NuGen’s Bright Sparks educational initiative aims to focus on engagement with local teachers and pupils at schools close to our Moorside site and explores educational and societal issues around the need for new electricity production.

The initiative will be split into three main subject areas:

- Making Electricity
- How we use Electricity
- Electricity Generation and Me

With the initiative, NuGen aims to work closely with local schools to explore topics like the need for electricity, how we generate it, how we use it in the modern world, and how we can create a sustainable energy future.

Bright Sparks will provide support to schools closest to our Moorside site, to help encourage and inspire local school children to explore the societal context of electricity production and usage, and by using the context of Moorside’s development phase, emphasise the diversity of career paths in electricity production available to school leavers.
So what does NuGen’s Bright Sparks do?

The Bright Sparks initiative aims to forge a strong link between NuGen and senior schools close to the Moorside site to foster opportunities to support the national curriculum where possible in areas of relevance to local pupils.

Bright Sparks will involve a launch event, sponsored visits to power stations and a science museum, mentoring, and a special Schools’ Energy Conference, at which pupils will be encouraged to work as individuals and in teams to develop projects and compete with their peers.

NuGen will commit to sponsor the programme for the next three academic years. Bright Sparks will be available to Year 10 pupils and throughout the year the three subject areas will be introduced and resources and a variety of activities will be available. Each of the three years will end with a Schools Energy Conference, with competition entries judged by an expert panel of judges. Individual prizes and school prizes will be awarded.

The Bright Sparks initiative will not focus solely on the nuclear industry – but on low-carbon electricity production, and the UK’s diverse range of electricity mix, including all forms of renewable energy.

How does NuGen’s Bright Sparks Work?

Each academic year will include:

- A teacher’s briefing event to introduce the concept ahead of the official launch
- An official launch event hosted by NuGen at Energus, to which all participating teachers and pupils will be invited
- NuGen supplied background literature, video and other resources on the three subject areas, with suggestions on further research resources for students
- Specific mentoring from NuGen and our contractors
- School visits to a power station and science museum
- School workshops at NuGen’s Moorside Information Centre in Whitehaven
- Schools’ Energy conference at Energus – where each school will compete for individual and team prizes
Key themes and careers focus for NuGen’s Bright Sparks

- **Science and technology** – making the link between our project and careers in industry.
- **Environment and sustainability** – how environmental concerns and our own commitment to sustainability are dealt with by environmental professionals, with a focus on the skills they use.
- **Communications** – linking our own work in communications into how we engage with key stakeholders. Students will get access to communications and public relations professionals working in industry, to provide career advice on how qualifications in this area can lead to a career in industry.
- **Planning and Permitting** – linking NuGen’s planning for Moorside, and our public consultation, to provide students insight on associated careers, including legal, planning, consultation, and estate management.
- **Civic Society** – linking industry’s interaction with stakeholders, including politicians and the work of Government, in to how large infrastructure projects are developed and granted. This strand will also focus on sustainability, and how we could use electricity more wisely.

Our aims for the success of NuGen’s Bright Sparks

NuGen’s aim is to engage students in a project which they find enjoyable, interesting, and helpful in their all-round development, and their approach to planning careers.

We aim for Bright Sparks to complement curriculum studies, while providing extra resource for teachers without being a burden to them. We think our Moorside development phase provides an interesting backdrop to show students the diversity of career paths open to them in industry.

NuGen’s Bright Sparks...

encouraging keen youngsters to understand electricity production, sustainability, and the career options afforded by the power generation industry.

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