



north east & yorkshire
NET ZERO HUB

Bringing Net Zero home in the North East and Yorkshire

Developing **104** Net Zero
projects

1,000,000 tonnes of carbon
savings predicted

1.3GW of clean energy
projected

Energy efficiency
improvements in over **7,000**
homes supported



The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub is one of five Net Zero Hubs across England, funded by the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero to:

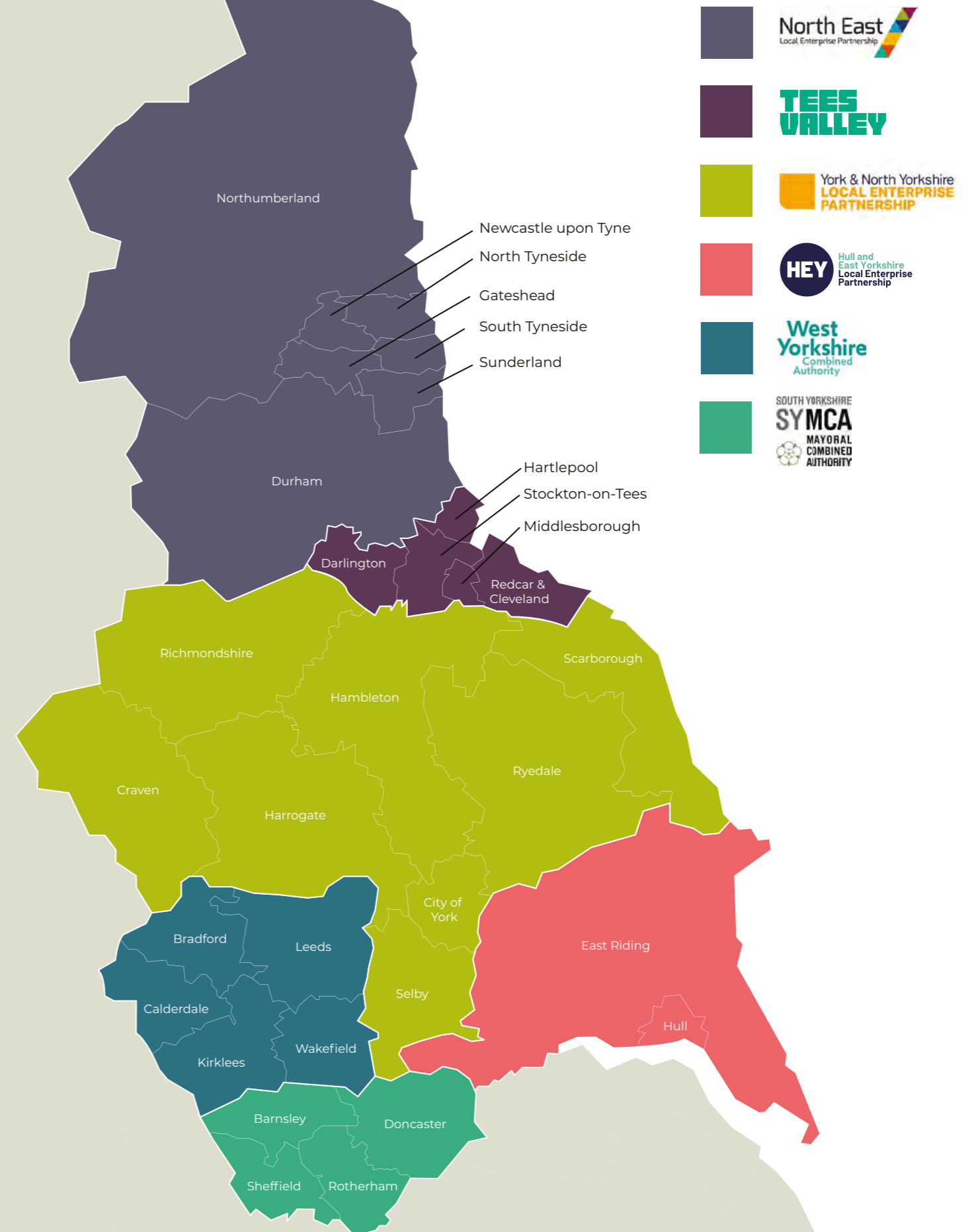
- Provide practical support to increase the number and scale of Net Zero projects in their region.
- Attract commercial investment into local projects by developing funding strategies and investment models.
- Support the government to deliver national Net Zero projects in the region – and helping local authorities to build Net Zero into wider operations and programmes.
- Share insights, best practice and advice.
- Raise local awareness of opportunities for and benefits of local Net Zero investment.



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero

We are a collaboration of:

- North of Tyne Combined Authority
- Tees Valley Combined Authority
- The North Yorkshire Council
- Hull and East Yorkshire Local Enterprise Partnership
- West Yorkshire Combined Authority
- South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority



Contents

How we work	8
Net Zero Hubs in action: What we do	12
Helping local projects get from idea to investment	15
Providing practical and financial resources to get projects off the ground	18
Bringing partners together	22

Local areas have big Net Zero ambitions – but sometimes lack the capacity, resources or specialist skills to deliver them.

We're filling the gaps which are slowing or stopping Net Zero delivery at a local level

Net Zero Hubs work with local authorities to use their local assets to realise their Net Zero ambitions, helping them drive forward clean energy and heating projects, cut emissions, reduce their own and their residents' energy costs, boost health and wellbeing outcomes, improve the local environment and create economic opportunities and jobs.

The North East and Yorkshire Net Zero Hub is here to enable, facilitate and accelerate Net Zero in the North East and Yorkshire by:

- **Providing local areas** with the capacity to accelerate and realise their Net Zero ambitions.
- Helping take local projects **from idea to investment** by developing funding strategies.
- **Providing practical and financial resources** to make Net Zero happen.
- **Bringing partners together** to deliver projects and **increase local knowledge** of Net Zero opportunities.

We are:

- **Committed to putting the region on the map** when it comes to Net Zero.
- Here to make a **lasting difference in our communities, limit the effects of climate change** and help our region take advantage of the transition to a low-carbon economy.
- Experienced, enthusiastic, approachable, skilled and committed to providing **first-class support**.
- Straight talking – in a sector filled with jargon and technical language, **we embrace our northern heritage to tell it like it is** and demystify Net Zero.

And we're having a real impact, with an independent evaluation concluding:



The scale and number of projects supported by the Hub is impressive... the Hub plays a key role in building momentum, championing the Net Zero agenda, knowledge sharing, connecting individuals, and providing capacity to manage projects in LEP areas which are under-resourced.

The government's recent national Net Zero Strategy also highlighted how Hubs have made "excellent progress in supporting local areas to deliver Net Zero", stating:

Through our Local Net Zero Hubs we are supporting local authorities and community energy groups to work together... providing local authorities with direct support to develop community-led energy groups and projects and attract commercial investment.



A genuine hub, connecting local partners and providing a direct line to government



How we work

Our work is delivered across a number of key workstreams, which take place both locally and regionally.



Newcastle Great Park Community Centre – supported to install a 134 panel solar reducing its carbon footprint by nearly 10,000 tonnes of CO2 a year

Place-based support

Local Capacity Support delivered through regional Project Managers embedded in our partner organisations is a critical part of our delivery.

Our regional Project Managers add value to the delivery of local strategies by helping turn local projects into fundable propositions.

They have also been heavily involved in Local Area Energy Planning – the development of

costed and evidenced roadmaps to decarbonise local areas – including interventions to decarbonise local heat and transport, improve the energy efficiency of buildings, and generate renewable energy.



The Lubber Fiend independent music venue in Newcastle became more sustainable with support from our COP26 Legacy Fund

Our regional project managers and their areas of operation are as follows:

- **North East**
Lizzie Lunn
- **West Yorkshire**
Femi Omoniyi
- **South Yorkshire**
George Lee
- **York and North Yorkshire**
Katie Privett
- **Hull and East Yorkshire**
Starting Early Autumn
- **Tees Valley**
Currently recruiting



Our region-wide teams members are:

- **Hub Management**
Karen Oliver-Spry
- **Operational Management**
Louise Jackson
- **Domestic and Public Sector Building Decarbonisation**
Nicole Huston
Kay Thompson
Joanne Thompson
- **Support for Community Energy, Energy Planning and Energy Project Enabling**
Abbie Raynes
Laura Hood
- **Stakeholder Engagement**
John Hart
Katie Clarke

Region-wide support

Over the past three years we have worked on a number of major region-wide programmes supporting our partners and a range of organisations to deliver exciting and innovative projects that contribute to achieving Net Zero across the North East and Yorkshire.

- **Energy Project Enabling Fund:** We have provided almost £500,000 of capital grants to 19 community organisations to support the delivery of their clean energy projects.
- **School Solar Enabling Fund:** We have given almost £100,000 of grants to 8 schools to allow them to install solar panels – cutting their costs while educating children about clean energy.
- **COP26 Legacy Funding:** We have given out £75,000 of grants to 10 businesses, school and community groups seeking to undertake carbon reduction projects inspired by the international climate change conference which took place in Glasgow in 2022.
- **Rural Community Energy Fund:** We have provided over £1,700,000 of funding for 40 innovative community energy projects aimed at lowering local energy costs and reducing carbon emissions in rural communities.
- **Public Sector Decarbonisation:** Public sector organisations have big ambitions when it comes to achieving Net Zero, but one of the biggest obstacles is often their own buildings – many public sector buildings still rely on fossil fuel heating systems or were built in much less energy efficient eras. We commissioned a package of delivery tools to develop heat decarbonisation plans for 60 public sector sites, energy technology assessments for over 100 sites, delivered training sessions to upskill officers – and produced a toolkit to help public organisations in every aspect of decarbonising their own estates.

Hartside Primary in Crook, County Durham – one of our Schools Solar Enabling Fund projects



Net Zero Hubs in Action: What we do

Here's a flavour of some of over 100 local projects we've supported to date.

We provide local areas with the capacity to accelerate and realise their Net Zero ambitions.

We also add value to the work of our partners by providing capability, connections and capacity to develop investible Net Zero projects.

Turning waste to energy in North Yorkshire

The Hub has played an important part in the development of a community-owned anaerobic digester near Malton which could use the town's commercial food and farm waste to supply heat to the local community.

The plant would turn waste in biogas, a renewable heat and power source that nearby buildings and businesses can use instead of fossil fuels – saving over 800 tonnes of carbon a year.

The Hub supported the project with funding for a feasibility study, brought together project

partners and supported with funding applications and business case development – getting a community-initiated project up off the ground faster.

Circular Malton & Norton, who are behind the project, hope the plant will create local jobs, help local businesses

improve their carbon footprint, generate investment in future local clean energy projects and make Malton Yorkshire's first circular market town championing zero food waste in 'Yorkshire's food capital'.



Saving over 800 tonnes of carbon a year

Rolling out electric vehicle charging points in South Yorkshire

The North East and Yorkshire Hub has helped install more than **170 rapid electric vehicle charging points at close to 50 locations** across Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield – **designed to help get 2,000 polluting vehicles off the roads.**

The project aimed to address gaps in availability of charging points across South Yorkshire and to help local people to access public transport, such as strategically siting the charging points at Park and Ride sites.

The South Yorkshire Combined Authority secured funding for the project but the local authorities at the time were in various stages of readiness to deliver the projects. The local Hub PM headed a collaborative programme to design, procure, and deliver a region wide EV charging network of 176 chargepoints across 43 locations helping build capacity and knowledge across all authorities.

Driving the transition to zero emission transport



Helping local projects get from idea to investment

We help identify and develop opportunities to encourage commercial investment into Net Zero delivery and set out funding strategies to get local projects up and running.



Connecting organisations to the funding to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and generate clean energy

Using mine water for heating across the North East

The coal mines of the North East used to warm the nation – and innovative projects across our region are bringing them back into use.

The Hub provided feasibility study funding for a Durham County Council project looking at **using naturally generated heat from underground water** from a former mine in Horden to provide a heat source to nearby communities. The project is now progressing

with the installation of a ground source heat pump at the site.

We were also involved in identifying funding for the extension of the Gateshead Energy Centre to include mine water energy sources – leading to the creation of

the UK's largest mine water pumping scheme, which heats 1,250 homes, a care home, Gateshead International Stadium and other council buildings.

Developing plans for decarbonising heat and transport in West Yorkshire

The Hub has part-funded West Yorkshire's first Local Area Action Plan – which will set out a roadmap for the most effective and affordable path to a zero carbon Calderdale.

The plan will create a **fully costed, data-driven and evidence-backed list of interventions that will decarbonise heat and transport across the borough**, improve the energy efficiency of buildings, and generate renewable energy locally – which could involve the use of

rooftop solar panels or wind turbines.

Calderdale has set a target of becoming Net Zero by 2038 – a target that is shared by all other councils in West Yorkshire and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Not only is this the

first Local Area Energy Plan in West Yorkshire, it will act as a pilot to help neighbouring authorities to develop their own plans.

Katie Privett – Regional Project Manager

I'm one of the Hub's five local project managers – working across my Local Enterprise Partnership area to add capacity and knowhow to help local authorities deliver their Net Zero strategies – working with organisations who want to do something exciting and green to remove whatever obstacles are stopping them.

The best part of the job is the feeling I'm helping get cool ideas which will improve both the environment and local economies from an idea to spades in the ground. A great example is when I had an energy producer approach me to help repurpose a redundant asset with existing connections to the National Grid and access to underground heated water. We're now collaborating on a handful of projects which could involve the creation of a local heat network serving local small villages – many of which are still heated by oil boilers – a biofuels project with local farmers, and even tourism projects.



Providing practical and financial resources to get projects off the ground

We work to support the delivery of local strategy by allocating funds to support Net Zero at a local level.



Helping community groups spend their resources on local people – not heating bills

Fenham Association of Residents in Newcastle provides a range of learning and recreational opportunities to help residents on low incomes build their self-confidence and skills.

Faced with what they called “spiralling” energy costs, the charity secured funding through the Hub to install 24 solar panels and an air source heat pump to their building – saving **24 tonnes of carbon, the same as over 60,000km of car journeys and the equivalent of planting almost 400 trees.**



Members of the Fenham Association of Residents – whose community centre is benefiting from solar panels and a new heat pump.

The charity told us.

We have seen recently a number of charities close because of the increased energy costs, so we are delighted to receive this grant which will enable us to reduce our costs and additionally avoid carbon. We feel this project is a win win for our charity and the environment.

We’ve also worked with a Community Interest Company in Humshaugh, Northumberland, to develop plans for a local solar farm which will provide power for 150 homes and save 170 tonnes of carbon a year.



Humshaugh Net Zero – supported by the Rural Community Energy Fund to develop plans for a local solar power project.

Driving forward solar powered car parks in Tees Valley

The Hub provided funding for the installation of **220 solar panels** on the roof of the Zetland car park in Middlesbrough – which now meet **78% of the building's energy needs.**

The panels will save the council £20,000 a year – which will be reinvested in other energy projects – while preventing 21 tonnes of carbon a year being released into the atmosphere.

A local business was engaged to install the panels – keeping investment in the local economy. The council is now looking at pursuing similar projects.

£20,000 a year savings

Coffee-powered heating on Holy Island

Our COP26 Legacy Fund provided small amounts of funding for carbon reduction projects inspired by the international climate change conference which took place in Glasgow in 2022.

One project, based on Holy Island in Northumberland, will see coffee grounds used as renewable fuel blocks which will be distributed throughout the island and used for heating. A food producer in Hull was also helped to deliver a project in which a series of LED lights are used to mimic the movement and light intensity of the sun and moon to allow more energy efficient growing of salad leaves.

Other grants included school-based projects highlighting to young people the benefits of composting, rainwater collection, sustainable food growth and efficient food

preparation and a community engagement programme in a West Yorkshire shopping centre, aiming to educate shoppers on food waste.



**TOGETHER
FOR OUR
PLANET**

Abbie Raynes – Net Zero Hub Project Manager

I manage our regional funding and support programmes. I am also the Community Energy lead for the North East and Yorkshire, supporting community groups in developing and delivering their energy projects.

I love the sheer range of the organisations I get to work with – and helping people who help others. Alongside the Hub, I've supported several community centres to make their buildings cheaper to heat, doctor's surgeries installing solar panels and EV chargers, churches retrofitting their halls, and schools delivering composting and food production programmes.

It's not just about improving the environment and lowering emissions – every penny that organisations can save on their energy costs is more money they can spend on supporting their communities.

This year I managed our School Solar Enabling Fund in which we provided grants to schools to help them overcome obstacles preventing the installation of solar panels. We funded eight schools who now all have functioning solar systems. School budgets have been hit by rising energy costs too, and not only do solar panels help them towards energy self-sufficiency, they also get children thinking about clean energy – and their parents too.

Bringing partners together

We co-ordinate and convene local partners to collectively drive forward Net Zero in the North East and Yorkshire.

Supporting retrofit across the region

We work with local authorities and housing providers to connect them to national policy and funding programmes – helping improve the energy efficiency of local properties, especially social homes and low-income households.

The Hub recently led a consortium of 19 local authorities and housing providers to secure £34m through the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 – with £48m of match funding from partners – for **energy efficiency improvements at over 5,500 local homes** – raising their EPC rating to a minimum of Band C with insulation, draught proofing, upgraded heating systems, solar panels and heat pumps.

We previously worked with our local authority partners to deliver the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund managing over £50 million of national funding for reducing household energy bills and making homes easier to heat and power. **More than 2,000 homes benefitted from the scheme.**

Our regional Project Managers have also provided advice and support – such as bid development – for local retrofit programmes, including successful bids into the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund.

Energy efficiency improvements at over 5,500 local homes

Connecting businesses from the Humber and East Yorkshire to make better use of resources

The Hub has financed an Industrial Symbiosis Study for the Humber and East Yorkshire – bringing industrial businesses from sectors as diverse as fishing, construction and chemicals together so that unwanted or underutilised resources including energy, water and waste from one organisation can be recovered and re-used by others.

This approach will lead to several economic and environmental benefits including reducing the amount of waste being sent to landfill – including over 1 million tonnes of construction and demolition waste – and lower costs for businesses.





Nicole Huston, Housing Retrofit Project Manager

The North East and Yorkshire has some of the oldest, draughtiest and worst insulated homes in the country. I work with local authorities and housing associations to improve the housing stock, making homes easier to heat, retain warmth and healthier to live in - driving down CO₂ emissions and supporting green economy jobs.

Everyone has been hit by the rising cost of energy bills and our most vulnerable communities are struggling to heat their homes, it means a lot to know we are making a difference and having a genuine impact to those that need it most. Through delivery of the GHG LAD2 programme, we have supported the installation of over 4,600 energy saving measures in the past 18 months and are working with partners to improve 5,525 social housing properties in the next two years.



The future

These are some of the initiatives and workstreams we will be working on in the coming year.

Project/Programme title	Description
Energy Project Enabling Fund	Further grant funding to help mobilise and deliver local clean energy and heat projects
Public Estates Decarbonisation Programme	Further support for local authorities to help decarbonise public sector estates across the region
Community Energy North	Creating a programme of support to build the community energy sector and identify solutions for local authorities delivering Net Zero strategy
Domestic retrofit activity	Continuing to help local authorities to improve the energy efficiency of low-income households, including through the Local Authority Delivery Scheme – Phase 2 by leading a consortium of local authorities and housing providers to deploy national funding to improve the energy efficiency of social homes
Local Energy Advice Demonstrators	Working with the government to pilot innovative approaches to local in-person energy advice, particularly aimed at digitally excluded communities and hard to treat properties



Strategic pipeline

We are also developing a pipeline of major strategic projects – and we want to hear your suggestions for potential projects which can be developed in anticipation of funding becoming available.

Current strategic projects include:

- **An interactive map of regional energy and infrastructure assets** – providing community-level data of operational and planned energy generation facilities

- **An action plan for the deployment of hydrogen** in key sectors across the region, including power, transport, industry and domestic heating

- The Humber-region Industrial Symbiosis study, **bringing together local businesses to make better use of waste products**

We want to be a visible and valued partner to your local Net Zero ambitions – adding capacity and knowhow to your projects, maximising local relationships and expertise and linking directly to government to develop local approaches to Net Zero.

You can help us by:

- Collaborating on project delivery and other initiatives
- Sharing knowledge and intelligence
- Contributing expertise and facilitating knowledge sharing
- Participating in panels, working groups and advisory networks
- Signposting and sharing opportunities
- Helping us champion Net Zero and enthusing others.



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Contact us

Find out more at www.neynetzerohub.com or
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You can also find us on [LinkedIn](#)

You also contact individual team members below –
just scan the QR code to find out more about their
roles and for their contact details.

