



Midlands Forest Network

Ten Point Plan: Nature's Recovery

The Midlands Engine Observatory, in partnership with the National Forest and Woodland Trust, is creating a National Lottery Heritage Fund funding bid to support a two-year development phase aimed at enabling a 'Midlands Forest Network' to be delivered. This will involve identifying where landscape scale habitat creation, protection and restoration could be achieved, informed by the Observatory data. The development phase aims to identify a pipeline of projects and investment-ready propositions for public and private funding. An initial site visit took place in June and partners are now consulting with local authority and key stakeholders regionally in preparation for the bid submission in August.



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Midlands Green Innovation Network

Ten Point Plan: Actions 8.1, 8.2 & 8.3

A high number of innovative organisations are present. In collaboration with the Energy Research Accelerator, the Midlands Engine is supporting the creation of a Midlands Green Innovation Network, the first meeting of which took place in Birmingham on 22 June. This Network will provide an opportunity for businesses to come together with academics and specialists with an interest in developing green innovations and technologies. As ERDF funding terminates across the region, the Network will provide an avenue to explore the continued support of green innovation in the region.



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Hydrogen Skills Expression of Interest

Ten Point Plan: Low Carbon Hydrogen Theme

Midlands Engine and HyDEX are collaborating to explore the necessities of a greener workforce with a particular focus on low carbon hydrogen technologies. An expression of interest is currently out for procurement with the research focusing on the growth potential and workforce opportunities presented by low carbon hydrogen in heating, transport and logistics. Research will look to map common occupations, functions and skills to identify mechanisms to: facilitate the transition from fossil fuels; analyse where these are new jobs/skills or adaptations of traditional jobs; and determine what skills and qualifications will be needed going forward.



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Smart Energy Research

Ten Point Plan: Actions 7.1, 7.2 & 7.3

We are commissioning research to highlight the smart energy opportunities and solutions for the Midlands. This thought leadership will clarify the definition of 'smart energy' for market segments, aggregate and demonstrate work already underway in the Midlands, and conduct a deep-dive (including supply chains) into how we can scale up smart energy activity within the region.

