

Irish interest in North West plans to decarbonise industry through hydrogen

A delegation of almost 30 private and public bodies from Ireland have today travelled to the North West of England to visit HyNet, the UK's leading industrial decarbonisation cluster.

The group, which includes representatives from the Irish Department for the Environment and Climate, utility system operators, regulators and relevant Chambers of Commerce, are also attending the Hydrogen Live conference, being run by Foresight in Liverpool on the 8th and 9th of February.

Bringing together partners to build the infrastructure needed for low carbon hydrogen production, distribution and storage, HyNet is at the centre of the UK's low carbon hydrogen economy. The project, selected by UK Government as a Track 1 cluster, will create approximately 6000 new jobs, safeguard existing roles and attract inward investment into the region. In addition, HyNet will ultimately reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tonnes every year by 2030 – the equivalent of taking four million cars off the road – supporting the UK's drive to net zero.

The tour follows the joint visit of the Mayors of the Liverpool City Region and Greater Manchester, Steve Rotheram and Andy Burnham, to Ireland in March 2022 strengthening trade links.

Today, the delegation visited ESB Carrington Power Plant, before heading across to Vertex Hydrogen, the developers of the UK's first large scale, low carbon hydrogen production plant which plans to provide hydrogen to industry such as Pilkington Glass, Kellogg's and Unilever, allowing a switch away from the fossil fuel, natural gas.

Steve Rotheram, Mayor of the Liverpool City Region, says:

"If trains, docks and canals made our area the gateway to the First Industrial Revolution, then our natural assets and industry strengths in wind, tidal and hydrogen will make us a leader in the Green Industrial Revolution.

"HyNet is one of those projects that could be transformational for our area. Not only does it have the potential to take 10 million tonnes of carbon emissions out of the atmosphere every year – that's equivalent to taking four million cars off our roads – but it could eventually produce hydrogen we hope to use to power our region's new publicly owned buses.

"While it goes without saying that better air quality is a big win for our resident's health, and for our planet, it's non-negotiable if we want to reach our target to be net zero by 2040 – at least a decade before national government. Programmes like HyNet will have a massive role to play in helping us to turn that ambition into a reality – and I'm confident our friends across the Irish Sea will have seen its potential in full flow this week."

Paul Johnston, British Ambassador to Ireland says:

HyNet North West

“It’s fantastic to see the British Embassy in Dublin working with HyNet North West partners to bring leading experts in the UK and Irish hydrogen sectors together today.

Set to become a super-fuel of the future, accelerating the use of hydrogen will be key to the UK and Ireland’s greener energy future and there is potential to develop a thriving hydrogen economy across both our islands.

This visit to a leading UK hydrogen cluster in Liverpool and Greater Manchester provides a great opportunity to learn more about how hydrogen can be at the heart of delivering net zero and clean growth.”

David Parkin, Project Director of HyNet says:

“This visit shows that the eyes of the world are on the North West of the UK as we spearhead the global hydrogen economy. However, to maintain this lead we need the UK Government to quickly drive forward a high level of delivery ambition.

“The ambition of industry to transition to clean energy is there. Today we visited just two HyNet partners but we are working with over 30 major companies across the North West industrial heartland, to safeguard jobs, catalyse economic growth and to slash their carbon emissions.”

For more information:

Amy Bodey, Head of Communications for HyNet

+447754 852979

amy.bodey@progressive-energy.com

Notes to editors:

About HyNet

HyNet is a low carbon energy project at the forefront of the UK’s journey to a Net Zero future, being developed by a consortium of world-leading organisations. From the mid-2020’s, HyNet will produce, store and distribute hydrogen as well as capturing and storing carbon. It will decarbonise the North West of England and North Wales through the creation of state-of-the-art infrastructure.

This game-changing project has the potential to reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions by 10 million tonnes every year by 2030 – the equivalent of taking four million cars off the road. HyNet will create and maintain thousands of local jobs, as well as enable long-term sustainability for businesses and financial security for communities across the region. The HyNet consortium includes Progressive Energy, Cadent, Essar, INOVYN, Eni, University of Chester, Vertex Hydrogen, Viridor and Hanson.

For more information, visit www.hynet.co.uk