

Press Release

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BEIS MINISTER IN THE NORTH WEST TO VISIT HYNET

UK leading industrial decarbonisation project, HyNet, today welcomed Energy and Climate Change Minister, Greg Hands, to the North West region. The visit comes just a week after Government selected the project as a Track 1 cluster to fast-track the decarbonisation of the North West England and North Wales, cementing Government's commitment to the region.

During the visit, Minister Hands, learnt more about the economic and environmental benefits which will be felt across the region as businesses decarbonise through connecting to HyNet's infrastructure.

The visit combined two North West businesses that are committed HyNet partners. First stopping at Novelis' plant in Warrington, Minister Hands saw how the world's largest recycler of aluminium, will use HyNet hydrogen, produced at the UK's first hydrogen production plant, to reduce its carbon emissions.

Second on the agenda was Viridor's Energy Recovery Facility (ERF) site in Runcorn. Viridor will capture around 900,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide per year at the Cheshire facility which will be transported and safely stored beneath Liverpool Bay using HyNet infrastructure.

Tim Rotheray, Director of ESG and External Affairs, said "We were delighted to be able to show the minister first-hand the difference our project could make to HyNet. Runcorn operates over 90% of the time, treating waste that can't be recycled, so can supply a steady flow of CO₂ into HyNet's infrastructure. Viridor is serious about making carbon capture work to decarbonise our business. That is why we announced ambitious plans last week at the Prime Minister's Global Investment Summit to install CCUS across 7 of our sites, enabling us to reach net zero emissions by 2040. Runcorn is the foundation of those plans, capturing nearly 1 million tonnes of carbon a year. We can't wait to get started."

After touring the factories and learning more about how the businesses will be transformed through HyNet, Hands said: "It was fantastic to visit the North West today to see the HyNet carbon cluster project first-hand. As we set out in our landmark Net Zero Strategy, carbon

HyNet North West

capture will be key to helping industry decarbonise as we chart our path to net zero emissions by 2050.

“Backing Hynet as one of UK’s first carbon clusters will put the North West of England and North Wales at the forefront of the UK’s Green Industrial Revolution, safeguarding and creating new jobs, while driving economic growth across both regions as we build back greener.”

Andy Carter, Warrington MP, added “I often hear people say we don’t make anything in the UK and, actually, it’s quite the reverse. There are some 340,000 jobs in the manufacturing sector in the north west alone, where wages are on average much higher than the equivalent service sector. We’re also seeing increasing global investment into manufacturing in the region providing huge economic benefits for our communities.

“The challenges faced by the sector include reducing carbon emissions. Last week’s decision to fast-track HyNet project will allow for investment and development of ground breaking carbon capture and storage technology, something we can use to help businesses like Novelis in Latchford as well as manufacturing plants around the world to cut harmful emissions and protect jobs.”

David Parkin, HyNet Project Director said: “It has been fantastic to show the Minister first-hand how HyNet will unlock a low carbon economy for the North West, putting the region at the forefront of the UK’s drive to net zero. Not only will the project produce, store and distribute low carbon hydrogen to industry such as Novelis, it will capture and store carbon from those industries which we all rely on but that produce carbon dioxide as part of their vital activities, such as Viridor.

“This game-changing project has the potential to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 10 million tonnes every year by 2030 – the equivalent of taking 4 million cars off the road. By achieving this, 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.”

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

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About HyNet

HyNet North West is the UK’s leading industrial decarbonisations project, transforming the North West of England, and North Wales. The low carbon energy project is being developed by a consortium of world-leading organisations and is at the forefront of the UK’s journey to a Net Zero future.

HyNet North West

From 2025, HyNet North West 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.

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The HyNet North West consortium includes Progressive Energy, Cadent, Essar Oil UK, INOYN, Eni UK, University of Chester, CF Fertilisers and Hanson.

www.hynet.co.uk

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