

Developing a Midlands Engine energy security white paper

Context and rationale

Energy security – defined in the ‘Powering Up Britain’ report as “the smooth transition to abundant, low carbon energy... [by] increasing the overall share of domestic energy production and reducing energy demand” – is critical to the UK’s ambitions for net zero carbon growth. The Midlands region has a particular significance for UK energy security and energy security is critical to the region’s ambitions for inclusive, sustainable growth.

Industrial heartland

There is a relatively high concentration of energy intensive sectors within the Midlands. Therefore, the productivity and economic impact of unstable energy supply and high energy costs is much greater than elsewhere.

Energy innovation

Midlands businesses, researchers and innovators are playing a leading role in developing the technologies and supply chains needed to transition to net zero.

Infrastructure development

The Midlands offers major opportunities for nationally significant low carbon energy infrastructure developments, such as the 5GW Humber Offshore Wind Clusters and the STEP Fusion Power plant in West Burton.

Communities

Communities across the Midlands experience some of the highest rates of fuel poverty in the country.

1 in 5 Midlands Engine workers employed in high-emitting industries – more than any other region

Energy and low carbon technologies contribute **£13.3bn** to Midlands economy

Legacy energy infrastructure from **13** former Megawatt Valley power stations

16.6% of households in fuel poverty – highest in UK

Nationally significant energy projects: **Humber Offshore Wind Cluster** and **STEP Prototype Fusion Energy Power Plant**

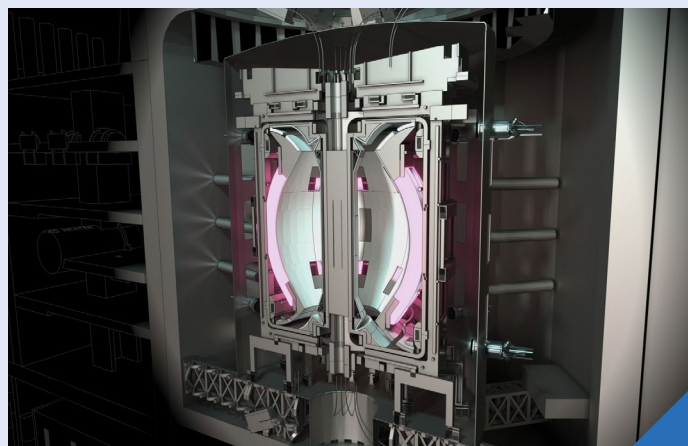
32% of Midlands Engine GVA from energy-intensive sectors

White paper purpose

Evidence to national decision makers the significance and scale of opportunity in the Midlands to enable the UK energy transition as a springboard for net zero carbon growth

Set out the ideal policy environment and investment required to act on and accelerate this opportunity – for national and regional benefit.

This White Paper will actively build on the work of the 2021 Ten Point Plan for Green Growth in the Midlands Engine.



STEP Prototype Fusion Energy Power Plant (Source: UKAEA)

White paper approach

1. Energy Security Taskforce

Chaired by Lord Ravensdale, the Taskforce will lead the development and advocacy of the White Paper on behalf of the Midlands Engine Partnership.

2. Midlands Engine Green Growth Board

Chaired by Professor Martin Freer, the Board will maintain oversight of the White Paper's development and deployment, ensuring its outputs have impact and influence.

3. Wider stakeholders

Key energy stakeholders from across the region will be engaged in the process through individual discussions and a workshop.

4. Midlands Engine secretariat and Observatory

The secretariat will develop and manage the project on behalf of the Midlands Engine Partnership, while the Observatory will support the project consultants to gather regional energy data and intelligence.

5. Project consultants: Metro Dynamics & Opergy

Our project consultants will review and bring together key evidence, support the Taskforce to develop its thinking and proposals, and produce the final White Paper document.

2024 Timescales

March 2024	White Paper preview brochure
May 2024	White Paper full draft
July 2024	Provisional White Paper
Autumn 2024	White Paper launch