

Zero carbon innovation driving real-world solutions

Samir Mamun Senior Manager, Zero Carbon Innovation Centre

Net zero – an economic opportunity for the UK

A growing UK net zero economy

The net zero economy produces £83.1 billion in GVA for the UK economy.

951,000 full-time jobs supported in the supply chain and wider economy.

Jobs supported by net zero businesses were 38% more productive than the UK average.

10.1% growth in the total economic value generated by the net zero economy since 2023, worth £11.6 billion to the UK economy.

Total employment contributions have also grown significantly (15.2%), and the net zero economy now supports **125,700 more FTE jobs than in 2022**.

Source: ECIU & CBI Economics

Economic challenges for this region

Twenty percent of workers are impacted by net zero

1 in 5 Midlands workers were in high-emissions industries compared with 1 in 12 works in London

Percentage of workers in high-emissions industries by region or nation, England and Wales, 2021



Source: Office for National Statistics

The region faces urgent productivity and inequality challenges

Gross Value Added (GVA) per filled job and Gross Disposable Household Income per person, 2021: selected UK cities



Source: Resolution Foundation

Decarbonisation needs innovation

Decarbonising products and their production

Life-cycle assessment of select products

(% of CO_2e) Total emissions End-of-life Production Logistics (kg CO2e) Technology 78 Smartphone 60 Health care Inhaler (one dose) 61 1 0.02 15 ICE vehicle 6 45,000 Automotive Electric vehicle⁵ 43 41,000 Consumer Coffee (one cup) 40 0.1 goods Process 85 PET plastic (1kg) 6 9 1.5 industries Engineered 15 5 1 0.015 Metro train products

Increasing contribution from heavy transport aviation, trucks etc.



Source: International Energy Agency

Source: International Energy Agency

Opportunities for the region

- We have key universities, major businesses, and the industrial heritage in manufacturing and transport.
- That's why we can achieve export-related growth, by harnessing the strengths of the region, combined with East Midlands Freeport and the Investment Zone.





THHU

Commercial approach for impact

The Zero Carbon Cluster vision

This is the place that translates zero carbon research into real-world solutions.

Our vision is to accelerate the translation of zero carbon research into high-impact commercial and policy solutions – in partnership with industry and government.



Advanced infrastructure capabilities

Proposed Jubilee campus infrastructure expansion to include Zero Carbon Propulsion



UNIP - Ingenuity Centre start-up, incubator space



PEMC Electrification Centre ISCF Driving Electric Revolution Facilities, UK Aerospace Propulsion Facilities



Research Acceleration & Demonstration Building Energy research facilities







Zero Carbon Innovation Centre Industry collaboration/co-location



GSK Carbon Neutral Laboratory Centre for Sustainable Chemistry

Hydrogen Propulsion Lab Megawatt-scale hydrogen propulsion testing



Advanced Manufacturing Building (Centre for Additive Manufacturing, Composites Research Group, Institute for Advanced Manufacturing)

£75+ million in external funding

Including major industry co-investment for capital, infrastructure and programmes





Multi-million funding injection for University of Nottingham facility brings net zero one step closer to reality

Thursday 30 November 2023

The University of Nottingham, in collaboration with Loughborough University, has been selected to receive a significant funding boost from East Midlands Freeport to accelerate the translation of zero carbon research into high-impact commercial and policy solutions.





Over £70 million investment will allow the University of Nottingham to power future transport to net zero

Thursday 26 March 2024

The university of Nottingham has secured more than £70 million to establish ne world-leading and open-access research facilities and programmes that will decarbonise future transport.



Zero Carbon Innovation Centre

World-class facilities and research to accelerate industry collaboration





Electrical Machines Manufacturing

- Flexible reconfiguration for low volume, high value production
- End-to-end manufacturing process capability
- State of the art performance & power

Digital Twin

- Developing monitoring, prognostics & health management of entire propulsion powertrain
- Providing unique platform enabling system integration, validation & verification

Loughborough University

- Support for industry to develop validate and test novel decarbonised products
- Prototype manufacturing lines for scale up and industrialisation
- Contracted testing and engineering consultancy
- Industry co-location and incubation
- Focused programmes to support supply chain development and FDI

Hydrogen Propulsion Systems Lab

800m² laboratory housing MW scale hydrogen propulsion systems testing

- Test cells to 'plug-and-play' transport components & systems
- Dynamometers up to 5 megawatts
- Cryogenic test capability for high power machines



- Environmental chambers for altitude testing
- Gaseous hydrogen, ammonia & other green fuels
- Operational by mid-2026





Research

England



MIDL→NDS

FREEPORT

E→ST



Scan to visit our website



www.nottingham.ac.uk/zero-carbon

Zero Carbon Cluster on LinkedIn



Thank you

HIIIT

University of Nottingham

© 2025 University of Nottingham, Zero Carbon Cluster