Do you know where our gas comes from?

You've probably never gave it a second thought as to where the gas you use to spark up the hob actually comes from. With 67 billion cubic metres of gas consumed across the UK in 2015 alone, the nation certainly uses their fair share of the energy source.

However, it's not all created on British shores — as home and business gas suppliers Flogas finds out…

How much do we need?

Although you'll be bubbling to know where our gas comes from, it's important to understand the extent to which we need this source of energy.

Figures released by British Gas found that 80% of 25 million homes across Britain were powered by gas. On top of this, it was estimated that about a quarter of electricity used throughout the nation was in fact being generated by gas-fired power stations.

Knowing the above, gas is critical to our daily lives.

A look towards the gas supply from home shores

According to statements from British Gas, gas fields in the North Sea and East Irish Sea power 45% of the UK. Energy UK has put this figure closer at 40 per cent, but the organisation was keen to add that production at these fields is in decline.

An insight to gas supplied abroad

British Gas also confirmed that a further 38% of gas that is used in the UK is taken from Europe and Norway — with the remaining 17% using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) delivered across the nation by tankers.

The Office for National Statistics has shed light on this using research from 2015, stating that 61 per cent of gas was imported to the UK from Norway that year, 29 per cent from Qatar (purely in the form of LNG) and seven per cent from the Netherlands. The remainder was marginally delivered from a variety of countries across the globe, including Belgium, Algeria and Trinidad and Tobago.

How gas is supplied from abroad

The answer is through four pipelines which run from the European continent to the British mainland:

1. The Langeled pipeline — measuring in at 1,200km long, this pipeline runs from Nyhamna in Norway to Easington in Yorkshire and has an import capacity of 26.3 billion cubic metres a year.
2. The UK-Belgium interconnector (IUK) — the only bi-directional pipeline of the four listed (in that it can import gas to Britain as well as export gas to mainland Europe), this pipeline runs from Zeebrugge in Belgium to Bacton in Norfolk and has an import capacity of 25.5 billion cubic metres a year.
3. The UK-Netherlands pipeline (BBL) — this pipeline runs from Balgzand in the Netherlands to Bacton in Norfolk and has an import capacity of 14.2 billion cubic metres a year.
4. The Vesterled pipeline — this pipeline runs from a series of gas fields in Norway to St Fergus in Scotland and has an import capacity of 14.2 billion cubic metres a year.

How do we store gas in Britain?

As Britain welcomes a lot of gas regularly, it's important to know that we don't use it all at once. Instead, gas is sent to storage facilities until people and organisations require them. National gas is mainly stored either in depleted gas fields — of which Rough is the largest in the UK and operated by Centrica Storage — or salt caverns once they are of the right shape and size to store gas.

There are three factories for LNGs:

- Dragon at Milford Haven in Pembrokeshire.
- The Isle of Grain in Kent.
- South Hook in Pembrokeshire.

Too reliant on imports?

Some people believe that Britain has become too reliant on gas importation. This question was certainly raised over the summer when Qatar — of which almost a third of the UK's gas imports currently comes from — had its transport links severed by Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and other countries as a result of Doha's alleged funding of extremist groups.

You may remember the Qatar crisis in June, Julius Baer commented: Consultancy Pira Energy's head of gas analytics Ira Joseph also commented: "disruptions, especially of the seaborne shipments, are highly unlikely".

The relationship Britain has with the rest of the world in terms of gas use has never been s sacred — and will continue to work well in the years to come, whether this is for business gas or to power our homes.

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