

PLANNING FOR HYDROGEN INFRASTRUCTURE 2023

23 MAY

Ahead of the Planning for Hydrogen Infrastructure 2023 (taking place 23 May in London), **Rebecca Evans**, **Consent Manager, HyNet at Cadent Gas**, shares her views on some of the challenges new hydrogen projects are facing and what further support is needed.



REBECCA EVANS
CONSENTS MANAGER
HYNET CADENT GAS

WHAT CHALLENGES ARE NEW HYDROGEN PROJECTS FACING IN THE UK? HOW CAN THESE BE NAVIGATED?

As the availability of land is ever decreasing in the UK, we are one of the many sectors, including other energy developments, trying to gain land to build our scheme in a way that is palatable to the local community and stakeholders. We have over a thousand landowners and need to cross numerous waterways, roads, railways and utility assets, so there are many conflicting issues and this can be quite tricky.

We are trying to navigate these issues by identifying the land we need early in the design process and engage early on with asset protection teams to commence these conversations.

HOW DOES PLANNING FOR HYDROGEN DIFFER FROM OTHER TYPES OF ENERGY SCHEMES?

Its pretty much new, so there are limited case studies or existing technology/standards which can be drawn upon. This makes it a really exciting sector to work in... it's frontier work with daily challenge and a valuable end goal.

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WHAT FURTHER SUPPORT IS NEEDED FOR HYDROGEN INFRASTRUCTURE?

I don't think there are any magic wands to be honest. The ability to safeguard land would be useful but could bring another set of challenges. Greater clarity from DESNZ and the HSE would be helpful, but they are currently working on the same issues as ourselves, with similar timeframes. I think its important to ensure that there is consistency in approach between hydrogen developers to ensure that the sector does not tie itself in knots, which could lead to further delay and loss of global competitiveness.

Hear more from Rebecca Evans at the event where she'll expand on these ideas.

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