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Power to the people: National Grid's Wokingham office celebrates role in £600,000 of fundraising for Macmillan

Wokingham staff raise over £22,000 to help cancer sufferers

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- National Grid partnered with Macmillan to support cancer victims
- Wokingham staff have raised over £22,000 for the cancer charity
- Fundraising efforts have included a Summer Games and a 1,000 mile bike ride

Big-hearted employees at National Grid's offices in Wokingham are celebrating after playing their part in raising a whopping £600,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support.

A two-year partnership between the two organisations saw staff across the country smash their half a million pound fundraising target to support those living with cancer and their families. The company generously matched every penny raised by employees in 2015. The cash will be used to pay for 3,121 emergency fuel grants to help cancer sufferers struggling to heat their homes.

At Wokingham employees marked their fundraising achievements with a special celebration event on Thursday 11 February.

Operational Projects Specialist Jennifer Owen was named Outstanding Individual after she cycled 1,000 miles during her annual leave to raise money. Meanwhile employees Jamie Booth, Gary Lim, Jonathan Barcroft, Qi Zhong, Ron Taylor and Siqi Bu won a Team Achievement Award for their fundraising efforts.

A fundraising highlight was the Wokingham Summer Games held last year which raked in over £5,800. This extravaganza saw the crowning of the first 'Wokingham's Fittest Manager' which involved a demanding six minutes of intense rowing and cycling. There were also an inter department football and basketball competitions. Less physical events including a Bake Sale and a treasure hunt were also held to maximise participation.

National Grid site Macmillan champions Martin Banton and Jo Heine have overseen the impressive fundraising endeavours.

Business Consultant Jo said: "It's been great to see how people at Wokingham have got stuck into the fundraising and had a lot of fun and boosted their fitness in the process.

The efforts have helped local cancer sufferers with Macmillan have so far provided six emergency fuel grants for the Wokingham area.

Chris Train, National Grid's Director of Gas Distribution, has championed the Macmillan partnership at National Grid. He said: "I am incredibly proud of our employees. No-one should face cancer alone and through this magnificent achievement our employees have shown that we are a company that cares.

"Thanks to their tireless fundraising efforts, people living with cancer and their families will receive the vital support they need. All the money raised will be used for Macmillan's emergency fuel grants, which means those living with cancer can keep warm without worrying about heating bills."

Describing the partnership with National Grid as one of Macmillan's 'shining stars', Alix Wooding, Head of Corporate Partnerships at Macmillan, said : "We would like to thank National Grid and all its employees for their enduring support and for helping us make sure no-one has to face cancer alone.

"Nearly one in five people living with cancer turn the heating off, even though they feel cold because they're worried about paying their bills. Over the last two years National Grid and Macmillan have worked together to help change this.

"Being warm is a fundamental part of the recovery process and the impact of our work funding heating grants is immediate, profound and long lasting. The money National Grid has raised will make such a big difference to people affected by cancer."

Contact for media information only

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Notes for editors

National Grid's top Macmillan fundraisers

- World's Biggest Coffee Morning - £89,000 (events held in 2014 and 2015)
- Ben Nevis Moonlight climb 2014– £40,000
- Yorkshire Three Peaks challenge 2015 - £40,000
- Sponsored pylon climb - £24,000
- Sponsored headshave - £16,000
- Donations of left-over sums on staff payment cards -£15,500
- Three Peaks Challenge - £9,000
- Hadrian's Wall sponsored walk- £9,000
- London-Paris bike ride(Grain LNG team) - £8,000
- The 500km Big Ride - £7,500 (£15,000 split between Macmillan & Cancer Research – check split)
- BUPA 10k run - £6,000

About Macmillan Cancer Support

When you have cancer, you don't just worry about what will happen to your body, you worry about what will happen to your life. Whether it's concerns about who you can talk to, planning for the extra costs or what to do about work, at Macmillan we understand how a cancer diagnosis can take over everything.

That's why we're here. We provide support that helps people take back control of their lives. But right now, we can't reach everyone who needs us. We need your help to make sure that people affected by cancer get the support they need to face the toughest fight of their life. No one should face cancer alone, and with your support no one will.

To get involved, call 0300 1000 200 today. And please remember, we're here for you too. If you'd like support, information or just to chat, call us free on 0808 808 00 00 (Monday to Friday, 9am–8pm) or visit macmillan.org.uk

Notes to Editors:

National Grid is pivotal to the energy systems in the UK and the north eastern United States. We aim to serve customers well and efficiently, supporting the communities in which we operate and making possible the energy systems of the future.

National Grid in the UK:

- We own and operate the electricity transmission network in England and Wales, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. We also operate, but do not own, the Scottish networks. Our networks comprise approximately 7,200 kilometres (4,474 miles) of overhead line, 1,500 kilometres (932 miles) of underground cable and 342 substations.
- We own and operate the gas National Transmission System in Great Britain, with day-to-day responsibility for balancing supply and demand. Our network comprises approximately 7,660 kilometres (4,760 miles) of high-pressure pipe and 618 above-ground installations.
- As Great Britain's System Operator (SO) we make sure gas and electricity is transported safely and efficiently from where it is produced to where it is consumed. From April 2019, Electricity System Operator (ESO) is a new standalone business within National Grid, legally separate from all other parts of the National Grid Group. This will provide the right environment to deliver a balanced and impartial ESO that can realise real benefits for consumers as we transition to a more decentralised, decarbonised electricity system.
- Other UK activities mainly relate to businesses operating in competitive markets outside of our core regulated businesses; including interconnectors, gas metering activities and a liquefied natural gas (LNG) importation terminal – all of which are now part of National Grid Ventures. National Grid Property is responsible for the management, clean-up and disposal of surplus sites in the UK. Most of these are former gas works.

Find out more about the energy challenge and how National Grid is helping find solutions to some of the challenges we face at <https://www.nationalgrid.com/group/news>

National Grid undertakes no obligation to update any of the information contained in this release, which speaks only as at the date of this release, unless required by law or regulation.

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