# Future of Heat Renewable Natural Gas

McKenzie Schwartz

LMOP Special Session 1: What's Next for RNG? February 27, 2019

# nationalgrid

# Who We Serve

Gas and electric distribution company providing energy to 20 million customers in NY, MA, and RI.

We deliver safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable energy.



# Key Takeaways From Our 80x50 Pathway Modeling

Our 80x50 Pathway is ambitious and comprehensive, with implications for customers, communities, utilities, automakers, and policymakers.

## 40% x 2030

Power	<ul> <li>Ramp up renewable electricity deployment to achieve 67% zero- carbon electricity supply vs. 45% today</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Zero carbon electricity system</li> <li>Increase large-scale renewables</li> <li>Inter-seasonal energy storage</li> <li>New clean electricity options (gas + CCS, modular nuclear)</li> </ul>
Transport	<ul> <li>Reach more than 10 million light- duty electric vehicles on Northeast roads (50% of all light-duty vehicles) vs. &lt; 75,000 today</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>More than 20 million light-duty vehicles (100% of the fleet)</li> <li>Low-carbon heavy duty, rail, and off-road transportation</li> <li>Reductions in vehicle miles traveled</li> </ul>
Heat	<ul> <li>Double the rate of EE retrofits</li> <li>Triple the rate of oil-to-gas heating conversions</li> <li>Transform the oil-to-electric conversion market (10X scale up)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Sustain thermal efficiency investment</li> <li>Decarbonize natural gas supply for heating</li> <li>Hybrid gas/electric heating</li> </ul>

80% x 2050

# **Renewable Natural Gas (RNG)**

## **Current definition**

Pipeline-quality gas produced from biomass

## **Emerging / evolving definition**

- Pipeline compatible gas derived from biomass or other renewable sources that has lower lifecycle CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions than geologic natural gas.
- e.g. Power-to-Gas, Methane Reforming



Gas Distribution

# **National Grid's RNG Journey**





**National Grid** 

## **Newtown Creek Demonstration Project**

Partnership with NYC DEP to convert city's largest wastewater treatment plant into a source of clean energy

- Processes 250 million gallons/day of wastewater
- Operational October 2019
- Inject enough RNG to heat 2,500 homes, reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by ~16,000 metric tons
- Significant potential to increase RNG production if NYC food waste pilot project becomes permanent



Source: New York City Department of Environmental Protection

# **Purpose of the Standard Interconnection Guideline**

### **Current Challenges**

- □ No uniform processes, requirements, or agreements
- Commercial and technical uncertainty for both parties

#### **Document Objectives**

- Provide consistent approach to assess commercial and technical viability of each project without compromising safety or reliability of grid
- ✓ Define requirements to keep gas flowing and avoid service interruption
- Provide standardized framework to reduce uncertainty and optimize biogas processing facility design
- Outline structured approach for use by all parties (both project developer and pipeline operator) of the RNG process
- Lay out roles and responsibilities for each party and what each needs to accomplish

#### **National Grid**

#### **PRELIMINARY EVALUATION**

#### Developer contacts pipeline operator & provides preliminary project scope description

- Location
- Anticipated interconnect pressure
- Temperature
- Pipe size
- Heating value and specific gravity
- Amount of gas
- Flow
- Variability in gas delivery
- Biogas source and cleanup technology
- Other key process variables

#### **Preliminary Review Meeting**

- Review of ESA and GSA Requirements
- Developer/operator specific needs
- Local, state, and/or federal regulator requirements (includes NYS code 16 NYCRR Part 229 Gas Quality Standards for Pipeline Injection)

#### **ENGINEERING FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS**

#### Developer provides detailed technical proposal to pipeline operator (typically under NDA)

Description of chosen cleanup gas technology

feedstock)

- Data proving cleanup technology is compatible with upgraded gas feedstock
  - Detailed analysis of raw biogas (can be from another project with same
- Address impact issues on pipeline system and customers
- Examine pipeline capacity during varying load periods
- Zone of influence of trace constituent impact
- Impact on therm billing monitoring

#### Reimbursement to pipeline operator for full technical and economic feasibility of the project

Making contact with a pipeline operator and executing an ESA does <u>NOT</u> guarantee acceptance of the project

## Draft Interconnect Process Visual

#### **GSA OR INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

## Commercial aspects of accepting gas negotiated

- Commodity compensation
- Delivery obligations (volume, energy content, pressure, temperature, flow rate etc.)
- Gas pairing agreements (blending)
- Gas measurement requirements (schedule and periodicity, equipment, sharing of monitoring information and electronic signals etc.)
- Operation and maintenance requirements (monitoring and measurement equipment maintenance, odorization and metering equipment maintenance etc.)
- Facility access
- Gas quality monitoring requirements
- Conditions that impact acceptance of upgraded gas and facility isolation
- Billing and payment terms
- Tariff or a special contract for transporting the gas enabling the pipeline operator to facilitate the desired transaction for the Developer if the RNG will be sold to a third party
- Begin discussion of pre-construction questions

#### CONSTRUCTION/ COMMISSIONING

#### Pipeline operator must be kept informed on progress of construction and specifications

 Suggested interim meetings at 30%, 60%, 90% project completion points at minimum

#### Address pre-construction questions

- Facility start-up procedures
- Discussion of odorization
- Final gas quality tariff specifications
- On-line instrumentation needs
- Schedule for monitoring of gas quality
- Identification of sampling points
- Identification of target COCs for periodic monitoring
- Initial sampling requirements
- Follow-up sampling requirements
- Steady state sampling requirements
- Trigger levels for specific COCs
- Response actions for out-of-compliance supply
- Emergency plans and procedures
- Facility O&M procedures

# **Challenges to RNG Development**

## **1. POLICY & REGULATORY SUPPORT**

Regulators can work on valuing RNG used for heating

## **2. INTERCONNECTION**

Utilities and regulators can collaborate on guidelines

## **3. EDUCATION**

Utilities, regulators & developers can work together to raise awareness

# Where Are We Going Next?

- 1. Develop new products e.g. Green Gas Tariff
- 2. Connect customer driven biomass based projects e.g. Interconnection Incentives
- 3. Grow RNG potential through demonstration projects



# nationalgrid