



### Midlands Green Innovation Report

Ten Point Plan: Action 8.1-8.4

The **Midlands Green Innovation Report** was launched on 15 December at the first event of the new Midlands Green Innovation Network (MGIN) pilot. Delivered by the Energy Research Accelerator, the report - 'A Review of Green Innovation in the Midlands' - highlights the many R&D assets across the region and the strengths in such sectors as smart energy, waste and recycling, nuclear, and zero carbon transport. It notes also though that there are a number of energy-intensive businesses, particularly in inland regions, who need support decarbonising, as well as businesses who will need to pivot to low carbon products and ways of working. The report also highlights that a number of business support and coordination programmes across the region are coming to an end as ERDF funding comes to an end. As such, a couple of the reports recommendations focus on developing a business coordination and advisory network to support green innovation across the Midlands Engine.



### Midlands Green Innovation Network (MGIN) Launch

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Responding to the recommendations from the Midlands Green Innovation Report, the MGIN seeks to provide a network to enable businesses to meet their green innovation needs. The pilot programme is being delivered by Midlands Engine, Energy Research Accelerator and Federation of Small Businesses. Whether it's a business seeking to find the best way to decarbonise its operations or a start-up seeking support for its innovative green product, the MGIN will seek to provide networking and knowledge-exchange opportunities across the region. The first event of this year-long pilot programme took place at University of Nottingham's Ingenuity Centre

on 15 December. It highlighted the role Knowledge Transfer Partnerships can play helping businesses of all sizes to innovate using the R&D capability in universities.



### West Burton STEP Update

Ten Point Plan: Action 6.3

In October 2022, it was announced that the UK's prototype fusion reactor will be built at West Burton in Nottinghamshire. The consortium who supported the bid, led by Nottinghamshire County Council, is working to ensure that good progress continues to be made to ensure the site is ready for when construction begins. Work is already underway to ensure that the skills requirements for the future power plant are available with conversations on-going about siting new skills academies for training apprentices near the site.



West Burton STEP Fusion Site (Image: UKAEA)

### Business Finance for Net Zero

Ten Point Plan: Action 10.1 & 10.2

In March 2022, the Midlands Engine published the report: Demand and Supply of Green Finance in the Midlands Engine. In November, in partnership with the British Business Bank, a webinar was hosted entitled 'Business Finance for Net Zero'. This was targeted at regional business intermediaries and sought to provide them with a good understanding of how they can support businesses to access finance to achieve net zero objectives. Over fifty attended the webinar.