Change Committee.

Steering Group

- David Joffe - Committee on Climate Change
- Emily Leadbetter - National Grid
- Henrik Andersen - Statoil
- Jamie Speirs - Sustainable Gas Institute
- Jenni McDonnell - KTN
- Jo Howes - E4Tech
- Keith MacLean - Providence Policy
- Keith Owen - NGN
- Matthew Knight - Siemens
- Mike Foster - EUA
- Neil Schofield - Worcester Bosch
- Nilay Shah - Imperial College London
- Sarb Bajwa - IGEM
- Stuart Easterbrook - Cadent
- Tony Diccico - Energy Systems Catapult