

December 2015

Welcome to Gasline, which is produced by Gas New Zealand.

Gasline is published regularly as part of the industry's efforts to encourage the direct use of natural gas and LPG into households and small businesses.

Using natural gas and LPG as a direct energy source offers numerous cost, environmental and energy efficiency benefits. Gas New Zealand hopes to educate consumers and policy makers about the many advantages of making wider use of this strategic energy asset.

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Gas Industry Forum a hit once again

The 2015 Gas Industry Forum was widely agreed as being the best forum yet, says LPGA executive director Peter Gilbert.

There were around 130 people in attendance at the Novotel Lakeside Rotorua, and the line-up of presentations was outstanding, Mr Gilbert says.

"We're so pleased with how this year's forum panned out – it was a great mix of informative presentations and valuable networking.

"Attendees were enthusiastic about the positive direction in which New Zealand's gas industry is heading."

The wide range of speakers covered topics from increasing the profile of natural gas and the place of gas in a low carbon future, to the outlook for the NZ economy, and uses of data in marketing.

Over the next few months, Gasline will provide an overview of some of these presentations.

Powerco Gas General Manager Stuart Dickson's strong message was delivered on the opening morning of the forum with his presentation titled "Where does gas fit into a smart energy future?"

Stuart said the gas industry needs to "wake up" and start adapting to new technology if it wants to play a role in New Zealand's smart energy future.

There is plenty of work being done and money spent on smart grids, he said, but gas is not often mentioned - that work, here and overseas, is "almost without exception, electricity focused."

Stuart said gas can play a role in a smart-energy, low-carbon future, but it needs to utilise technology that can send usage data directly to consumers and suppliers.

Both Vector and Powerco expect to begin deploying smart meters on their networks in coming years.

"The view of smart grid is that it is all connected and gives consumers more choice, which is great. It also really is about lowering the cost of different energy sources to end-users," Stuart said.

Stuart said Powerco's trial homes prove that when people have access to the technologies they will change their behaviour to try and save money.

"Gas works well as a backup to intermittent solar and wind by doing the heavy lifting of space and hot water heating, while electricity can be used for lower energy use,"

Stuart said the electricity industry is working to develop tariffs that will cope with different energy sources and encourage people to "use that electricity at the right time", which will give consumers greater choice and control over their total energy costs.

But that change will require more real time information to manage it all, and to play a role gas also needs to be smarter.

"We've got plentiful gas, and this is an asset New Zealand should be using more of."

A selection of pictures from the 2015 Gas Industry Forum.



New appointment to the EECA board

Energy and Resources Minister Simon Bridges has recently appointed Hon Phil Heatley as a new member of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) board.

Mr Heatley was Minister of Energy and Resources from December 2011 to January 2013, with oversight of EECA and the Electricity Authority.

Mr Heatley's experience as MP for Whangarei, working with local and central government agencies, complements his experience in agribusiness and engineering.

"Phil Heatley... will bring additional valuable energy sector expertise to the board, as well as his extensive experience working with central and local government agencies," Mr Bridges says.

Mr Bridges also reappointed Tom Campbell as EECA Chair, and Elena Trout as a board member.

All three appointments are for three years, effective from 1 February 2016.

Mr Bridges says the reappointments of Tom Campbell and Elena Trout retain valuable governance experience and sector knowledge.

EECA's board is required to have a balanced mix of knowledge and experience in matters relevant to EECA's functions and responsibilities.

Members are required to have experience in or knowledge of the energy sector and the environment; community organisations; commerce; marketing and communications; governance and public sector management; and science and technology.

The four additional members of the board are Marion Cowden (Deputy Chair), Janet Carson, David Coull, and Mervyn English.



The newest appointment to the EECA board, Hon Phil Heatley.

Merry Christmas from the LPGA and GANZ!

It's that time of year again – hasn't 2015 flown by.

Our industry has enjoyed a strong and steady year, buoyed by underlying growth, the warmer summer and a solid winter. We look forward to a continuation of this in 2016 – but before that, we'll enjoy some much anticipated rest and recreation, and we hope you do too!

Wishing you a safe and happy festive season,

Peter Gilbert, Executive Director  
Albert de Geest, LPGA President  
Stuart Dickson, GANZ Chair

Notifying situations of immediate danger

Identify and notify to keep yourself and the community safe – that's the message to gasfitters and industry professionals from WorkSafe (Energy Safety) in a recently published Gas Safety Bulletin.

Gasfitters and other gas industry professionals have an obligation to notify a building owner/occupier and Energy Safety of 'unsafe' gas installations, the article says.

"The obligation to notify the owner/occupier and then WorkSafe is only when there is an immediate danger to life or property," the article says.

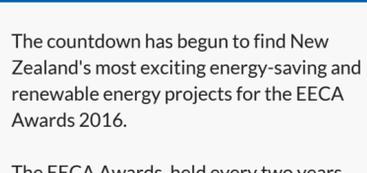
"Immediate danger isn't defined in the regulations, but can be considered to be when the agent of harm is already present, such as escaping gas or an appliance spilling products of combustion.

"A non-compliant installation is not necessarily unsafe, let alone immediately dangerous."

The article says a gasfitter has no power under the regulations to remedy an immediately dangerous situation that they discover by disabling the appliance or turning off the gas. The gasfitter must seek the permission of the owner or occupier.

"This is why it is important that the notifying gasfitter provides as much information as possible to the owner or occupier – the more informed the consumer – the greater their responsibility and motivation to act."

The article also explains how Energy Safety deals with these notifications. To read the full article, click [here](#).



WorkSafe's latest Gas Safety Bulletin urges gasfitters to notify WorkSafe of any unsafe gas installations.

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EECA Awards to celebrate New Zealand's best energy-saving projects in 2016

The countdown has begun to find New Zealand's most exciting energy-saving and renewable energy projects for the EECA Awards 2016.

The EECA Awards, held every two years, celebrate businesses and organisations that demonstrate excellence in energy efficiency and renewable energy.

In announcing the opening of nominations, EECA Chief Executive Mike Underhill says being finalist or winner of an EECA Award is a rewarding way to enhance an organisation's profile, reputation and brand.

"Winners of EECA Awards are recognised as leaders in their field, and set the standard for energy management," he says.

"They inspire other businesses and community groups to step up their commitment to energy efficiency, helping to make New Zealand a better place to live - economically, environmentally and socially.

"Each year we receive a high calibre of entries from some of the country's most high profile businesses that are more successful thanks to investment and innovation in energy efficiency.

"In 2016, we will continue to showcase New Zealand's smartest energy efficiency success stories."

The EECA Awards mark the pinnacle of success for energy efficiency and renewable energy excellence, recognising a broad range of businesses and community organisations.

In 2014, the Award entries collectively saved or generated energy worth around \$100 million to entrants over the life of the projects, and reduced CO2 emissions by 200,000 tonnes. On top of this, the combined health benefits were estimated at around \$24 million a year.

Categories for the 14th EECA Awards include Business Service Excellence, Community, Energy Leadership, Energy Management, Innovation, Large Energy User, Public Sector, Renewable Energy, Small to Medium Energy User, and Transport.

The Business Excellence Award is a new category recognising an energy management service provider's approach to supporting their clients and implementing successful projects.

Minister of Energy and Resources, Hon Simon Bridges, will present the Supreme Award, which is selected from the winners of each category, at the Awards ceremony in Auckland on 18 May 2016.

The Awards opened for entry on 4 November 2015, and entries close 5 February 2016. To enter, and for more information, click [here](#).



Entries are now open for the 2016 EECA Awards.