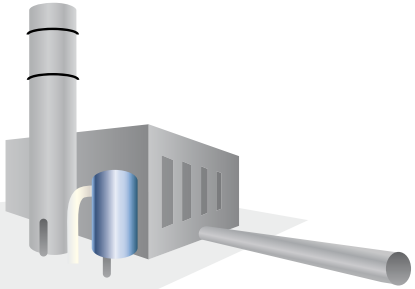
How sewage gas gets to your home

1 Waste from baths, toilets, sinks, washing machines and dishwashers is pumped from homes to a nearby sewage treatment works.

2 Settlement tanks then separate the waste into 'sludge' and 'water'.

3 The water goes through various cleaning processes before being put back into the environment via a local watercourse.

4 The rest is sent to large containers called digesters, where it is heated. This activates a natural biological process called 'anaerobic digestion' where bacteria breaks down the biodegradable material, yielding biogas.



5 The gas is collected and fed into the gas-cleaning machine.

6 After the biomethane, or biogas, has been cleaned up, it is made to smell like normal gas. It is then fed into the national gas grid.

7 This biomethane - now the same as any other gas in the gas network - is then returned to people's homes to use for cooking and heating.

Thames Water

Scotia Gas Networks

British Gas