

Industrial Decarbonisation

Policy News Update

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1.UK Policy

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Takes Responsibility for Hinkley Point B

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Nuclear Restoration Services

1st October 2026

Hinkley Point B has officially transferred from EDF to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) for decommissioning, marking a significant expansion of the UK's nuclear decommissioning programme. The site will be managed by Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), which is already responsible for decommissioning the neighbouring Hinkley Point A station. Around 250 employees will transfer from EDF to NRS, helping retain specialist skills and experience needed for the safe and secure decommissioning of the facility. The NDA has highlighted wider benefits of decommissioning, including nuclear waste management, land restoration, skills retention and support for local economies and supply chains as well as generating wider economic value.

More info here.

Protium and H-Power Expand UK Hydrogen Distribution Network from Surrey to Yorkshire

Protium

30th September 2026

Protium, along with H-Power plc have operationalised a long-distance hydrogen distribution corridor linking H-Power's Dunsfold Park facility in Surrey with manufacturing and transport hubs in Yorkshire, to help meet growing industrial demand for low-carbon hydrogen in Northern England. The partnership distributes fuel-cell-grade hydrogen at 99.97% purity, suitable for industrial applications, transport and off-grid energy uses. The initiative aims to provide decarbonisation options for hard-to-abate sectors, including manufacturing, heavy transport and industrial energy users.

More info here.

Tees Valley Targets Global Investment Opportunities with Advanced Manufacturing as a Key Focus

Tees Valley

29th September 2026

The Tees Valley Combined Authority has launched a new Inward Investment Strategy for 2026-2031, designed to attract high-value investment and support long-term economic growth across the region. The strategy identifies priority international markets across Europe, the Middle East, the Far East, the United States and Canada, focusing efforts on locations most likely to generate investment and job creation. Target sectors include clean energy, chemicals and processing, life sciences and biomanufacturing, advanced manufacturing, and digital industries, reflecting areas where Tees Valley believes it has strong competitive advantages.

More info here.

Government Creates New Public Body, Great British Grid, Aimed at Improving Grid Connections

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Great British Energy

29th September 2026

The Government has announced the creation of the new Great British Grid (GBG), a new publicly owned body within Great British Energy, to accelerate investment in the UK's electricity network. This is aimed at speeding up grid connections for households, businesses and energy projects for economic growth and the deployment of new clean energy capacity. GBG is set to work alongside existing network operators and combine public and private investment, to help deliver critical grid infrastructure and increase competition in network development. The policy is intended to support the large-scale expansion and modernisation of the electricity network, enabling greater electrification, new renewable generation and industrial growth.

More info here.

Government Announces British Shipbuilding Through Major Maritime Investments

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

28th September 2026

The Government has announced major investment in British shipbuilding as part of a wider strategy to support industrial growth, national security and skilled employment. Three new floating docks will be procured through a UK-only competition for the Royal Navy's submarine fleet at HM Naval Base Clyde under Programme Euston. The Government has also committed funding for a new marine research vessel to support marine research, sustainable fisheries management and long-term stewardship of UK waters, providing economic benefits for coastal communities. Projects are intended to be delivered by

UK companies, helping sustain domestic shipbuilding capacity and supporting supply chains across the country.

More info here.

Major Hydrogen Hub Plans in Humber to Support Industrial Decarbonisation

Energy News Live

28th September 2026

A new proposed Humber Hydrogen cluster in Humber could generate around £17 billion in economic value, positioning the Humber as a major centre for the UK's emerging hydrogen economy. The development is being led by Centrica, Equinor, National Gas and SSE Thermal, combining expertise in hydrogen production, storage, transport and power generation. The project could support more than 54,000 construction jobs and plans include more than 4GW of hydrogen-to-power capacity and around 3GW of low-carbon hydrogen production, supporting both industrial decarbonisation and energy security. Hydrogen storage infrastructure in the Humber could provide up to 65% of Britain's planned new-build hydrogen storage capacity.

More info here.

New Cornwall Lithium Mine to Recieve £43 Million and Strengthen UK Critical Mineral Supply

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

27th September 2026

Geothermal Engineering Limited (GEL) is set to invest around £43 million in a new lithium extraction facility in Cornwall, supported by nearly £10 million worth of DRIVE35 Automotive Transformation Fund. The project is aimed at strengthening the UK's domestic supply of lithium, a critical mineral used in various clean energy technologies such as electric vehicle batteries and advanced manufacturing. The investment is expected to create almost 50 direct jobs and support around 80 additional jobs across the supply chain. The Cornwall facility is expected to begin commercial production in 2029, producing around 1,500 tonnes of technical-grade lithium carbonate annually.

More info here.

INEOS Suspends Operations at Hull Chemical Plants

INEOS

22nd September 2026

INEOS has announced the idling of all three of its world-scale chemical plants in Hull, citing uncompetitive energy costs and deteriorating operating conditions for European industry. The facilities are Europe's last remaining world-scale acetyls plants, producing key chemical intermediates used in sectors including pharmaceuticals, construction materials, detergents, cosmetics, clothing and explosives. The plants support nearly 4,000 skilled jobs and associated apprenticeship programmes, raising concerns about the wider impact on UK and European industrial employment and supply chains. INEOS argues that the Hull facilities are among the most efficient acetyls plants globally, having benefited from sustained investment and operating with relatively low carbon emissions

More info here.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) Connects Nuclear Leaders for Nuclear Reform

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, Nuclear Restoration Services, Nuclear Waste Services and Sellafield Ltd

17th September 2026

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has brought together senior leaders from across the UK nuclear sector to accelerate implementation of the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce (NRTF) Review recommendations. This aims to modernise the UK's nuclear regulatory system, supporting faster and more efficient delivery across decommissioning, new nuclear projects and wider sector activities. The proposed changes are intended to support economic growth, reindustrialisation and skilled employment, helping unlock what stakeholders describe as a new era for the UK nuclear sector

More info here.

New Skills Programme Supports Future Clean Energy Workforce in Tees Valley

NZTPower

15th September 2026

A new Tees Valley Net Zero Industry Enrichment Programme has been launched to help prepare students for careers in the low-carbon energy sector. The programme is being delivered by Technip Energies, Balfour Beatty and Costain, alongside the NZT Power project and local education providers. Students from several Teesside colleges and training providers are participating, including Hartlepool College, Darlington College, Middlesbrough College, Redcar & Cleveland College and NETA. Students will have opportunities to visit the NZT Power construction site and engage directly with industry leaders, giving them practical insight into large-scale clean energy infrastructure projects

More info here.

Government Announces Plans to Acquire Speciality Steel UK

Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade

14th September 2026

The UK Government and Business Secretary Jonathan Reynolds have announced plans to pursue the public acquisition of Speciality Steel UK (SSUK), following a decision not to support the proposed sale to the preferred bidder. SSUK employs more than 1,300 people across sites in Rotherham, Stocksbridge, Brinsworth and Wednesbury, making it a key regional and industrial employer. SSUK entered liquidation in 2025 after prolonged financial difficulties, which followed the collapse of its key lender, Greensill Capital, in 2021. The move is intended to maintain strategic control over nationally important industrial assets while a sustainable long-term future for the business is explored.

More info here.

New Offshore Energies (OEUK) Report Highlights Potential for 100+ New North Sea Projects

BBC

14th September 2026

In a new industry report, Offshore Energies UK (OEUK) has outlined that stronger government support for domestic oil and gas production could unlock 111 North Sea projects, potentially attracting around £50 billion of investment, and supplying half of domestic oil and gas needs. OEUK states that the oil

and gas sector supported around 180,000 UK jobs in 2024, and further investment could help sustain employment and supply chain activity. OEUK is calling for changes to the Energy Profits Levy (EPL) and a more supportive regulatory framework, arguing that the current tax system has constrained investment activity and highlights major projects such as Rosebank and Jackdaw as important test cases. Read the full Economic Report 2026 here.

More info here.

New UK and US Fusion Partnerships Aim to Accelerate Clean Energy Innovation

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

14th September 2026

The UK and US have announced a new partnership to accelerate the development of commercial fusion energy, strengthening cooperation in fusion research, artificial intelligence and advanced computing. The agreements were announced at the Global Fusion Policy Summit in London as fusion energy is expected to support significant economic growth and job creation, with the UK fusion sector projected to support more than 10,000 jobs by 2030. The partnership supports wider UK ambitions to become a global leader in fusion energy, building on the government's £2.5 billion fusion investment programme.

More info here.

National Audit Office (NAO) Review Assesses Progress on Grid Infrastructure Programme

National Audit Office and Department for Energy Security and Net Zero

11th September 2026

The National Audit Office has released the Department for Energy Security & Net Zero's new Upgrading the Electricity Transmission Network report. The Department for Energy Security & Net Zero (DESNZ), Ofgem and National Energy System Operator (NESO) are working together on a major programme to upgrade the UK's electricity transmission network to support economic growth, long-term net zero objectives and Clean Power 2030 ambitions. NESO has identified more than 80 transmission projects that are needed to increase grid capacity and reduce system constraints, helping move renewable electricity more effectively around the country.

More info here.

National Wealth Fund Backs Edinburgh Waterfront Regeneration Project

The National Wealth Fund

11th September 2026

The National Wealth Fund has provided a £38.4 million loan to the City of Edinburgh Council to support enabling works for the first phase of the Granton Waterfront regeneration project. Granton Waterfront is one of Scotland's largest brownfield regeneration schemes, transforming a former industrial site into a new coastal community in north Edinburgh. The investment is expected to unlock a further £160 million of private sector funding, helping improve the project's financial viability and accelerate housing delivery.

More info here.

National Wealth Fund Announces Expansion of Regional Growth Partnerships

The National Wealth Fund

7th September 2026

The National Wealth Fund has announced that it is expanding its Regional Partnerships Programme, establishing new strategic partnerships with South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, North East Mayoral Strategic Authority and Cardiff Capital Region. The partnerships will provide regional authorities with direct access to the National Wealth Fund's investment expertise, advisory support and capital, helping to accelerate infrastructure and economic development projects. This new strategic initiative aims to strengthen local project pipelines and attract public and private investment, supporting long-term regional economic growth and job creation.

More info here.

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2. UK Parliament

Public Accounts Committee (PAC) Publishes New 'Government Intervention in British Steel Ltd. Report'

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee

18th September 2026

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) has raised concerns that the Government has not yet set out a credible long-term plan for the future of British Steel following its intervention and subsequent public ownership. The Government's emergency intervention in April 2025 successfully prevented the closure of British Steel's blast furnaces and preserved UK primary steelmaking capability, but the PAC argues that it did not resolve the company's underlying financial challenges. The inquiry also highlighted wider challenges facing the UK steel sector, including energy costs, decarbonisation, access to raw materials, future technologies and the impact of trade measures on competitiveness. Read the full report here.

More info here.

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee Publishes 'The future of Thames Water and special administration' Report

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee

18th September 2026

The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Committee has urged the Government to reject proposals from Thames Water's creditor group and instead consider placing the company into a Special Administration Regime (SAR). MPs argue that Thames Water's long-running financial and operational difficulties have exposed weaknesses in the regulatory framework governing the water industry. The report recommends strengthening rules around special administration, including allowing regulators to intervene earlier where companies demonstrate chronic underperformance. MPs are calling for greater regulatory oversight of struggling water companies, along with clearer conditions for intervention to prevent similar situations arising in future. Read the full report here.

More info here.

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee Highlights Need for Energy Transition to Deliver Visible Benefits

Energy Security and Net Zero Committee

17th September 2026

The Energy Security and Net Zero committee has published its "Zero sum game: How the UK can reframe the energy transition" report, examining how the Government can strengthen public support for the UK's energy transition. The Committee concludes that delivering tangible energy bill savings and business cost reductions is the most important step for building public support and urges the Government to implement recommendations from its earlier report on energy costs. The report welcomes the growing emphasis on energy security as a driver of the energy transition, arguing that reducing exposure to volatile international fossil fuel markets can strengthen public engagement.

More info here.

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3. Scotland

Hundreds of Jobs at Risk Following Syngenta's Consultation on Grangemouth Site

BBC

1st October 2026

Chemicals firm Syngenta has announced plans to cease operations at its Grangemouth site, placing 377 jobs at risk and launching a formal consultation with employees and trade unions. The company outlines that the Grangemouth facility is significantly more expensive to operate than its other production sites, despite efforts to improve efficiency and reduce costs. The company has stressed that no final decision has yet been made and says it remains committed to exploring potential alternatives. Syngenta also cites increasing international competition and challenging operating conditions as key factors behind the proposal, following a detailed review of the site's future viability.

More info here.

Major Offshore Wind Manufacturing Investment Announced for Montrose

Offshore Wind Scotland

28th September 2026

Subsea Micropiles is set to invest more than £5 million to establish a new manufacturing facility at the Port of Montrose, expected to create around 80 new jobs manufacture anchoring and foundation components for floating offshore wind turbines. The investment is being supported by £1.45 million from Scottish Enterprise, following a £6.7 million commercial investment delivered through the Scottish National Investment Bank. SSE has also selected Montrose as its preferred location for the operations and maintenance base for the planned Berwick Bank B Offshore Wind Farm, which is expected to create

a further 100 jobs. Together, the two announcements could support around 180 jobs, reinforcing the Port of Montrose's growing role as a hub for offshore wind operations and manufacturing.

More info here.

Funding Package Aims to Strengthen Clean Energy Projects in the North East and Moray

Scottish Government

10th September 2026

The Scottish Government has announced £17.5 million of support through its Just Transition Fund, backing 22 projects across the North East and Moray that are expected to create and support more than 500 jobs. The funding package includes support for seven commercial projects and 15 community projects, with focuses including clean energy, climate resilience and nature restoration. The funding is expected to leverage a further £10 million of private investment, increasing the overall economic impact of the supported projects. Hydrasun is among the recipients, receiving £1.9 million to support the establishment of Scotland's first electrolyser assembly and integration facility, strengthening domestic clean energy manufacturing capability

More info here.

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4. Wales

Welsh Senedd was in a period of recess from 20th July to 13th September

Innovation Programme Explores Accelerating Electricity Connections

Business Industry Wales

1st October 2026

National Grid Electricity Distribution, Net Zero Industry Wales and Celtic Freeport have launched a new innovation programme to explore accelerating electricity connections for industrial customers in South Wales. The programme aims to make better use of existing electricity network capacity, helping businesses access power sooner while longer-term grid infrastructure upgrades are developed. More than 25 potential solutions were identified through stakeholder engagement, focusing on network flexibility, earlier connections and improved utilisation of existing electricity infrastructure.

More info here.

META Secures Funding Boost from The Crown Estate for Renewable Energy Testing

Marine Energy Wales

29th September 2026

Wales' Marine Energy Test Area (META) has secured a one-year investment from The Crown Estate, reinforcing its role as a nationally significant facility for marine energy innovation and technology testing. The investment will support the continued operation of META and help accelerate the development and testing of emerging clean energy technologies, contributing to the UK's net zero ambitions. Located in the Milford Haven Waterway in Pembrokeshire, META provides eight pre-consented offshore test sites, supporting the development of wave, tidal, floating offshore wind and offshore hydrogen technologies.

More info here.

£6.4 Million Approved to Explore Severn Tidal Power

Marine Energy Wales

16th September 2026

Cardiff Capital Region (CCR) has approved funding to explore the development of a tidal lagoon in the Severn Estuary, advancing plans for what could become one of the UK's largest marine renewable energy projects. CCR will invest up to £6.4 million over the next three years to support detailed feasibility and development studies, including environmental assessments, engineering design, modelling and commercial analysis. Initial estimates suggest the project could generate around 600MW of predictable renewable electricity.

More info here.

New Regional Skills Partnership Targets Future Energy Workforce

Marine Energy Wales

15th September 2026

Four further education colleges across South West Wales have formed a new regional partnership to help develop the workforce needed for the region's growing renewable energy and industrial sectors, bringing together NPTC Group of Colleges, Gower College Swansea, Pembrokeshire College and Coleg Sir Gâr. The initiative aims to equip local people with the skills, qualifications and training needed for emerging economic opportunities, particularly in the renewable energy sector and other high-growth industries. The partnership is linked to anticipated investment across South West Wales, including opportunities associated with the Celtic Freeport and wider regional economic development plans.

More info here.

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5. Consultations and calls for evidence

- Dunkelflaute and the risks of electricity intermittency., Environment and Climate Change Committee, closes on 12 October 2026
- Capacity Market: changes for Prequalification 2027, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, closes on 27 October 2026

- Modification to Standard Licence Condition 31E of the electricity distribution licence , Ofgem, closes on 28 October 2026
- RIIO-ED2 ESR Re-opener: proposed Price Control Deliverables for SP Distribution and SP Manweb, Ofgem, closes on 30 October
- Shape plans for a new clean energy company, owned by Wales, to benefit Wales, Welsh Government, closes on 30 November 2026

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6. Funding Opportunities

- **CfI: Engineering Biology for Defra and FSA Phase 1 – closes on 14th October 2026**

  Organisations can apply for a share up to £3 million inclusive of VAT, to develop and scale Engineering Biology platforms, products and services.

  Apply here.

- **MDI Programme Innovation and Scale-up Hub – closes on 18th October 2026**

  UK registered eligible organisations can apply for a share of up to £4 million for a Manufacturing Digitalisation Innovation and Scale-up Hub to improve the targeting, quality and commercial impact of grant funded activity.

  Apply here.

- **Efficient, Structured and Controllable AI Systems – closes on 18th October 2026**

  UK registered SME businesses can apply for a share of up to £1.66 million to deliver experimental validation of prototype AI systems for novel reusable components of efficient, structured and controllable learning systems.

  Apply here.

- **Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund – closes on 21st October 2026**

  Organisations can apply for a share of up to £30 million exclusive of VAT, for collaborative Discovery Phase Projects that meet the Round 5 challenges. This funding is from the Ofgem Strategic Innovation Fund.

  Apply here - Round 5 Discovery C7

  Apply here - Discovery C7

- **National Materials Innovation Programme: CR&D Rd1 – closes on 28th October 2026**

  UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £12 million for collaborative industrial research to speed the translation of advanced materials innovations in three prioritised high growth themes and one strategic opportunity theme.

  Apply here.

- **DRIVE35 Scale-up Fund Drawdown 5 – closes on 4th November 2026**

  UK registered organisations can apply for a share of up to £150 million to create scale up manufacturing facilities for zero emission vehicle technologies.

  Apply here.

- **Battery Innovation– closes on 2nd December 2026**

  UK registered businesses can apply for a share of up to £25 million to support innovation in battery grade material technologies for electrification. This funding is from The Battery Innovation Programme.

  Apply here - Feasibility Studies Rd 3

  Apply here - Concept Development Rd 3

- **EPSRC Advanced Materials: highlight notice - closing date TBC**

  EPSRC is seeking to support applications through **their** standard research grant scheme in advanced materials solutions for critical minerals and in-situ and in operando materials metrology and characterisation.

  Apply here.

- **Scotland's Heat Network Fund – Funding ongoing**

  Scotland's Heat Network Fund (SHNF) offers capital grants to businesses and organisations in the public, private and third sectors to develop heat network projects.

  Apply here.

- **Knowledge Transfer Partnership – no closing date**

  For businesses, research organisations and graduates to work on an innovation project partnerships between 12 and 36 months. Funding is provided to support the total cost of the project – businesses provide around one-third to half of the project costs depending on their size.

  Apply here.

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7. Europe / International

European Commission Approves Three New Cross-Border Renewable Projects

European Commission

1st October 2026

The European Commission has granted Cross-Border Renewable Energy (CB RES) status to three additional renewable energy projects, bringing the total number of projects with CB RES status to 15. The newly approved projects are WIND, DEPLOY and ZEGA-LINNK, spanning cooperation between Ukraine-Romania, Poland-Germany and Austria-Germany. Projects awarded CB RES status become eligible to apply for support through the EU's Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Energy programme for studies and implementation activities. The CB RES programme is intended to accelerate renewable energy deployment, improve energy security and strengthen cooperation between countries through shared energy infrastructure and resources.

More info here.

€100 Million Investment Supports Romanian Solar Expansion

European Investment Bank Group

30th September 2026

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved €100 million of financing for the Dama Solar project in western Romania, supporting the development of one of Europe's largest solar power plants. Developed by Rezolv Energy, the project will have a planned capacity of approximately 1.3 GW, contributing significantly to Romania's renewable electricity generation capacity. The overall investment is estimated at €728 million, with EIB financing helping to unlock a much larger package of private and institutional investment. Construction is expected to support around 1,500 jobs over the next three years, generating wider economic benefits.

More info here.

Terms and Conditions Announced for New EU Auction Targets Industrial Process Heat Emissions

European Commission

24th September 2026

The European Commission has published the final terms and conditions for its second Europe-wide auction supporting industrial process heat decarbonisation, known as the IF26 Heat Auction. The auction will have a budget of €1 billion funded through revenues from the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) and is expected to open for applications in December 2026. The scheme targets industrial process heat, which currently accounts for around three-quarters of industrial emissions and remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels across sectors such as steel, cement, chemicals, food and beverage, and pulp and paper.

More info here.

New EU Framework Aims to Improve Data Centre Sustainability

European Commission

21st September 2026

The European Commission has proposed a new EU-wide rating scheme for data centres to improve transparency around energy and water use and support their sustainable integration into Europe's energy system. The initiative comes as the EU seeks to triple its data centre capacity over the next five to seven years. The rating scheme will apply to individual data centres with a capacity above 500 kW,

assessing factors such as energy efficiency, water use, grid flexibility, waste heat recovery and clean energy integration. Alongside the rating scheme, the Commission has launched a consultation on potential minimum performance standards for data centres.

More info here.

Greensand Project Moves Carbon Storage into Commercial Operation

INEOS

18th September 2026

INEOS Energy, along with Harbour Energy and Nordsøfonden, has launched the Greensand project, described as the first full-scale commercial CO_2 storage facility operating in the European Union. The facility provides a complete carbon capture and storage (CCS) value chain, enabling CO_2 to be captured, transported and permanently stored beneath the North Sea. Captured CO_2 will initially be sourced primarily from Danish biomethane plants, creating an operational market for permanent carbon storage while larger industrial capture projects continue to develop. The project's first commercial phase is expected to store up to 400,000 tonnes of CO_2 annually, providing a significant new storage option for European emitters.

More info here.

EIB Financing Accelerates Lithunia Port Transformation and Energy Infrastructure

European Commission

15th September 2026

The European Investment Bank (EIB) has approved a €100 million loan to support the transformation of Port of Klaipėda, Lithuania's largest seaport, into a strategic hub for defence, energy and trade in the Baltic region. The investment will help modernise and expand port infrastructure, strengthening the port's role in military mobility, clean energy development and regional logistics. The wider programme includes major clean-energy investments, such as shore-side electricity supply for vessels, green hydrogen production and refuelling infrastructure, and low-emission port equipment.

More info here.

Commission Launches New Academy for Energy Regulators

European Commission

15th September 2026

The European Commission and the European University Institute have launched the Energy Regulation Academy (EnRA), a new initiative designed to help national authorities implement EU electricity sector reforms more effectively. The Academy aims to strengthen the capacity of public authorities responsible for energy regulation, helping turn EU policy objectives into practical outcomes for citizens, businesses and energy markets. The initiative is intended to address a key implementation challenge facing the energy transition: ensuring national authorities have the expertise and institutional capacity needed to apply increasingly complex energy regulations.

More info here.

Commission backs €40 million EIB investment in Finnish small modular reactor technology

European Commission

15th September 2026

The European Commission, through the InvestEU programme, is supporting a €40 million investment from the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Finnish nuclear technology company Steady Energy to advance small modular reactor (SMR) technology. The financing will support the development of a heat-focused small modular reactor designed to provide carbon-free heat for cities and industry, offering an alternative to fossil-fuel-based heating systems. This marks the EIB's first-ever investment in SMR technology and will fund research, testing, licensing and development activities in Finland between 2026 and 2028, helping prepare the technology for commercial deployment.

More info here.

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8. Policy reports

A selection of recent reports, briefings and other publications with relevance to industrial decarbonisation policy. To suggest publications to be featured here, please contact us at policy@idric.org

POLICY REPORT: Decarbonising UK Glass and Ceramics: Building an Evidence Base

IDRIC

The UK glass and ceramics sectors are critical to the UK's industrial base but face significant decarbonisation challenges due to their energy-intensive, high-temperature processes. While both sectors have made progress in energy efficiency and plans for decarbonisation, high energy costs, infrastructure constraints, long asset lifecycles, and international competitive pressures continue to limit deployment and investment. Participants highlighted the need for lower industrial energy costs, targeted financial support, clear long-term policy signals, and continued research and innovation. Without coordinated government action, there is a risk of declining competitiveness and underinvestment despite clear pathways towards a lower-carbon future.

Download.

POLICY REPORT: Recommendations for Policymakers to Accelerate Industrial Decarbonisation in the UK

IDRIC

The UK must be at the forefront of industrial transformation to enhance economic and social wellbeing while also ensuring that this growth is environmentally sustainable. By drawing out insights from IDRIC's 14-part Frontiers Reports series, this document sets out priority recommendations for policymakers that can help achieve industrial growth while also fulfilling UK's decarbonisation goals.

Since the Modern Industrial Strategy (MIS) is now the guiding framework for industrial progress in the UK, this report organises the recommendations around the four goals of the MIS, demonstrating how decarbonisation can be integrated with the industrial ambitions of the UK.

Download.

POLICY REPORT: Potential Of Consumer Led Flexibility in Industry

IDRIC

The report examines how UK industrial consumers could help balance a low-carbon electricity system by adjusting the timing, level or source of their electricity demand.

Drawing on a literature review, stakeholder workshop and interviews with industry, government, regulators and research organisations, the report assesses the practical potential for industrial consumer-led flexibility across energy-intensive sectors. Case studies of cement and steel demonstrate how process characteristics, storage capacity, production schedules and operational risks shape the flexibility that individual sites can realistically provide.

The report identifies a persistent gap between technical potential and commercial viability. It sets out recommendations for more stable incentives, improved data and digitalisation, process-aware measurement and settlement and closer integration of flexibility into industrial electrification and decarbonisation strategies. The report concludes that industrial flexibility should be designed around the realities of manufacturing, enabling industry to support a more resilient, affordable and low-carbon UK electricity system without compromising competitiveness or production.

Download.

Evaluation of the Röt Halite Member as a top seal for carbon dioxide storage in the Southern North Sea

British Geological Survey

This paper examines the Röt Halite Member, a thick layer of ancient salt deposits above the Bunter Sandstone Formation in the UK Southern North Sea, which is being explored as a major site for storing captured CO2. Using data from 600 wells, researchers mapped how this salt layer varies in thickness and structure, revealing up to five separate cycles laid down as an ancient sea repeatedly grew and shrank. Combined with rock sample analysis, the findings show where the salt layer should form a strong seal and where faulting may weaken it, helping ensure CO2 storage sites are chosen and assessed safely.

Download.

Beyond industrial decarbonisation strategy: Lessons from the bottom-up policy mix in the United Kingdom, 2021–2023

Heriot-Watt University, Centro de Investigación en Materiales Avanzados S.C.

Industrial decarbonisation (ID) is a complex, cross-cutting challenge that calls for a mix of policies rather than a single approach. This paper builds on existing policy mix literature, arguing that bottom-up instrument mixes can fail to be consistent and comprehensive not just due to conflicting goals or missing instruments, but also missing information. It also considers how centrally coordinating policy functions can improve top-down coherence while undermining bottom-up coordination. Drawing on 118

expert interviews, the authors present the first detailed study of ID policy and regulation in a major OECD country, the UK, showing how a top-down focus on hydrogen and carbon capture innovation sits alongside existing planning, environmental, safety, and skills regulation, with limited coordination and resources slowing progress.

Download.

Navigating reconfiguration and systems disruption: Decarbonisation pathways for UK industrial clusters

American University of Sharjah, Aarhus Universitet, Alliance Manchester Business School University of Sussex Business School

Industrial decarbonisation is often assumed to follow a straightforward path, but this paper argues it is a contested process of wider system change, driven by both gradual adaptation and disruptive shifts that redraw the boundaries between sectors. Rather than treating these as separate routes, the authors show they are closely intertwined, offering a new "meta-system transformation" lens for understanding how decarbonisation reshapes industrial structures. Using the UK's largest industrial clusters as a case study, the paper traces how changes to infrastructure, markets and governance unfold. While plant-level measures like fuel switching and electrification drive incremental change, shared hydrogen and CO2 networks create broader disruption, restructuring coordination between industries and forming new dependencies.

Download.

Economic and life cycle assessment of novel hybrid energy and fuel generation systems from municipal waste through plasma gasification and anaerobic digestion coupled with carbon capture and storage

The University of Sheffield, University of Hull

This research investigates how plastic and food waste can be converted into useful energy products, including electricity, heating, cooling, and liquid biomethane, while minimising carbon emissions. Two system configurations were designed and assessed alongside three carbon capture and storage (CCS) strategies, revealing the real-world trade-offs between cost and environmental performance. The findings show that integrating CCS raises production costs but delivers meaningful emissions reductions, with some scenarios achieving net-negative carbon outcomes. The study provides the first integrated economic and environmental assessment of this type of hybrid waste-to-energy system, offering practical insights to support engineering development and inform low-carbon waste management policy.

Download.

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