

NOTES OF MEETING

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 23rd May 2024, 4.00pm

Attendees:

Chair Gideon Ben-Tovim	Nature Connected, Climate Partnership
Vice Chair Cllr Gill Wood	Wirral BC, Climate Partnership
Tim Jago	Senior Policy Lead, Place & Net Zero
Rachel Waggett	LCRCA, Policy Lead, Environment (meeting admin)
Mark Knowles	LCRCA, Mersey Tidal - Energy & Industry Lead
Sean Maher	LCRCA, Policy Officer, Place & Net Zero
Archie McCluskey	LCRCA, Environment Officer
Andy Judd	Environment Agency
Annie Merry	Faiths for Change
David Shields	Value Match
Peter Owen	Energy Projects Plus
Megan Bennett	Knowsley BC
Nicky Crosby	Extinction Rebellion
Rob Allen	United Utilities
Nick Thompson	CPRE, Nature Connected
Andrew Evans	Friends of the Earth

Apologies received from:

Cllr Liz Grey	Wirral BC
Seline Wakerley	Wirral BC - LCRCA Youth CA Lead
Cllr Paulette Lappin	Sefton MBC
Paul Nolan	Mersey Forest

1. Welcome and introductions/ apologies for absence

GBT (Gideon Ben-Tovim) welcomed attendees and attendees introduced themselves as above.

2. Declarations of interest

- No declarations of interest

3. Notes of last meeting for agreement

Minutes from previous meeting agreed.

4. Matters arising

- No matters arising

5. Green Hydrogen Vision for Liverpool City Region (*Mark Knowles, LCR Mersey Tidal Power – Energy & Industry Lead*)

- Mark Knowles – shares slides
- This focused specifically on electrolytic, green hydrogen
- There is a history of hydrogen use in the LCR

- LCR has 16% of UK's energy intensive sector, currently mainly using natural gas. There is potential for hydrogen use here.
- Hydrogen will be more valuable used for industrial, hard to decarbonise applications, rather than areas where alternatives using electricity are widely available, such as personal vehicles and heating in homes.
- Challenges include getting the electricity required to produce enough green hydrogen – have we got enough renewable energy? Enough water?
- Significant clusters of gas use identified
- Industry may only replace an asset such as a gas furnace every 10 or 20 years, so replacing fuel supply in these assets can only be done in small windows, so there needs to be level of certainty with the new technology that is incoming in order to plan for this transition.
- 21 potential hydrogen hubs identified
- Existing fossil fuel demand at these hubs was converted to maximum net zero hydrogen demand
- Each area was broken into a much more detailed plan for each hub. 2030 and 2040 scenarios detailed.
- Potential to have a pipeline at hubs to link key users. Example shown of Speke/Halewood – Jaguar Land Rover (JLR) undergoing once-in-a-generation transformation, moving from production of petrol/diesel vehicles to production of electric vehicles. This will bring about a predicted reduction in energy use of around 70% (not just through converting to use of hydrogen – using geothermal energy as well in some cases)
- Hydrogen Allocation Round – small funds available for green hydrogen projects
- 2 bids submitted in LCR – 1 for JLR and 1 for Pilkingtons
- First designated pipeline training facility at Riverside College which means there will be a workforce ready for hydrogen deployment is needed
- Green hydrogen opportunities starting to come through into investment proposals and into deployment
- Examples already such as hydrogen buses, however there are different grades of hydrogen for different applications, so this type of practical issue is what is being worked through at the minute

Questions:

- Nicky Crosby - Are there gaps in courses?
- Mark Knowles – The question was asked about if we (as the LCR) need to put on whole new courses or just do what is required? Learning from past experiences with other examples of creating the skills for there to be less immediate demand than initially predicted. A solution could take the form of modules within related, more generic courses. There exists a question though of if we have enough people at present who could be trained to meet demand? This is where we are trying to be smarter with flexibility.
- Andy Evans – Noticed HyNet in one of the slides. Could clarification be given on relationship with HyNet?
- Mark Knowles – pipeline from HyNet due to reach St Helens by 2028
- No current date for the pipeline to be branched-off elsewhere due to current uncertainty in government support
- The timescales that HyNet are working on means that some industry can't wait for 100% green hydrogen due to the point made during the presentation about timescales that industrial users can work with to overhaul technology.
- Commercial arrangements for use of blue hydrogen would be made between HyNet and the industrial user as art of their business decision – this is out of our hands. Therefore blue hydrogen may have application in the LCR.

- Andy Evans – Friends of the Earth Liverpool would be concerned about any sort of HyNet involvement in the LCR energy mix, especially the carbon capture and storage element due to being unproven at scale. Equally, there were a lot of positives in the presentation given as well.
- Rob Allen – From a water intensity perspective, there are significant challenges to meet demand, so what is in-place for this?
- Mark Knowles – There is a possibility recycled water could be used as well as water reused from other industrial processes. There are numbers against water demand as part of the modelling.
- Rob Allen – Has there been any dialogue with United Utilities about these numbers?
- Mark Knowles – Information has been shared with Chris Matthews at United Utilities
- Rob Allen – Australia are early to the party in this area, so some learnings could be taken from there?
- Mark Knowles – Indeed, what we’re doing in the LCR is of international interest, but there are other areas of the world who are managing certain elements of such technologies vs extreme resource constraints.
- Cllr Wood – Interested in picking-up the skills element of the presentation with the LCRCA.

6. Progress on strategic Local Area Energy Planning in Liverpool City Region (Mark Knowles, LCR Mersey Tidal Power – Energy & Industry Lead)

- Mark Knowles – presents slides
- Local Area Energy Plans (LAEPs) have been around for a while but recently we have started to work on this
- LAEPs try to bring some of the thinking together around transitions which are needed at scale; attempting to look at this as one model
- Large undertaking, but simple process
- LAEPs are focused on energy and not carbon, but further on into this piece of work, carbon will have to be considered
- Working closely with Greater Manchester CA to see how they have been doing this
- Also been working closely with local authorities communities through early engagement
- Primary stakeholders and secondary stakeholders involved in the process. Primary stakeholders are local authorities and network operators who are creating the LAEP.
- Secondary stakeholders are responsible for supporting the LAEP production
- Stage 2 – stakeholder engagement – highlighted in different granularity and showing dependencies with a series of slides
- Mark Knowles – Asks the Climate Partnership about the role it wants to play in this.

Questions:

- Nick Thompson – Wants to understand how he and others in similar organisations can input into this process – e.g.: a lot of work has been done on rooftop solar that may be of use
- Mark Knowles – the data you have as a national organisation, best practice that you have found, insight into how this may be done, expected take-up rates that we may see, any areas of focus etc may be useful to the process. Would suggest that this is compiled through the Climate Partnership and then shared with colleagues working on LAEPs.
- Peter Owen – Recognises that this piece of work is massive. Warns also about misinformation with this and how right now, we should be informing the general population so that they can then engage on any proposals, rather than going down a certain pathway and then sharing it.
- Mark Knowles – There is definitely a growing requirement for a basic level of understanding and growing the understanding is crucial.

7. AOB

- Annie Merry – 9th Annual Gary Mahoney debate is happening on Thursday 6th July – focus this year on climate activism and social justice at the Adelphi in central Liverpool. Event details on



this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/9th-annual-gary-mahoney-memorial-debate-tickets-887510165797>

- Cllr Wood – LCR APPG Net Zero Manifesto launched on the 14th of May:
<https://appglcr.org.uk/2024/05/14/a-manifesto-for-net-zero/>

8. Next Meetings

Thursday 20th June 4pm – 5.30pm

Thursday 25th July 4pm – 5.30pm