



'A season of positive progress'

Michael Gallagher, Head of Midlands Net Zero Hub

Welcome to the autumn edition of the Midlands Net Zero Hub newsletter. Autumn is traditionally a busy time for events and conferences, offering the opportunity to share best practice, reconnect with industry colleagues, and meet new people. We were, therefore, very excited to host the Midlands Net Zero Hub's first annual conference. It was fantastic to meet with people from across the Midlands and beyond who are making a really positive difference to drive our net zero ambition forward. We have some more events planned, detailed in this newsletter, that target specific sectors; we will look forward to welcoming you to those sessions.

One of the biggest challenges of decarbonisation is reducing emissions from transport. There is a clear transition underway to electric vehicles with many organisations starting to electrify their fleets. This means installation of appropriate electric vehicle charging infrastructure is required. This can be challenging for many organisations, which is why we have launched an [Electrification of Council Depots Guide](#) and are looking to see how we can provide further support local authorities in this area.

The Hub has been supporting a significant amount of retrofit delivery, it is also important to ensure new build properties are fit for the future and don't need to be retrofitted at a later date. Bromsgrove District Council's Burcot Lane project in Worcestershire, supported by the Hub, is an exemplar in showing how this can be achieved.

The Midlands Net Zero Hub is funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) as part of the Clean Growth Strategy. It is supported by Nottingham City Council who are the accountable body.

Upcoming events

Join the Hub's Retrofit Projects event

The Midlands Net Zero Hub is running a Retrofit Projects event at Energy Systems Catapult in Birmingham on Thursday 10th November 2022. The Hub will be joined by speakers from local authorities across the Midlands, discussing their challenges and successes delivering retrofit projects such as Local Authority Delivery Phases 2 & 3, the Home Upgrade Grant, and Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

If you are delivering retrofit projects and would like to attend the event, or if you would like further information, please email MNZH.SustainableWarmth@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

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Learn how to harness the power of mine energy in upcoming webinar

The Midlands Net Zero Hub is hosting a Mine Energy Project Webinar on Wednesday 9th November. The aim of the webinar is to help organisations to have a better understanding of mine energy projects and the benefits involved, as well as developing a clearer understanding of the support available to make these opportunities a reality.

There will be four presentations delivered as part of the webinar – each by experts in the field – along with an extended Q&A panel. Each presentation will provide insight into different areas of the mine water heat projects including how they work; identifying viable sites; detailed examples of working case studies; and detailing the financial support that is available across the different stages of a project.

Email [Rupert Cope](mailto:Rupert.Cope@midlandsnetzerohub.org) for more information and to sign up to attend.

News

Over 100 sustainability professionals join the Midlands Net Zero Hub Conference

On Wednesday 12th October, professionals from local authorities across the region joined us at the inaugural Midlands Net Zero Hub Conference at the Council House in Nottingham.

Throughout the day, we heard from speakers about schemes and projects that are delivering net zero in the Midlands and beyond. The day comprised of three sessions: Power, Heat, Transport; Retrofit – from domestic to the public estate; Supporting a green economy.

We would like to thank all of our speakers and everyone who was able to join us – we hope you found the sessions insightful and returned to your local area with lots of ideas for future decarbonisation projects.

The [slides from each of the sessions are now available on our website](#), and if you have any questions about the projects discussed, [please get in touch](#).



New guide offers practical advice for local authorities to electrify their depots



Many local authorities across the Midlands and beyond have declared climate emergencies and committed to reaching net zero within the next ten years. To achieve these goals, it will be necessary to eliminate carbon emissions from their fleet operations.

Transitioning from a fossil-fuelled fleet to an equivalent electric fleet will present challenges for local authorities as they will need to install appropriate electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at the depots where electric vehicles are to be based.

These depot electrification projects also entail engaging with external stakeholders to upgrade connections to the electricity distribution network and developing an understanding of the technology and technical language used when specifying EV charging equipment.

In conversations with local authority partners, the Midlands Net Zero Hub identified a need for a guide to assist those navigating the complexities of these depot electrification projects. Our guide provides local authorities with the essential knowledge required to enable them to scope, design, and install depot-scale EV charging infrastructure.

This guide has been produced to support decision makers and project officers to navigate the complexities of depot electrification projects. We believe this guide will prove invaluable to our partners, both in the Midlands and nationally, as they embark on the shared endeavour to eliminate carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions from public sector fleets. Thank you to our partners who have assisted with the creation of the Electrification of Council Depots Guide.

Read the full [Electrification of Council Depots Guide](#) now.

More local authorities supported through the PRS MEES Compliance and Enforcement Competition

Since April 2020 privately rented homes in England and Wales are required to meet the minimum energy efficiency standard of Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) band E before they can be let, unless a valid exemption is in place. These requirements are set out in [The Energy Efficiency \(Private Rented Property\) \(England and Wales\) Regulations 2015 \('the PRS Regulations'\)](#). Each local authority is the enforcement authority for their area.

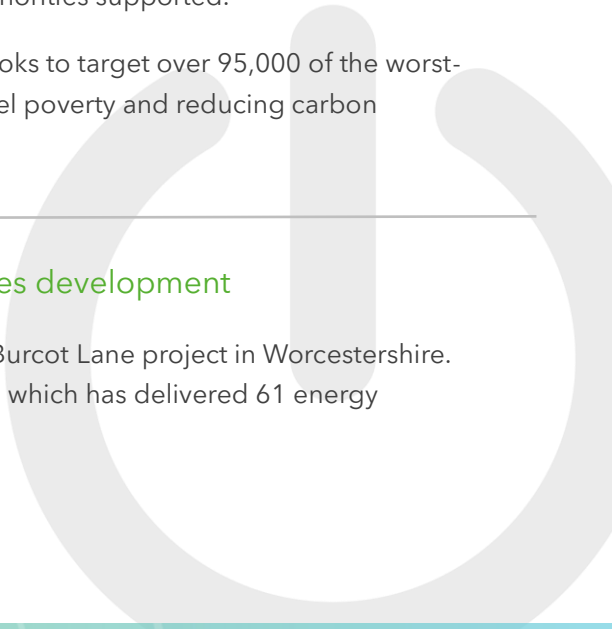
The Private Rented Sector (PRS) Domestic Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES) Compliance and Enforcement Competition supports local authorities to raise awareness of the PRS Regulations to both landlords and tenants as well as building capacity to tackle the identification of non-compliant landlords. The funding can also be used to support local authorities to create processes to enforce the PRS Regulations.

The second round of the PRS MEES competition will see a further 26 local authorities receive funding to improve the energy efficiency standards of domestic properties in the private rented sector. This iteration builds on the success of the previous scheme, which saw 59 local authorities supported.

Through improving the quality of housing stock, the whole project looks to target over 95,000 of the worst-performing private rented homes with the ultimate aim of tackling fuel poverty and reducing carbon emissions produced by the domestic housing sector.

Bromsgrove District Council deliver energy efficient homes development

In 2019, the Hub provided support to Bromsgrove District Council's Burcot Lane project in Worcestershire. This £8.6m housing development is the first of its kind for the council which has delivered 61 energy efficient homes.



The Hub officer assisted in translating the council's aims for a low carbon development into technical details to discuss with the architects. Several meetings were attended, and energy modelling was presented. It's fantastic to see an early Hub-supported project come to fruition, with benefits for residents and the wider area.

Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership Chief Executive Gary Woodman said: "Bromsgrove District Council has declared a climate emergency and aims to reduce carbon emissions and support the district to become carbon neutral. This development has been designed in line with this aspiration and made possible through funding of £610,000 from the Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership, via the Government's Getting Building Fund.

"The development includes a number of energy efficiency and carbon reduction measures including an air source heat pump heating system, removing the requirement for gas, and photovoltaic panels with battery storage to the houses, providing an 80 per cent reduction in carbon emissions. This will also result in lower running costs for future residents, making the development a desirable place to live."

Businesses supported with net zero ambitions at Sustainability Summit



There is an increasing demand for businesses to prove they operate in a sustainable and ethical way and growing pressure to manage and reduce energy usage. The Sustainability Summits organised by the East Midlands Chamber assess the latest developments and opportunities relating to sustainability and energy supply, security, storage, and creation - supporting business to transition to a low carbon economy.

Jorge Santana from the Midlands Net Zero Hub presented at the event on 22nd September to give an overview of some of the decarbonisation programmes

and projects the Hub is leading and shared opportunities for growth in the region. This work will build on the continued activity to support the transition to a low carbon economy and the path to [#netzero](#).

East Midlands Chamber shared the [Green Growth Trends in the East Midlands 2022 research](#) proving that over the last seven years, the proportion of the region's firms that sell green goods and services has almost trebled to 45%, with 21.5% now considering green growth in their strategies. But that leaves 35% of businesses stranded by a lack of suitable funding and training that they feel necessary to make their own green transitions.

We will be joining the Chamber at their upcoming Midlands Energy Summit on 1st December 2022. [Register for your free ticket now.](#)

Our partners

