

The West Midlands Energy Capital Strategic Approach

This document is for BEIS and other national and local policy makers to set out a summary of the direction of Energy Capital, the strategic fit with national, regional and local priorities, and how to get involved.

Energy Capital

Who we are

Energy Capital is the smart energy innovation partnership for the West Midlands.

By responding to the needs of our vibrant manufacturing economy and diverse local markets, ***we aim to make the West Midlands one of the most attractive locations to build innovative clean energy technology companies in the world.***

Our partnership combines world-leading academic expertise with ambitious local authorities, diverse businesses, innovators and entrepreneurs.

What we do

Coordination and communication to help investors

Energy Capital provides a single point of contact for investors, project funders and potential partners across the West Midlands geography.

- Trade missions and inward investment support
- Promoting local partners existing research, funding, skills and business support schemes
- Helping to align local energy business activity with priorities of West Midlands Mayor and the Combined Authority.

Developing joint programmes and projects to accelerate local delivery

We are facilitating and co-ordinating collaborative public-private investment projects across the region.

- Transport and Grid – Net-form looking at opportunities from mass electric car recharging, energy storage and use at major transport infrastructure interchanges
- Housing - Major energy efficient refurbishment and smart residential energy opportunities

- Industry - Powering Growth will see new local CHP delivering competitive clean power to Black Country manufacturing
- Market Development - Tyseley Energy Park will include a local energy market development centre and there will be coordinate support for supply chain development

Influencing local policy to support innovation

We are working with the local communities and public bodies and national government to create an attractive and creative environment for companies that want to become part of the global low carbon and smart energy transition.

- Energy Innovation Zones - we plan to establish large 'energy innovation zones' (EIZ) with the energy regulators to provide platforms for commercialisation

Strategic Fit

Energy capital through its role of communication, coordination, delivery and innovation is seeking to accelerate activity to deliver the following policy priorities.

National

- Draft Industrial Strategy – all 10 pillars including energy, skills, procurement, infrastructure, inward investment, innovation, business support, sectors, local institutions, and local growth.

Regional

- West Midlands Combined Authority Single Economic Strategy – Business growth and carbon reduction and air quality targets and the support for the local energy and environmental technologies sectors.
- Midlands Engine Science and Innovation Audit – Energy research strengths across East and West Midlands
- West Midlands Science and Innovation Audit – More in-depth review identifying three of the four local market and research strengths energy related. Low carbon transport, energy systems and storage, sustainable buildings.

Local

Energy Capital and the WMCA commissioned Sustainability West Midlands to review local energy priorities found within around 50 key strategies in the West Midlands area, representing an existing evidence base of over £3 million over the last ten years. The local priorities that Energy Capital will support include:

- Energy efficiency and local energy planning
- Renewable Energy
- Transport
- Buildings and construction
- Low carbon growth and economic productivity
- Environmental related factors, such as air quality or resilience and energy security

<http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/west-midlands-energy-and-low-carbon-strategy-analysis-for-wmca-and-energy-capital/>

Contacting Energy Capital

<http://www.energycapital.org.uk>

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