

ENERGY NEWS

The newsletter of the Midlands Energy Hub



July 2019



'The Midlands Energy Hub'

Michael Gallagher, Regional Energy Projects Manager

Welcome to the first edition of the Midlands Energy Hub newsletter. It is an exciting time in the energy sector with significant amounts of change and innovation taking place. Climate Emergencies are being declared across the country in addition to ambitious decarbonisation targets being set by [central government](#) and local authorities. The Midlands Energy Hub is well placed to assist in the transition to a low carbon economy and to help drive energy projects forward across the region.

The aim of this first edition is to introduce you to the Midlands Energy Hub and inform you of the exciting work the Regional Energy Team is doing. We will also inform you of relevant energy related [events](#) and [funding](#) alongside other news from across our Energy Hub area. In future editions the newsletter, we will keep you and our large stakeholder base informed of the fast developing activities taking place across the Midlands Energy Hub as well as the exciting opportunities and activities across the energy sector.

The Midlands Energy Hub is funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as part of the Clean Growth Strategy, and is supported by Nottingham City Council who are the accountable body. The role of the Hub is to support the capacity of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) and local authorities to identify and deliver local energy strategies and projects. There are nine LEP areas across the Midlands and each LEP area has a locally based Senior Energy Project Officer. The project officers will provide support to help deliver energy projects being developed in each geographical region. Furthermore, BEIS has now allotted the Midlands Energy Hub £1.8 million to deliver the [Rural Community Energy Fund](#) across the Midlands region.

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News

UK's net zero emissions target becomes law

The UK has become the first major economy in the world to [pass laws](#) to end its contribution to global warming by 2050. This decision means huge challenges for everyone involved in delivering decarbonisation and clean growth.

The recently published [report](#) by the Committee on Climate Change stressed this goal will only be achieved 'if clear, stable and well-designed policies to reduce emissions further are introduced across the economy without delay. Current policy is insufficient for even the existing targets'. We await forthcoming announcements with interest.

The Marches Energy Strategy to be officially launched

The launch [event](#) at Ludlow Racecourse on 25 July, will bring together professionals and local communities to discuss energy planning in the region and begin the development of an action plan for the strategy. The strategy outlines a vision to create a thriving low-carbon economy across the Marches region by 2030. It sets a target for renewable electricity to meet 50% of local demand and carbon emissions (excluding agriculture) to be reduced to 57% of 1990 levels.

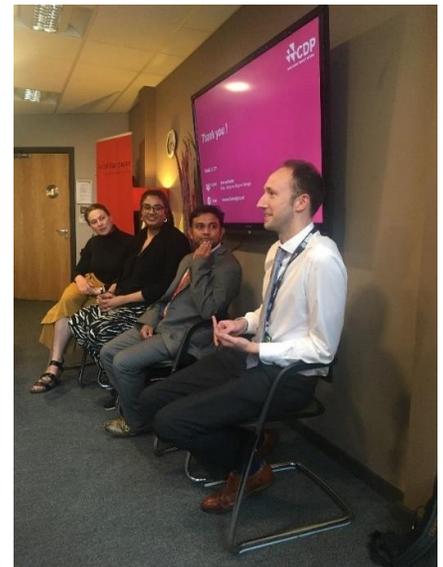
Other targets include: developing a pilot grid constraints mitigation project as a national demonstrator, creating a thousand new jobs in the clean energy sector, reducing fuel poverty to below 10% and creating a center for UK agriculture innovation and the low carbon transition. The Marches will also continue to be a national leader in deployment of anaerobic digestion.

The Midlands Energy Hub hosts setting climate change targets workshop

On 20 June, the Midlands Energy Hub hosted an event with the Tyndall Centre for local authorities on carbon budgeting to outline a framework for responding to the climate emergency.

The event offered a range of freely available tools and resources for local authorities. The session began with the [Tyndall Centre](#) presenting on the need for localised, science based carbon budgeting. The event also acknowledged the importance of urgently reducing carbon emissions, and stressed that the total emissions allowed by a carbon neutral plan is of more importance than the target end date. The Tyndall Centre demonstrated their online tool, which shows local authorities their allocated carbon budget. There then followed a presentation by [Nottingham City Council](#) and [Anthesis](#) who outlined the soon to be updated online version of the [SCATTER](#) tool. SCATTER offers two key outputs, a carbon inventory compliant with international reporting frameworks, and a carbon reduction pathways tool, which suggests forty possible interventions*. This fed in to the CDP presentation about support available to local authorities for carbon reporting. [CDP](#) provided an overview on the benefit of reporting and the provision of tailored support. The successful combination of support available led to some interesting discussions in the closing panel session.

(*released this autumn)



Q & A session wraps up the workshop

Case Study

A Smart Energy Hub for Grimsby

A Smart Energy Hub is to be created in Grimsby as part of a 'smart' mixed-use development led by the Enrolled Freeman of Grimsby.

The Midlands Energy Hub is assisting in developing the scheme that will include a unique combination of technological innovations. A large solar PV system will connect new residential, community and commercial properties, with existing buildings. The array is to be connected to a large-scale battery storage system and combined with a private wire ring main that will allow the development to share and maximise the use of renewable energy. In addition, it is proposed trading with the National Grid to buy in cheap off-peak electricity and sell back any excess at peak times, as we work towards a carbon Net Zero status. A high-speed EV charging station is to be constructed next to the revitalised Freeman Street Market. Various cafes with free WIFI, market stalls and office facilities with ultrafast broadband will complete the smart development.

Enrolled Freeman, Richard Bellamy, commented: "Bringing the latest technological innovations in the form of a virtual power station to Grimsby will put us back on the map as a leader in energy. We are excited about the benefits that regeneration of Freeman St will bring, and we will work alongside the investment being brought in through the [Town Deal](#) and other developments in the area to share ideas developed by this community energy project."



A Smart Energy future for Grimsby



Communicating Energy Strategy

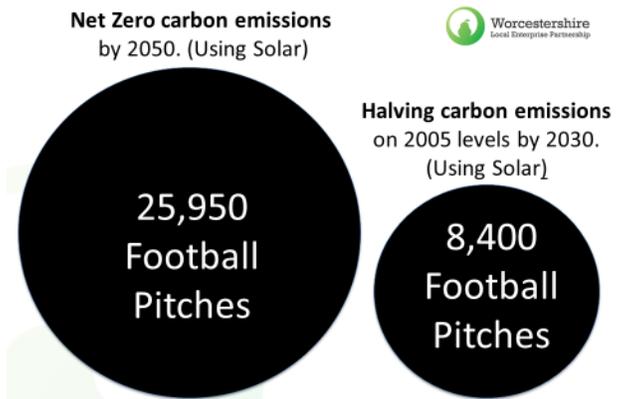
Alex Pearson, Regional Senior Energy Project Officer, Worcestershire

The LEP energy strategy for Worcestershire sets out three key targets: halving carbon emissions, doubling the size of the low carbon business sector, and increasing the amount of renewable energy generated threefold. No one would deny that these are ambitious targets, but how do we communicate just how ambitious they really are and the effort required to achieve them?

When turning any strategy into action it is necessary to establish the baselines. For Worcestershire we needed to know how much carbon represented half of the total, the current size of the low carbon economy, and how much renewable generation already exists.

Looking at Worcestershire’s renewable energy generation target, their Energy Strategy’s evidence base resulted in a figure of 100MW. Energy professionals may know what 100MWs looks like, but how do we communicate this to the decision makers. They need to be able to visualise what 100MW looks like, and more importantly, what three times this amount would look like in order to meet the target. It is necessary to find a tangible ‘metric’ that is easily understood by non-specialists - football pitches is a good example for area.

We have been producing various slide decks to present to steering groups and LEP boards. When people have a better grasp of the targets, focus flows naturally to the implementation stage and projects are more easily generated.



Using metrics that are easily understood to convey important points.

Events

UK100 & Midlands Energy Hub “Energy Project Finance and Delivery – Planning ahead of need”.

[UK 100](#) will be hosting a Midlands Energy Hub Event called ‘Energy Project Finance and Delivery - Planning ahead of need’. The event will be held on Thursday 3rd October 2019 at Attenborough City Hall, Leicester. The purpose of the event is to explore how to develop investable energy projects and source private finance. UK100 will be inviting LEPs and Local Authorities, alongside private sector organisations from across the Midlands Region to attend. A similar event held for the South East Energy Hub received very positive feedback on the structure and content.

Mayoral STEAMhouse Challenge: Clean Air, Green Future

The Mayoral [STEAMhouse](#) Challenge: Clean Air, Green Future took place on the 20th June. The event, hosted by Birmingham City University in partnership with WMCA and in collaboration with Climate Change Solutions Ltd, brought together key public, private and third sector stakeholders. The event looked at ways of accelerating the ‘clean air revolution’. The morning speakers, including Mayor, Andy Street, raised issues that were further explored in the afternoons ‘Challenge Café’ session. Barriers and potential solutions to bring about the necessary energy, building, transport and behavioural changes were analysed. The Midlands Energy Hub led the ‘2030 Clean Energy Leadership Challenge’ discussion and identified several financial, regulatory and policy changes that need to take place in order to deliver effective leadership of our green future.



Thoughts from the ‘Challenge Café’

Rural Community Energy Fund

The Midlands Energy Hub now administers the Rural Community Energy Fund (RCEF), which was previously administered by [WRAP](#). The programme sets out to support rural communities in England develop renewable energy projects.

[RCEF grants](#) are available for rural, community lead energy projects with funding available for:

- Stage 1 grants < £40,000 for feasibility studies
- Stage 2 grants < £100,000 for business development and planning of feasible schemes

For further information regarding eligibility and the application process, please email: [Michael Gallagher](mailto:Michael.Gallagher@midlandsenergyhub.org)

Salix Decarbonisation Funds

[Salix](#) is looking to open a new fund based on the 'Recycling Fund' model with new clients. Salix representatives are happy to attend meetings with a public sector organisation's Energy Management and Finance colleagues to explore this opportunity further. The fund is to be ring-fenced and used to finance energy efficiency projects managed and held by the public sector. Savings made from energy efficiency projects are then reinvested back into the fund to finance further energy saving projects. Once the project costs have been repaid, the full financial savings can be used elsewhere by within the respective public sector organisation.

Projects should have maximum 10-year payback period and £344/tCO2 lifetime basis. A full list of technologies that are eligible for funding through the fund are available [here](#).

Smart, Local Energy Systems Competition closes 7th August 2019

The [competition](#) for a share of up to £30 million to develop clean, cheap local energy systems closes next month. This funding is from the ISCF's [Prospering from the Energy Revolution](#) challenge. The aim is to create a pipeline of highly innovative, ambitious and investable local energy system designs that will be ready to roll out across the UK in the 2020s. To lead a project you MUST be a UK based business, RTO, Public sector organisation.

Whole House Retrofit cost reduction trajectory (WHR) competition now open

The WHR competition will make available approximately [£9.4 million for a limited number](#) of projects which demonstrate a cost reduction trajectory for a whole house retrofit. Applications open week beginning 10th June 2019, bids should be submitted within 6 weeks. Projects must completed by March 2021.

Other Programmes

Low Carbon Workspaces – *Planning a new LED lighting scheme, new boiler or air compressor?*

A new [£10,000](#) grant is open to Black Country small and medium-sized businesses, for projects over £20,000 in value that will save 15 tonnes CO2e. That is a 50% saving on your project costs. Fifteen £10,000 grants are available on a first-come first-served basis. For smaller projects, grants of up to £5,000 are also [available](#).

Hub Partners

