

Innovation Alliance for the West Midlands

Innovative Low Carbon Working Group

Tuesday 15 December 2020, 13:45 – 16:30

Online, via Zoom

@InnovationWM

Register of attendance

Name	Initial	Organisation (and link to website)
Adam Titchen	AT	West Midlands Growth Company
Alan Carr	AC	Sustainability West Midlands (SWM)
Alex Taylor	AT	GBSLEP
Alison Fulford	AF	National Grid
Amy Bostock	AB	SWM
David Brown	DB	Trihelica
Debbie Ward	DW	Cirklo Consult
Denise Osborne	DO	Coventry City Council - Green Business Programme
Graham Ryott	GR	EnergiConnect
Helena Simmonds	HS	Warwick Manufacturing Group (WMG)
Howard Perry	HP	Severn Trent
Jacqueline Homan	JH	WMCA
Jenni McDonnell	JM	KTN
John Fawcett	JF	Winning Moves
Liz McArdle	LM	WMG
Lorelei Gherman	LG	University of Birmingham – Birmingham Energy Institute
Maggie Fennell Wells	MFW	WMCA
Mark Smith	MS	Aston University – Low Carbon SMEs
Mike Woollacott	MW	Greenwatt Technology
Pam Waddell	PW	Innovation Alliance WM (IAWM)
Rhiannon Davies	RD	IAWM
Richard Pyatt	RP	CR Plus Limited
William Ray	WR	National Grid

Please [see accompanying slides](#) for more information about each of the agenda items:

- Severn Trent Water green recovery ideas and solutions (HP, Severn Trent)
- Government funding and opportunities update (JM, KTN)
- Low Carbon and Environmental Technologies Industry Steering Group (AT, GBSLEP)
- Elsewhere in the Innovation Alliance (PW, IAWM)

Actions and connections from discussions

1. ILCWG members to [contact JM](#) for more information on any of the Innovate UK / Knowledge Transfer Network / BEIS funding opportunities presented.
2. PW promoted [Venturefest WM](#) taking place on 28 January; it will include a session on green growth
3. AF announced that National Grid is a [senior sponsor](#) of COP26.
4. AF promoted the National Grid 'Building the Net Zero Energy' Workforce [skills report](#) mentioned during the meeting.

5. MS promoted the [Low Carbon SMEs](#) programme and highlighted two upcoming events on green logistics and wellbeing in the workplace; details to be included in a future ILCWG update.
6. HS promoted WMG's forthcoming [SPIN event](#) entitled 'Smart materials – let's talk about waste' and asked ILCWG attendees for any suggestions on good case studies and speakers.
7. DW will share the Kiss the Ground screening; details to be provided in future ILCWG update. Regarding the wider issue of regenerative farming, DW and MFW have common ground and will connect to discuss synergies.
8. DW promoted the work of the [Circular Economy Club](#).
9. PW will introduce MFW to Susannah Goh, Virtual Innovation Team lead for construction.
10. LM is looking for connections across manufacturing and is keen to engage with ILCWG members on the low carbon aspects of manufacturing.
11. LG promoted the [Birmingham Energy Institute](#) and its work on supporting SMEs in zero carbon technologies.

Highlights and resources from the Zoom chat and roundtable

- MW: [Hydrogen Economy Innovation Network](#) – this is an area for a coordinated West Midlands action perhaps?
- DW: The [Energy White Paper](#) came out yesterday.
- RP: Urban agriculture part fed from industry (waste heat/CO₂) also as a form of carbon capture and utilisation is something we are incorporating into work CR Plus is undertaking.
- PW: Land use change could include brownfield regeneration and expertise at Wolverhampton where there is a newly funded national [Centre of Excellence](#).
- AC: The Climate Change Committee [report on the sixth carbon budget](#), including lots of info on hydrogen.
- AC: SWM is currently [involved in a project](#) looking at the state of the LCEGS sector in the Midlands. We have numerous opportunities for attending focus groups in January so get in touch to find out more.
- MS: who is going to provide the 'training' for new jobs or redirecting/restructuring existing manufacturing etc into 'low carbon' areas? AT: That's the million dollar question and we're actively exploring this at the LEP and would like to share ideas/notes with others.
- MFW: [Knowledge Transfer Partnerships](#) (KTPs) are a good route into jobs relating to innovations, I started green roofing through a KTP and it was a job that didn't exist when I was choosing A-levels. I also believe the work on [Future Parks Accelerator](#) is looking at green jobs related to natural capital, as we are valuing natural capital and planting lots of trees but ongoing maintenance is always an issue and there has been heavy reliance on volunteers.

- **To view the outputs and slides from this ILCWG meeting, [visit the SWM website](#).**
- **To keep up to date with current funding opportunities, collaboration opportunities, events, good practice case studies and resources related to low carbon innovation, join [the ILCWG mailing list](#); [contact AC](#) to sign up.**
- **To ensure you are invited to the IAWM's general events including Innovation Policy and Practice events, join our general mailing list; [contact AC](#) to sign up.**
- **Next meeting 16 March 2021**