

08.04.22 York and North Yorkshire Climate Practitioners update

Jos.holmes@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note that this is a roundup of various national and local climate change information from various information sources, so I cannot take responsibility for any errors or omissions sorry.

- 1 Jobs
- 2 Young People
- 3 Travel & EVs
- 4 Business
- 5 Housing
- 6 Natural Environment
- 7 Energy
- 8 Circular Economy
- 9 General

1 Jobs

Natural England Upland Lead Adviser

Please see the link below to a Natural England Upland Lead Advisers for the Yorkshire & North Lincolnshire area team

[Upland Lead Adviser – Yorkshire & Northern Lincolnshire \(Ref: 4064\)](#)

Working with the Y&NY Local Enterprise Partnership: [Local Authorities Climate Action Coordinator \(engageats.co.uk\)](#)

2 Young People

- We are scoping a small scale research project with young people into their climate change awareness, how they can influence decision makers and how they access climate change info. This will be based on feedback from the 'Growing up in North Yorkshire' survey which includes environmental and climate change questions this May. If anyone else is interested in supporting this? Jos.holmes@northyorks.gov.uk

In the mean time, you may like to see this video from young people in Craven and Harrogate:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SF4WVkvOjj4>

- See also **Grow Wild Funding for Young People – 25 April Deadline - below**
- **Funding to Support Social Action School Projects Opens to Applications**

The £54 million #iwill Fund is a joint investment from The National Lottery Community Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) to support young people to access high quality social action opportunities.

As a match funder awarding grants on the behalf of the #iwill Fund, the Ormiston Trust is offering open grants to support the embedding of sustainable youth social action at scale in schools.

The Ormiston Trust's #WeWill Social Action Grants fund looks to support this mission by funding projects which will have a meaningful social impact on an individual, school, local, national, and/or international level, are co-produced young people, and allow development for key skills.

There are four main funding areas within the programme:

- Environment and Climate Justice
- Wellbeing and Mental Health
- Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion
- Community-based Issues.

Applicants must be a primary or secondary school based in England.

Successful applicants must commit to using the Trust's social action toolkit filled with resources, curriculum guides, and templates within the span of the programme.

Grants of up to £5,000 for a nine to 12-month period are available.

The deadline for expressions of interest is 22 April 2022.

For more information on how to apply please contact Gabriella Ribeiro, Grants Lead, at gabriellaribeiro@ormistontrust.co.uk and Philippa Rottger-Morgan, philippamorgan@ormistontrust.co.uk.

3 Travel and Transport:

- **This could be used to support active travel (cycling and walking) Small Grants for Improving the Safety of UK Roads**

The Road Safety Trust provides funding to public and professional UK organisations for projects that are innovative and will enhance the knowledge and practice of the road safety community. Applications are accepted from local authorities, police forces, fire and rescue services or UK based registered charities, legally constituted not-for-profit social enterprises or community interest companies. The Small Grants Programme supports projects on their way to making a tangible difference on the roads, with the Spring 2022 round focusing for the first time on supporting previously funded and completed projects to the implementation stage. Grants of £10,000 to £30,000 over two years are on offer, from a total funding pot of £180,000.

Interventions should concern one of the following priority areas for reducing road casualties:

- Community Corners – a low cost, community-led street design approach to traffic calming.
- Mobile Engaged – tackling mobile phone use by drivers.
- Improving Driver Behaviour through Mindfulness – to trial mindfulness research in a practical way to improve road safety at either a local, regional or national level.
- Targeting Road Injury Prevention (TRIP) – using data and intelligence to understand who is causing serious collisions and to develop road safety campaigns.

A Small Grants Webinar will be held at 14:00 on 24 March 2022. Register for the webinar via the Trust's website. **The deadline to apply is 26 April 2022.**

- Info from DPD on their decarbonisation activity: [DPD UK | Clean, Green Delivery](#)

Electric Vehicles:

- Govt's EV Charging Strategy released last week – **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy**

The government has unveiled plans to support the UK market to reach 300,000 public electric vehicle (EV) charge points by 2030. Backed by £1.6 billion, under the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Strategy, charging will become easier and cheaper than refuelling a petrol or diesel car, while new legal requirements on operators will see drivers of EVs able to pay by contactless, compare charging prices and find nearby charge points via apps.

The new strategy sets out the government's aim to expand the UK's charging network. The government will invest £500 million to bring high quality, competitively priced public charge points to communities across the UK. This includes a £450 million Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) fund, which will boost projects such as EV hubs and innovative on-street charging.

A pilot scheme for the LEVI fund launching today for councils to bid for a share of £10 million in funding, allowing selected areas to work with industry and boost public charging opportunities.

Strategy:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/tenfold-expansion-in-chargepoints-by-2030-as-government-drives-ev-revolution>

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/apply-for-local-electric-vehicle-infrastructure-levi-pilot-funding>

* NYCC is developing an Expression of Interest for the LEVI Pilot Programme, with a focus on EVCP in deeply rural areas connected with renewable energy. If you would like to be involved in this project, please contact Jos.holmes@northyorks.gov.uk by **19th April**. *

- **Government Announces Extension to Plug-in Van and Truck Grants**

Businesses across the UK are being supported to switch to electric transport following a government commitment to a two-year extension of its Plug-in Van and Truck Grants.

This intervention is expected to support the purchase of tens of thousands of greener vans and trucks, helping make the UK less reliant on imports of foreign oil, improving the security of energy supply and reducing vulnerability to volatility in global energy prices.

To ensure funding is delivered where needed, and at the same time supporting the transition to zero emission vehicles, eligibility criteria for existing Plug-in Vehicle Grants will also be recategorised from the spring, with a focus on heavier vehicles.

From 1 April 2022, the threshold to claim the Small Truck Grant of up to £16,000 will be increased from 3.5 tonnes to 4.25 tonnes. Vans up to 4.25 tonnes will be able to claim the Large Van Grant of up to £5,000.

With the increasing number of large vans on the market, the move will allow for heavier and more costly trucks, up to 12 tonnes, to benefit from the higher grant funding. This change will ensure funding is focused on helping more polluting trucks to make the switch to a zero-emission future.

Grants are available to businesses across the UK. Vehicles must be pre-approved and registered in the UK. Both commercial and private buyers are eligible to purchase vehicles under the scheme.

Transport Minister Trudy Harrison said:

'As demand for electric vehicles continues to grow at speed, this extension to our grant scheme will allow tens of thousands more vans to be purchased, transporting goods in a way which is kinder to our environment.'

➤ **Consultation on ending the sale of new, non-zero emission buses, coaches and minibuses**

The Department for Transport (DfT) and the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) launched a consultation on ending the sale of new, non-zero emission buses, coaches and minibuses.

DfT is seeking feedback on proposals to progress ending the sale of new non-zero emission buses. The department is also launching a call for evidence on phasing out the sale of new, non-zero emission coaches and minibuses.

The department is inviting views on:

- the challenges of transitioning to zero emission coaches and minibuses
- what would need to be true or in place to withdraw the sale of these vehicles
- what government could do to accelerate the transition to zero emission coaches and minibuses
- setting a realistic date to end the sale of these vehicles

This consultation closes on **21 May 2022**.

The government also confirmed £198.3 million of funding to provide 943 buses in twelve areas in England. The areas will receive grants to deliver electric or hydrogen powered buses, as well as charging or fuelling infrastructure, to their region.

The funding comes from the Zero Emission Buses Regional Area (ZEBRA) scheme, which was launched last year to allow local transport authorities to bid for funding to purchase zero emission buses. [WELL DONE BOTH YORK AND NORTH YORKSHIRE FOR SUCCESS WITH ZEBRA]

Consultation: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ending-the-sale-of-new-non-zero-emission-buses-coaches-and-minibuses>

Written statement: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/consultation-on-setting-an-end-date-for-the-sale-of-new-non-zero-emission-buses>

News story: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-on-track-to-reach-4000-zero-emission-bus-pledge-with-200-million-boost>

- Would be good to compare and contrast against:

[EV Energy Taskforce: Drivers for Success 2035 | Reports | Electric Vehicle Energy Taskforce](#)

4. For Businesses:

- **The Climate Innovation Platform (CIP) has launched the application round for the second Low Carbon Energy Solutions Innovator Challenge, a programme designed to accelerate SME innovators who are developing low carbon energy solutions.** Delivered by the University of Birmingham (UoB) in partnership with Energy Systems Catapult (ESC), the CIP Low Carbon Energy Solutions Innovator Challenge offers successful applicants tailored packages of support to drive the commercialisation of innovative energy products and services. The application round for the second Low Carbon Energy Solutions Innovator Challenge is now open and will close on **Friday 29 April** [Climate Innovation Platform launches second Low Carbon Energy Solutions Innovator Challenge - Energy Systems Catapult](#)

- **Innovate UK Launches £25m Loan Fund for Innovative SMEs**

Innovate UK (IUK) is offering loans to help micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) overcome barriers to their innovations becoming a successful, commercial reality. The aim is to make a considerable economic impact which results in significant, sustainable business growth.

Loans are for highly innovative late stage research and development (R&D) projects with the best potential for the future. There should be a clear route to commercialisation and economic impact.

Projects must lead to new products, processes or services that are significantly ahead of others currently available or propose an innovative use of existing products, processes or services. They can also involve a new or innovative business model.

IUK has allocated up to £25 million to fund projects across four rounds of this competition. Loans of between £100,000 and £2 million are available, based on project proposals and IUK's judgement of the suitability and affordability of a loan for the business.

IUK will fund experimental development projects that can include prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation. Projects must focus on one or more of the following themes.

- Net Zero
- **Opportunity for SMEs who are contributing to Net Zero to get involved with a Y&NY Growth Hub film production**

The York & North Yorkshire Growth Hub are looking for SMEs who are contributing to Net Zero, becoming carbon neutral or finding new ways to reduce their impact on the planet to feature in an upcoming film production.

The Growth Hub want to interview people who can talk about why reducing their environmental impact is an important business development, and how they are achieving that. At the end of the production process, a film will be released featuring SMEs alongside national and international businesses. The film will be released nationally and publicised widely, and the SMEs involved will receive their own short film of their story for them to share online and use as they wish – all of this free of any cost for the SMEs involved.

For more information and to express your interest, please contact the Y&NY Growth Hub via email at support@ynygrowthhub.com or via the Helpdesk at 0800 246 5045

- I love the description on this grant:

Small Grants for Businesses with Positive Impacts

The aim of the Adnovar Base Camp Small Business Grant is to support small businesses in the UK that want to reach their potential and have a positive impact on the world.

Five grants of £1,000 each are available, coupled with six months' free 1:1 support from a business mentor and a series of collaborative workshops.

Grants can be used for anything that can help a business reach its potential and have a positive impact on the world.

UK businesses that have been registered and trading as a limited company or sole trader for at least three months may apply. The business must employ fewer than 15 people.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 2 May 2022.

- As part of the UK Government's £1bn Net Zero Innovation Portfolio (NZIP) the Carbon Trust will lead a consortium delivering acceleration support to up to 200 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Support will include business development advice, practical workshops, peer-to-peer learning and access to stakeholder and investor networks. This will help these innovative companies make the most of the funding provided by NZIP and enable them to commercialise at speed and scale. [The Carbon Trust to lead expert consortium delivering pioneering acceleration support to UK Government's Net Zero Innovation Portfolio | The Carbon Trust](#)
- From the EV Strategy above note: . We will amend the Workplace Chargepoint Scheme (WCS) to support small accommodation businesses (such as B&Bs) and the charity sector (such as heritage sites and other charitable destinations) to install workplace charging for guests and visitors. Spring 2022

5 Housing Projects:

- Retrofit Academy. A reminder about the **Retrofit academy** - <https://retrofitacademy.org/> - they are offering a number of resources: If you are not already aware of The Retrofit Academy CIC (TRA),

we are a UK based not-for-profit organisation dedicated to delivering retrofit excellence by ensuring industry-wide adherence to the PAS 2035 specifications for the energy retrofit of domestic buildings. Level 2 Award in Understanding Domestic Retrofit Level 3 Certificate in Retrofit Advisor Level 4 Award in Retrofit Assessment Level 5 Diploma in Retrofit Coordination and Risk Management Fit for Retrofit The Tradespersons Guide to Retrofit for Social Housing The Housing Professionals Guide to Retrofit for Social Housing

- **Batteries for bungalows** – really innovative and possible replicable - [Energy saving project to reduce fuel poverty in the District | Cannock Chase District Council \(cannockchasedc.gov.uk\)](#)

6 Natural Environment – lots about Trees!

- Anyone interested in the spread of tree health and taking action on the spread of pests and diseases as climate changes, please sign up to this newsletter : [Tree Health News ☐ - April 2022 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- Questionnaire from the LNP: **Questionnaire: Development of North Yorkshire & East Yorkshire Natural Capital Asset Registers**

The North Yorkshire & York LNP has been working with the Hull and East Yorkshire LNP, the North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre, Natural England and the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership to develop strategic natural capital asset registers for our area. The initial information has been collated by the Data Centre, and we now need input from local stakeholders to determine the significance of the different natural capitals and the ecosystem services they provide.

You can access an online questionnaire via the link below, where you can:

- Rank the importance of the range of ecosystem services at the geographic scale you know best. This can be North Yorkshire and York, Hull and East Yorkshire, or the Yorkshire Coast (you can do one or several). You can also choose a custom geography if you feel more knowledgeable about a smaller geography, e.g. a catchment, landscape or around a town.
- Review the context statements behind each of the ecosystem services that make up the asset register tool, and let us know if they are missing any information or are incorrect in any way.
- Let us know if you have any local data that could or should be used to develop this asset register for our area.

Completing the survey will take approximately 30 minutes, although this entirely depends on how much information you are able to share and how many context statements you would like to comment on. The questionnaire can be accessed via the link below or the QR code attached. The questionnaire will be closed on **Friday 6th May at 12pm**

Live link: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NCProjectSurvey/>

- **Grow Wild Funding for Young People – 25 April Deadline**

Grow Wild is offering grants of up to £500 to young people aged 14-25 to deliver creative projects that celebrate and share why UK native plants and/or fungi are so special.

To be eligible, applicants must:

- Have a great project idea.
- Find a supporting organisation, such as a school, university, youth club or a local community group, to help them deliver the project.

The funding is for projects that:

- Focus on UK native plants and/or fungi.
- Get other people involved in some way. Aim to share the project with at least 100 people (this can include using online channels).
- Make good use of the £500 grant.
- Have a 'wow-factor'. Projects should be original and come up with something exciting.

The grants can pay for everything needed for the project, including basic materials and equipment to any training that is needed.

Projects can start in June and must be completed by 31 October 2022.

➤ **Funding support to increase tree, seed and sapling supply**

The Forestry Commission will open a new Tree Production Capital Grant this Spring. The Tree Production Capital Grant (TPCG) will provide funding to increase the domestic production of tree seed and saplings, supporting investments in expansion, automation and mechanisation of facilities and equipment. This will help improve not only the quantity but also the quality, diversity, and biosecurity of supply.

The TPCG is designed to help seed and sapling suppliers of all sizes, from established nurseries to smaller nurseries and new entrants looking to diversify into the sector. Any public, private, or third sector organisation which will use the funding to support their production of tree seed or saplings is encouraged to apply.

Applicants will be able to apply for up to 50% of the costs for capital projects and equipment such as intelligent transplanting systems, polytunnel infrastructure and equipment, irrigation systems and infrastructure, seed trays, grading machines, biosecurity investments such as water treatment and refrigeration equipment.

The grant will enable suppliers to bolster production quickly and has been designed to complement the innovation outputs of the Tree Production Innovation Fund, which provides support for research projects that will enhance UK tree production methods.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be UK-based and will need to demonstrate how the grant will be used to increase English tree seed or sapling supply.

To receive the latest news on the grant, sign up to the Forestry Commission's e-alert from the link below. For more information, please contact tpcg@forestrycommission.gov.uk or read the Forestry Commission's latest blog post.

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-production-innovation-fund>

E-alert: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/email-alerts-ealerts-for-grants-and-regulations-customers>

➤ **England's Urban Tree Challenge Fund Opens for Fourth Round**

The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCf) was first developed in response to the Government's commitment to provide millions of pounds for planting both large and small trees in and around England's towns and cities.

Urban trees are said to offer a range of benefits, including temperature moderation, flood risk mitigation, and improved wellbeing – particularly when in close proximity to large populations. The UTCf will contribute to delivering these benefits through the targeted planting thousands of large and small trees and in urban and peri-urban areas.

The new trees will also support the UK's journey to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and commitment to increase tree planting across the UK to 30,000 hectares of trees a year by 2025.

The fund is currently open with a planting budget of £3.8 million (excluding establishment payments) for the coming planting season 2022/23. This round supports both block bids and individual applications. A block bid is designed for organisations to apply for funding towards multiple projects that can be geographically dispersed or focused in one area but submitted under one application.

The guideline for block bids is a minimum funding requirement of £125,000. Individual applications are for smaller, focused areas of planting undertaken by small organisations or community groups. These individual applications will need a minimum funding requirement of £10,000 up to a maximum of £30,000. Applications are accepted from community and volunteer groups, town councils and individuals wishing to plant trees in urban areas of England. Applicants must have full management control over the land or signed consent from those with such control. **Applications must be submitted by 31 May 2022.**

➤ **Local Authority Treescapes Fund Opens for 2022**

Defra has announced the next funding round of the Local Authority Treescapes Fund (LATF) to increase tree planting and natural regeneration in local communities.

The fund is part of the Government's Nature for Climate Fund and will directly contribute to achieving tree planting targets.

The LATF provides funding for the establishment of trees in non-woodland settings. These may include parks, riparian zones, copses and shelterbelts, as well as green lanes, small linear woodlands alongside roads and footpaths, and vacant and disused community spaces.

Planting and protecting new trees that are intended to grow into mature standards within hedgerows is also permitted (though the creation of new hedgerows is not).

The fund will help the nation build back greener from the pandemic and will target landscapes that have been neglected in the past, ecologically damaged or affected by tree diseases like ash dieback – with ash being the most common species of tree found in non-woodland locations.

Funding will be available to all local authorities, via applications from top tier authorities.

Local authorities are strongly encouraged to work with other organisations, NGOs, community groups and private individuals to deliver tree planting and natural regenerations.

A total of £5.4 million will be available this year (2022/23). The fund expects that up to 100 grants worth £50,000 to £300,000 will be available. **The deadline for applications is 31 May 2022**

➤ **Forestry Commission Opens Tree Production Innovation Fund for 2022**

The Tree Production Innovation Fund (TPIF) is designed to encourage the development and adoption of new technologies and ways of working that will enhance the quantity, quality and diversity of planting stock available for tree planting in England.

Applicants are invited to apply for grant funding to support projects designed to address one or more of the following challenges identified through stakeholder engagement as barriers to tree production:

- Making better use of available seed and vegetative planting material to maximise the quantity, quality and diversity of trees produced.
- Developing growing systems to enhance their efficiency and resilience to change, whilst delivering improved quality and diversity of product.
- Using innovative environmentally sustainable weed control solutions to reduce reliance on herbicides.

➤ **Woods into Management Forestry Innovation Funds Reopen for 2022**

The Woods into Management (WiM) Forestry Innovation Funds aim to restore England's vulnerable woodland habitats and help woodlands adapt to a changing climate and recover from the impacts of pests and diseases. Projects which successfully apply for funding through the second round of WiM funds will receive a share of £3 million, as the Forestry Commission aims to bring an additional 20,000 hectares of existing woodland in England into active management by 2024/25. Under the umbrella of the overarching programme, the new Timber in Construction Innovation Fund will support projects which increase and facilitate the use of English timber from sustainably managed woods and forests in construction. Other funds will support new business models and supply chains for ash timber to help restore woodlands damaged by ash dieback, as well as for initiatives using temporary infrastructure to access neglected or degraded woodlands.

Moreover, a series of regional funds will support forward-thinking projects that enable the active management of woodlands where previously not possible. Applicants in the forestry and associated sectors, as well as local authorities, will be invited to submit multi-year proposals spanning up to three financial years (ending March 2025), with individual projects valued at up to £100,000 per year. **Applications must be submitted 9 May 2022**

➤ **Funding to provide long-term income for woodland creation**

Yesterday (15 March), the government announced that £10 million is being made available for farmers and land managers to create new woodlands to help tackle the effects of climate change. Farmers and land managers across England are encouraged to apply for the **Woodland Carbon Guarantee scheme by 24 April, ahead of the fifth auction which will take place online between 9 and 15 May.**

Administered by the Forestry Commission, the £50 million scheme will help accelerate woodland planting rates and permanently remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Before applying for the Guarantee, land managers will need to have registered with the Woodland Carbon Code, which provides the tools and information required to verify and record the carbon they are capturing and can sell in future. Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/10-million-to-provide-long-term-income-for-woodland-creation-with-fifth-auction-of-woodland-carbon-guarantee>

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/woodland-carbon-guarantee>

Registration: <https://www.woodlandcarboncode.org.uk/>

➤ **£5 Million in Funding for Nature Projects to Mark Queen’s Platinum Jubilee**

The National Lottery Heritage Fund is partnering with The Wildlife Trusts to deliver a Platinum Jubilee legacy investment, which will support around 200 new groups across the UK to identify and implement local action in their communities.

The joint initiative, Next Door Nature, aims to give access to the natural environment to thousands of people who may not have fully appreciated it before, while raising awareness of climate change and restoring natural heritage.

Projects supported by the initiative could include:

- Establishing wild habitats and green corridors.
- Rewilding school grounds.
- Transforming urbanised and unused areas into green spaces.

This £5 million sits alongside a £2 million Jubilee investment to support paid placements for young people from under-served communities in the nature workforce.

Further details on the Jubilee investments will be published in due course.

7 Energy

Two initiatives Community Energy from Northern Powergrid

➤ **New Net Zero Community Energy Fund**

Northern Powergrid have announced a new community energy fund, aimed at groups getting started on their emissions’ reduction journey. In-kind support or grants are available to support capacity building (e.g. workshops, training or mentoring, consultant’s time, feasibility studies or proof of concept trials, etc.) in value of £1,000-£10,000.

Applications will be assessed bi-monthly until the deadline of **31 July**. Applications will open this month while the guidance is already available from: <https://www.northernpowergrid.com/community-energy/>

➤ **Put your community on the map!** campaign

Northern Powergrid are launching a campaign to promote visibility of community energy organisations across our region and to help peer networking.

Our region historically has seen less community energy activity than other areas of England, but that is changing rapidly. We want to know about community energy organisations in our area to make sure we’re giving you the right support and to help you to find other like-minded, local organisations. Let everyone know you’re out there!

Place your community on [this online collaborative map](#). Simply add a marker on the map, type in the name of your organization and add some description (what do you do? Who are you interested to network with and what knowledge could you share?), click save, then invite other community energy organisations to add themselves to the map.

➤ **Launch of the British Energy Security Strategy**

The government announced the launch of the British Energy Security Strategy, building on the Prime Minister’s Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution, including the Net Zero Strategy.

The strategy sets out how Great Britain will accelerate the deployment of wind, new nuclear, solar and hydrogen, whilst supporting the production of domestic oil and gas in the nearer term – which could see 95% of electricity by 2030 being low carbon.

The strategy will see a significant acceleration of nuclear, with an ambition of up to 24GW by 2050, representing up to around 25% of projected electricity demand.

A new government body, Great British Nuclear, will be set up immediately to bring forward new projects, backed by funding, and the £120 million Future Nuclear Enabling Fund will be launched this month.

Work on a series of projects will be progressed as soon as possible this decade, which could mean delivering up to eight reactors, equivalent to one reactor a year instead of one a decade.

Other plans also include:

- Offshore wind: New plans for up to 50GW by 2030 – more than enough to power every home in the UK – including up to 5GW from floating offshore wind in deeper seas. This will be underpinned by new planning reforms to cut the approval times for new offshore wind farms from 4 years to 1 year and an overall streamlining to reduce the time it takes for new projects to reach construction stages while improving the environment.
- Oil and gas: A licensing round for new North Sea oil and gas projects planned to launch in Autumn, with a new taskforce providing support to new developments, recognising that producing gas in the UK has a lower carbon footprint than imported from abroad.
- Onshore wind: Consultation on developing partnerships with a limited number of supportive communities which wish to host new onshore wind infrastructure in return for guaranteed lower energy bills.
- Heat pump manufacturing: Launch of a Heat Pump Investment Accelerator Competition in 2022 worth up to £30 million to make British heat pumps, which reduce demand for gas.

There are also plans to increase the UK's current 14GW of solar capacity up to 5 times by 2035, consulting on the rules for solar projects, particularly on domestic and commercial rooftops, and to aim to double plans to up to 10GW of low carbon hydrogen production capacity by 2030, with at least half coming from green hydrogen and utilising excess offshore wind power.

The strategy will also increase the number of clean jobs in the UK by supporting more jobs in offshore wind, solar power and the UK hydrogen industry.

News story: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/major-acceleration-of-homegrown-power-in-britains-plan-for-greater-energy-independence>

Strategy: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/british-energy-security-strategy>

➤ **Launch of new body to boost energy resilience**

Yesterday (6 April), the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy and Ofgem announced the launch of a new public body to oversee the energy network, supporting new technology and building security of supply.

The new body, the Future System Operator (FSO), will boost security and resilience of UK energy supplies and support transition to net zero emissions. To be launched once legislation is passed and timelines have been discussed with key stakeholders, it will look at Great Britain's energy system as a whole, integrating existing networks with emerging technologies such as hydrogen.

The FSO will be a new public body founded on the existing capabilities of the Electricity System Operator (ESO), and, where appropriate, National Grid Gas (NGG). It will work with energy suppliers and networks to balance the UK's electricity systems and ensure continued energy resilience and security of supply for households and businesses. It will also provide strategic oversight of the UK gas system by taking on longer-term planning in respect of gas (but not real-time operation, which will remain with NGG).

The proposal follows consultation with industry who backed the creation of a new public body.

News story: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-future-proofs-britains-energy-system-with-launch-of-new-body-to-boost-energy-resilience>

➤ **Green Heat Network Fund launched**

The Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has, today (4 March), launched a £288 million Green Heat Network Fund (GHNF).

Schemes that will deliver clean heating to homes, offices, commercial and public buildings will be able to apply for grants over the next three years. The fund will support:

- the commercialisation and construction of new low and zero carbon (LZC) heat networks (including the supply of cooling)
- the retrofitting and expansion of existing heat networks

The fund will be open to public, private and third sector applicants in England. Individuals, households and sole traders cannot apply.

The fund will open **for applications on 14 March and is anticipated to run to 2025**. Please contact ghnfcorrespondence@beis.gov.uk for an application form.

Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/288-million-fund-opens-for-green-heating-projects>

- A new interactive report produced on behalf of National Grid ESO – '[A Day in the Life 2035: How a fully decarbonised electricity system might operate](#)'.

8. Circular Economy

Circular Economy webinars: [The BLUEPRINT Circular Economy Roadshow | Project Blueprint](#)

1. Monday 9 May – Supporting local authorities' transition to a circular economy

[Inspiring local authority initiatives for a circular economy](#), 09:00-10:40

[Lessons learned from cross-border circular economy projects](#), 11:00-12:30

2. Tuesday 10 May – Changing habits for a circular economy

[Embedding the circular economy within education](#), 09:00-10:40

[Making recycling in flat blocks & HMOs work](#), 11:00-12:40

[Fostering a reuse and repair culture](#), 14:00-15:20

3. Wednesday 11 May – The role of materials in a circular economy

[Can we remove waste from the construction industry?](#), 09:00-11:00

[Creating a circular economy for food](#), 12:30-14:15

[No more fast fashion: The role of textiles in the circular economy](#), 15:00-17:00

4. Thursday 12 May – Creating circular jobs and developing circular skills

[What is the circular economy and what jobs can it create?](#), 09:00-10:00

[The role of social enterprises in circular economy growth](#), 10:30-11:30

[Training and skill development for a circular economy](#), 14:30-15:45

5. Friday 13 May – Moving beyond waste

[Putting reuse and waste prevention on the map in local authority waste strategies](#) – 09:00-10:30

[Beyond recycling: The role of national policy](#) – 11:30-13:00

9. Other general

- **Arts Council England's 2023-2026 Investment Programme Now Open**

The 2023-26 Investment Programme consists of two separate funding programmes, both intended to support different aspects of Arts Council England's ten-year strategy (2020-2030), Let's Create:

- National Portfolio Organisations (NPO) 2023-26 Programme.
- Investment Principles Support Organisations (IPSO) 2023-26 Programme.

IPSO Activities must embed at least one of the four Investment Principles and support other organisations to do the same:

- Ambition and quality – linking creative work to wider aims and ambitions and working with creative partners to refine output.
- Dynamism – developing a business model that is flexible and able to adapt to changing environments.
- **Environmental Responsibility – embedding environmental thinking into every aspect of work, from operations to creation and programming.**
- Inclusivity and Relevance – identifying who is under-represented and which communities are under-served and taking action to address this.

Each programme will open to arts organisations, museums, local authorities and libraries, with successful applicants receiving a minimum of £50,000 a year for three years.

- Update on Drax: [Drax returns to profit as latest steps to further green up power generation are made - Business Live \(business-live.co.uk\)](#)

- I like this one, apart from the 'additional parking' although I guess kayaking isn't easy on public transport!

- **Canoe Foundation Now Accepting Applications for Sustainability and Access Projects**

Grants of £500 to £10,000 are once again on offer to clubs, community groups, Parish Councils, Local Authorities or anyone in the UK with an interest in improving access to water and protecting the environment.

During this round, the Foundation is looking to fund projects which will:

- Increase and protect public access points to water for recreational users.
- Create sustainable launching and landing sites, to and alongside water, for all sectors of the community and abilities.
- Protect and enhance the natural environment such as rivers or coastline.
- Grants can be used to cover:
 - Launch and landing platforms, steps or ramps.
 - Improvements to pathways and accessible routes to the waters edge.
 - Signage and information that promotes positive behaviour (eg, Countryside code, “Check, Clean, Dry”, take your litter home).
 - Designated or additional parking for water users.
 - Works to address erosion and create more sustainable access points.
- Projects that actively engage recreational water users in helping protect the waterway environment (eg, river clean initiatives, habitat creation or invasive non-native species action).
- Projects that are multiuser or can benefit more than one user group.
- Projects that benefit all paddlers rather than member facilities.

Matched or crowd funding is not essential but helps demonstrate the degree of local commitment to a project and to extend the number of projects that can be supported.

➤ **Water Resources Review of Charges**

Yesterday (9 March), the Environment Agency announced that businesses, including water companies and farmers, must hold a licence to abstract more than 20 cubic metres of water a day from a river, stream, canal or groundwater, and pay charges for this from 1 April.

The new rules have been approved by the government and published in the Environment Agency’s response to the review of water resources abstraction charges and the outcome of its consultation.

The Water Resources Review of Charges aims to create a system where people pay for the services they receive and those abstracting a lot of water, such as water companies, will pay more, supporting behavioural change to use water more economically.

The new charges will be based on:

- the volume of water taken from the environment
- where the water is taken from
- how much of that water is returned to the environment

Councils are encouraged to share this information as appropriate. Announcement:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/changes-to-environment-agencys-abstraction-charges-to-safeguard-water-supplies-for-people-and-wildlife>

➤ **Farm / agriculture / food news:**

- A series of reports around decarbonising agriculture: [Reports - RASE](#)
- The first study to quantify soil organic carbon sequestration rates associated with planting hedges in the UK has now been published! Please take a look at it online: [Soil carbon sequestration potential of planting hedgerows in agricultural landscapes - ScienceDirect](#).
- **Launch of IUK’s Farming Innovation Programme - Large R&D Partnership Projects Competition**

This Innovate UK (IUK) competition has been established to fund industrial research and experimental development projects that will address major on-farm or immediate post farmgate challenges or opportunities.

Solutions or project outputs must significantly improve productivity, sustainability and environmental impact of farming, a progression towards net zero emissions, and resilience.

Projects must address a significant industry challenge or opportunity in at least one of these industry subsectors:

- Livestock
- Plants

- Novel food production systems
- Bioeconomy and agroforestry

A total of £8 million has been allocated to this competition. Each project's total costs must be between £3 million and £5 million.

Businesses within a supply chain are encouraged to come together as a partnership to solve major challenges or opportunities.

The competition is open to collaborations only. A UK registered business of any size must lead a project. They must involve at least one micro, small or medium-sized enterprise (SME) and a research and technology organisation (RTO). To collaborate with the lead, organisations must be a UK business of any size or a UK registered academic institution, charity, not-for-profit, public sector organisation or RTO.

➤ **Magic Little Grants Fund Returns for 2022**

LocalGiving has launched its annual Magic Little Grants scheme for the fifth year in a row with more money than last year. With support from the six funding trusts from the People's Postcode Lottery, it is expected that 2,650 charitable organisations will receive a grant of £500 each.

To be eligible, organisations must have an annual income under £250,000 or be in their first year of operation and operate within England, Scotland or Wales.

This year's funding aims to support projects that address the following themes:

- Improving mental wellbeing.
- Enabling community participation in the arts.
- Preventing or reducing the impact of poverty.
- Supporting marginalised groups and promoting equality.
- Improving biodiversity and green spaces.
- Enabling participation in physical activity.
- Responding to the climate emergency and promoting sustainability.
- Increasing community access to outdoor space.

Funding can be used to launch new projects, support existing ones, or cover core costs associated with ongoing work.

Applications will be accepted from 16 March to 31 October 2022.

➤ **Planning guidance: Letters to chief planning officers**

Yesterday (16 March), the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities wrote to council chief planning officers in relation to nutrient pollution, which is having an adverse effect on some rivers and waterbodies in the catchments of Habitats Sites. The letter covers nutrient neutrality, tackling nutrient pollution and the available support and funding. Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/planning-guidance-letters-to-chief-planning-officers>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/esfa-update-16-march-2022>

➤ New updates to Impact, CSE's popular **Community Carbon Calculator**.

Impact is a free, online tool providing small communities with easy-to-understand data about where most carbon emissions come from in their local area.

It now covers all of England, Scotland and Wales, and gives carbon-footprint data at more local government levels - from parishes right up to town councils and city wards.

There's also a new automatic report generation function, and changes to layout make data easier to understand and interpret.

[Impact | Community carbon calculator \(impact-tool.org.uk\)](https://www.impact-tool.org.uk)

➤ **Consultations on measures to help councils tackle air pollution**

Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and National Highways launched two consultations on proposals to make it easier for councils to tackle poor air quality in their areas.

The Consultation on the review of the Local Air Quality Management Policy Guidance seeks views on increased engagement between councils and the communities that they serve, and an increased focus on the impact of air quality on people's health. The consultation will also look at the stronger requirements introduced in the Environment Act 2021 for other organisations to collaborate with councils in delivering Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs).

Meanwhile, the Consultation on Designation of National Highways as a “Relevant Public Authority” proposes to designate National Highways in order to ensure more consistent collaboration with councils to reduce road pollution.

Together, these two measures are designed to significantly contribute to the successful implementation of AQAPs and ensure air quality standards are met in local communities.

Both consultations close on 6 June 2022.

Consultation: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/air-quality-and-industrial-emissions/consultation-on-the-review-of-the-local-air-qualit/>

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/industrial-pollution-control/consultation-on-designation-of-national-highways/>