

We are now six months into delivery of the Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in the Midlands Engine. The Green Growth Board, responsible for overseeing mobilisation of the Plan has established itself rapidly and positively, with strong investment and commitment from both private and public sector partners as we drive forward.

Good progress has been made in over a quarter of our action areas:

Green Buildings

1.1. Develop a pan-regional zero carbon homes route map

Midlands Energy Hub is drafting a report on regional zero carbon home activities (including retrofitting) and helping deliver and apply for building decarbonisation investment for our region. Once the full scope of funding being made available is announced, further progress will be made.

1.2 Work with partners to undertake regional study on low carbon buildings and heat

Work recently began, following the UK Heat and Buildings Strategy publication in October 2021. Midlands Energy Hub has recruited staff to support decarbonisation of the public estate and secured funding to develop further business cases for work over the next two years. Work is advancing to engage wider with partners.

Net Zero Transport

2.1 Map and futureproof our region's charging and refuelling infrastructure & connect key stakeholders

Our transport partner, Midlands Connect, published 'Supercharging the Midlands' in September 2021 which highlighted the challenges the Midlands faces to meet expected demand for EV charging infrastructure. This key publication brings forward several specific recommendations to meet this challenge.



Nature's Recovery

3.1 Establish and convene a Midlands Engine Natural Capital Taskforce

Development is in early stages and will expand on work already underway, with a working group which recently launched the Midlands Engine Natural Capital Monitor.

3.2 Develop the Midlands Forest vision with National Forest, Woodland Trust and other partners, expanding forestry and woodland cover across the Midlands.

Conversations are taking place with colleagues at the National Forest and calculations to inform next steps are being made. An early workshop looked at four areas to develop investable propositions and the Midlands Engine is also in conversation with National Lottery Heritage Fund about the possibilities of co-investment for projects of mutual interest.





Low Carbon Hydrogen

5.1 Establish a Midlands Engine Hydrogen Network and develop a Midlands Engine Hydrogen Technologies Strategy.

Midlands Engine Hydrogen Technologies Strategy was launched on 14 December 2021 and work is now underway to convene first meeting of the Midlands Engine Hydrogen Network, who will drive forward delivery.

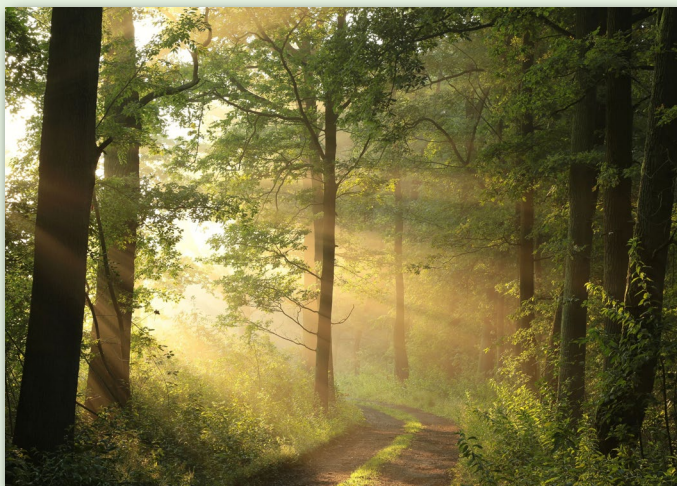
5.2 Advocate for a major hydrogen freight and logistics demonstrator linked to our region's 2 Freeports.

Our regional H2GVMids project was successful in receiving funding in July 2021. It is now making good progress and looking to complete the feasibility study in Spring 2022.

Green Finance

10.1 Identify and support expanded and innovative methods of securing investment and raising capital for businesses in the region and 10.2 Provide rapid, clear routes for funding for regional R&D and innovation.

A detailed Green Business Finance Report is due to be published this month, presenting an overview of green business finance available in the Midlands. A Green Finance Conference due to take place in early 2022 which will focus on addressing the recommendations of this report.



Further updates

On 22 November 2021, we held the **Nature's Recovery and Blue-Green Places Ten Point Plan SME-Themed Workshop**. This was attended by partners from business - SMEs and the public sector. This raised various points including challenges with grant funding in relation to woodland creation, how Biodiversity Net Gain might affect businesses, and exploring carbon 'insetting' opportunities (e.g. peatlands and forest) as well as off-setting ones.

The **Young People's Green Growth Assembly** due to take place on 6 December had to be postponed due to risks and uncertainty posed by the Omicron COVID-19 variant. A new date has been found for this exciting event to be held on 11 March 2022.

In December, the Hydrogen Technologies Strategy was launched on 14 December. Then on 16 December, the **Smart Energy Ten Point Plan SME Workshop** took place, with regional SMEs and public sector organisations attending. Attendees discussed the possibility of creating a **Handbook with SME best practice case studies** to help SMEs learn what impactful smart energy changes they can implement to decarbonise and be more energy efficient.

Upcoming events and activity include:

January 2022

Green Growth Board - 11 January

Jet Zero Aircraft - Net Zero Aerospace Cluster - 27 January

February 2022

Green Innovation Ten Point Plan SME Workshop - 3 February

Green Buildings Ten Point Plan SME Workshop - 8 February

March 2022

Midlands Engine Young People's Green Growth Assembly (rescheduled) - 11 March

Green Finance Conference - mid March