

Insights from the Black Country Cluster

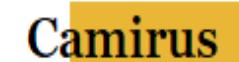
An energy intense economy without a CCS network

All-Energy 2023

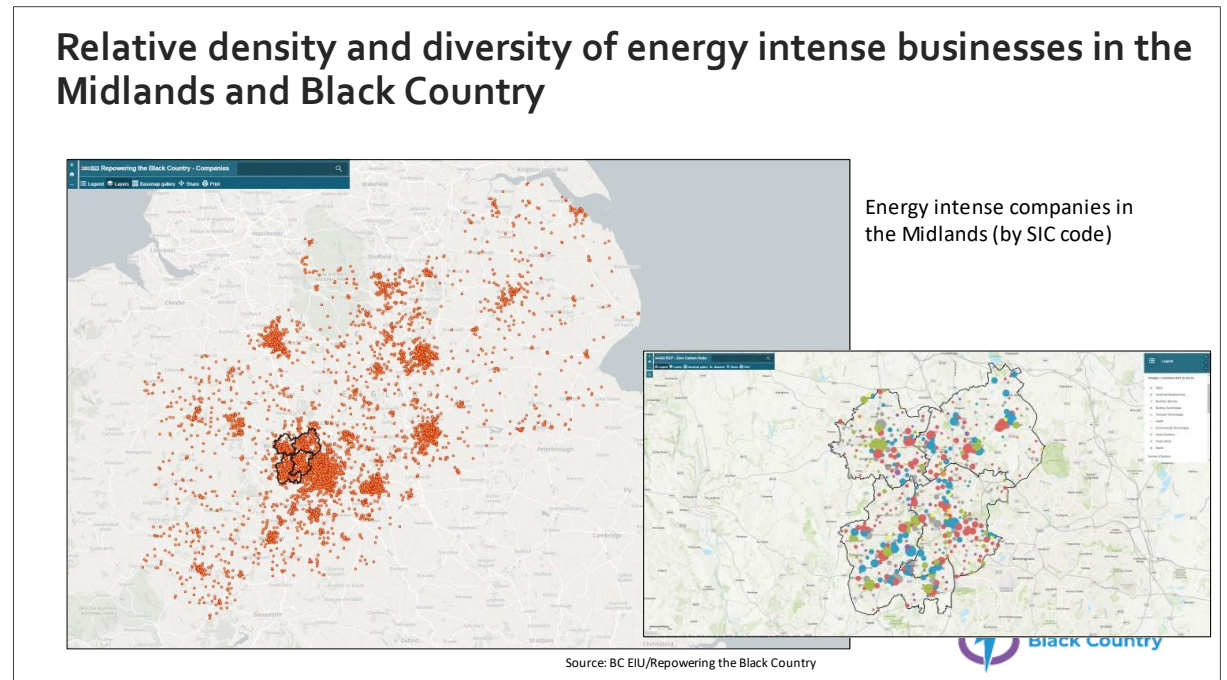
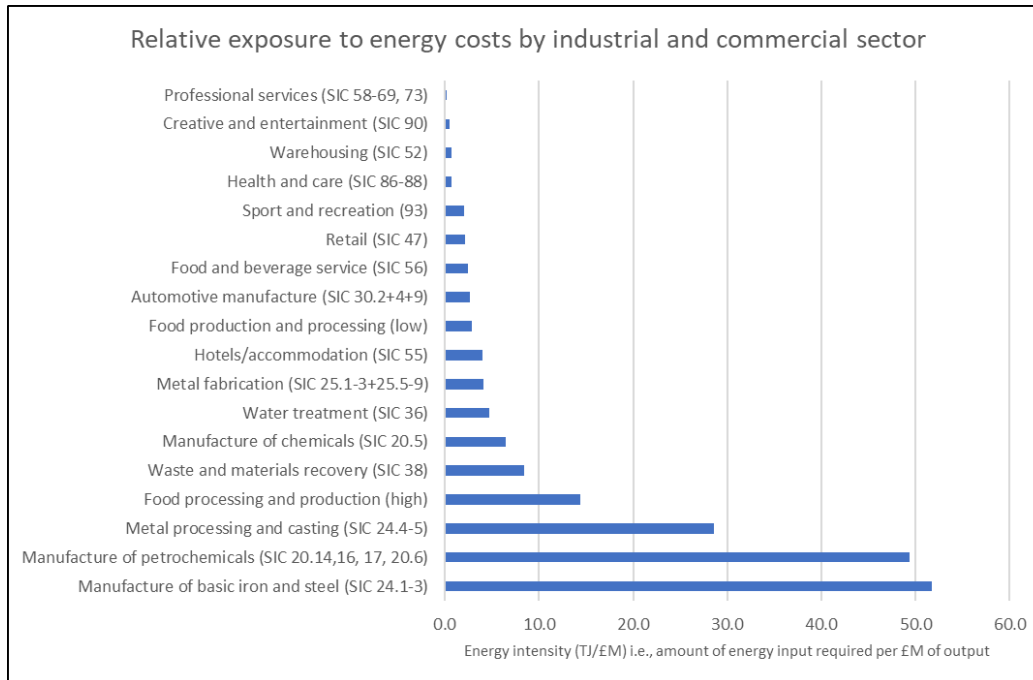
May 2023

Matthew Rhodes

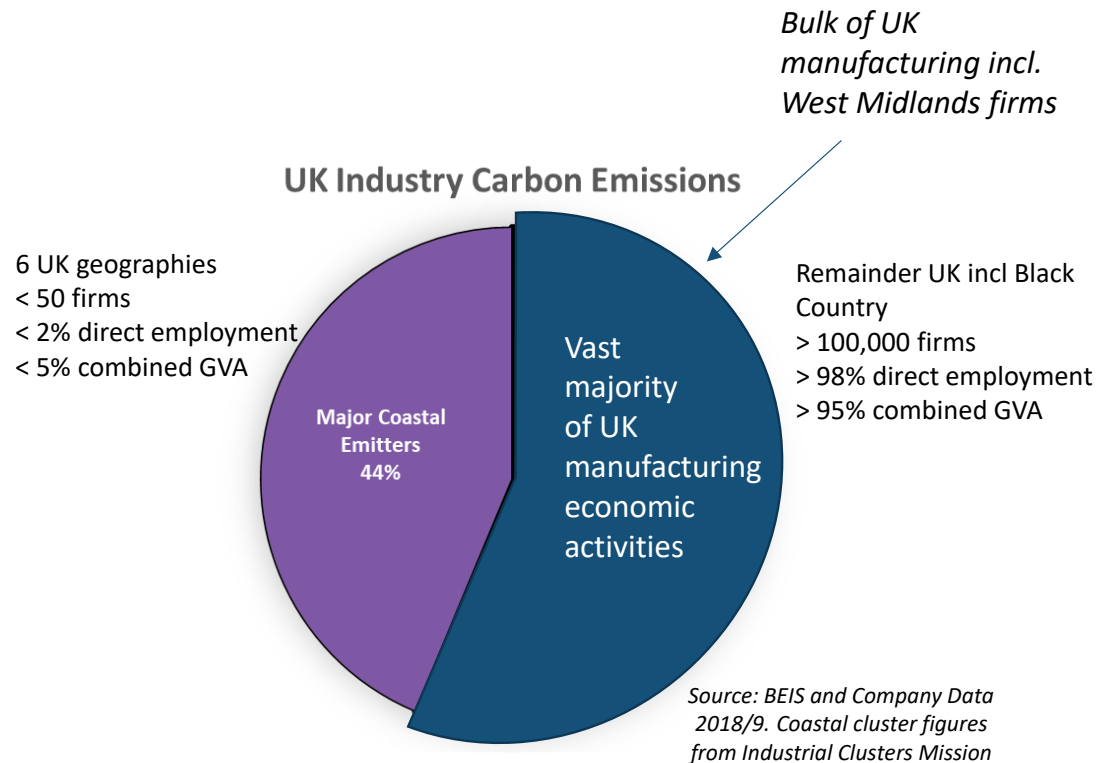
Repowering the Black Country is a collaborative project part-funded by UKRI through Innovate UK



We have no realistic prospect of economic access to CCS or hydrogen infrastructure but large numbers of energy-intensive manufacturers

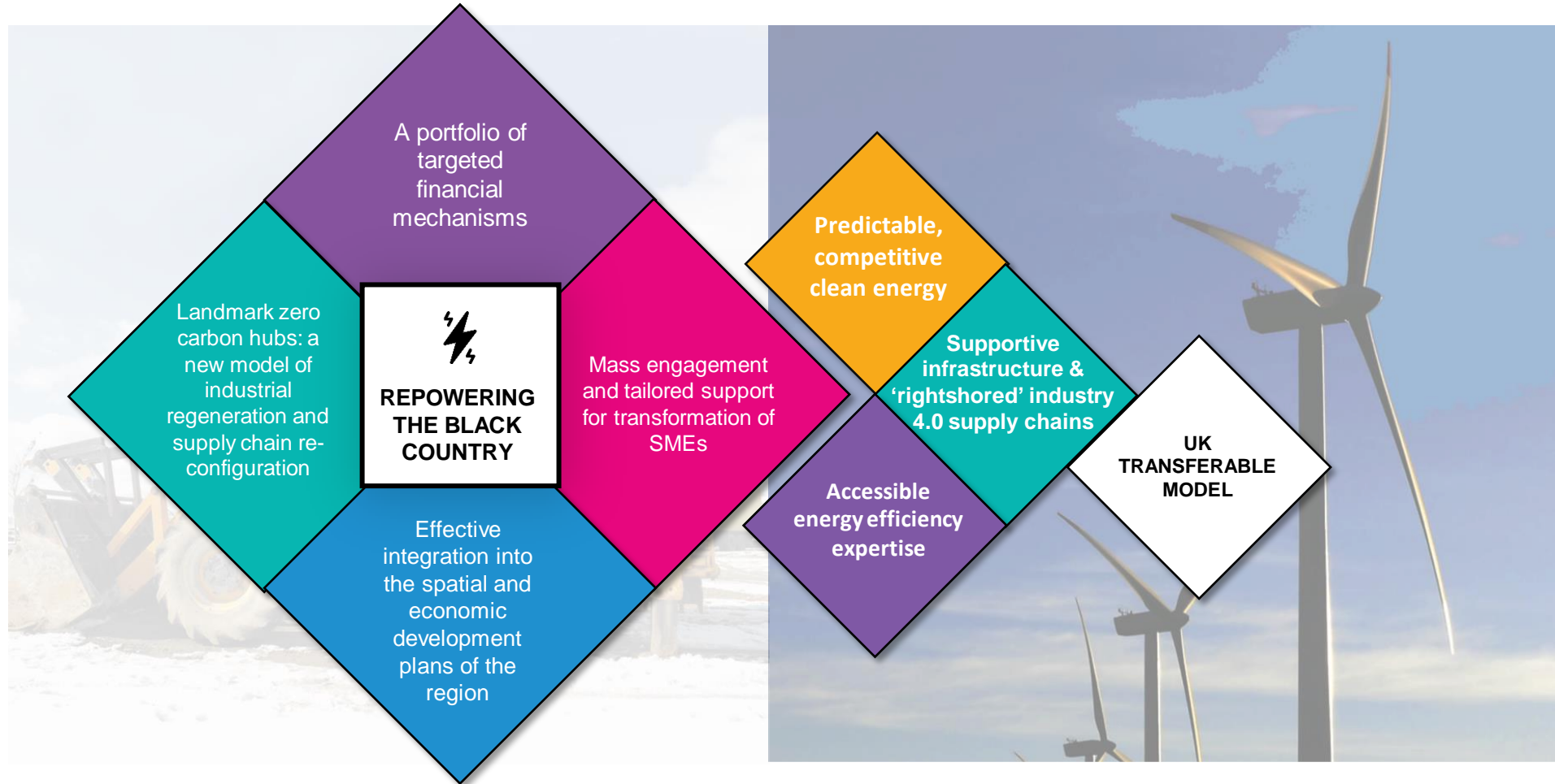


So we have an economic transition problem that goes beyond site decarbonisation

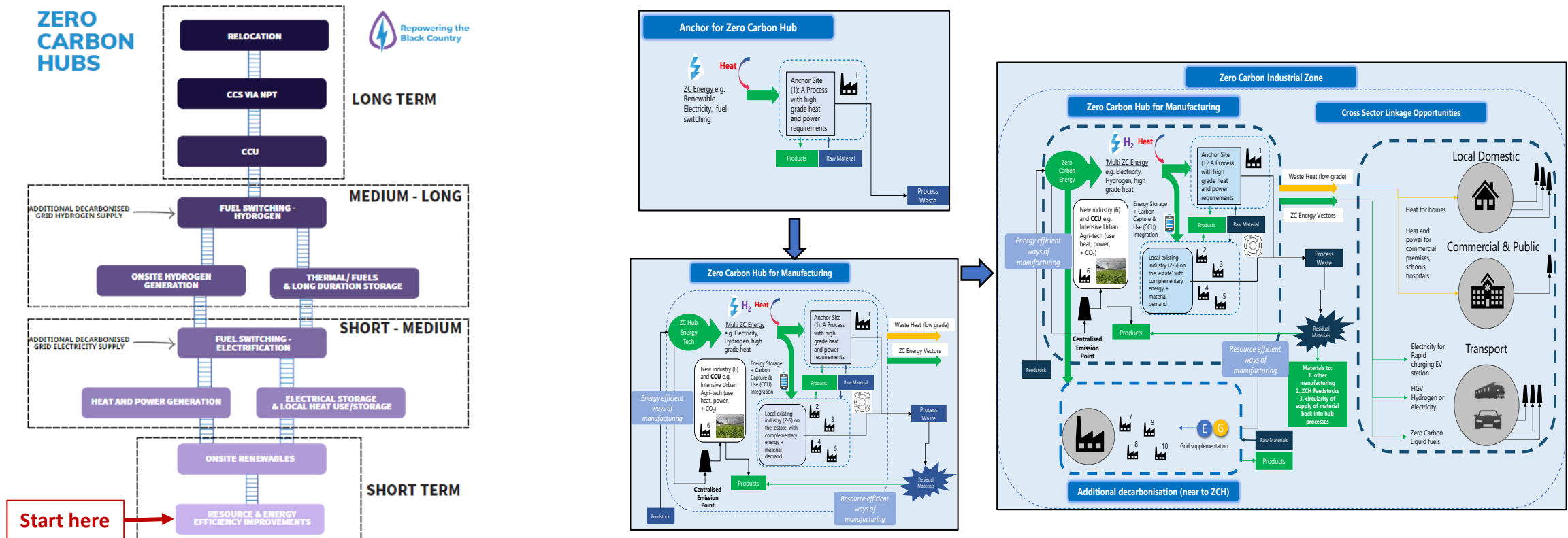


- Large numbers
- Diverse activities
- Lean supply chains/capacity issues
- More opportunity for strategic flexibility
- Greater engagement and inclusion challenges
- Higher premium on data
- More markets/incentives less infrastructure and technology
- Just transition?
- It's a different category of problem and solution than the coastal clusters

We are creating a portfolio of techniques to support individual companies, the energy sector and local authorities in managing a just and minimum cost transition

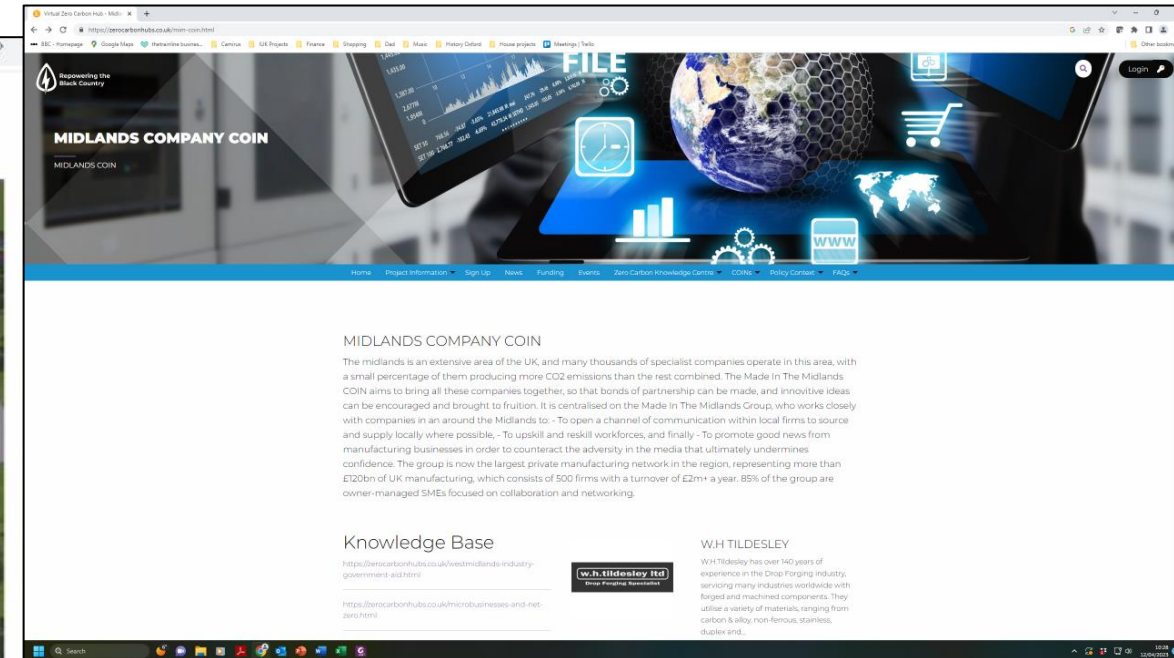
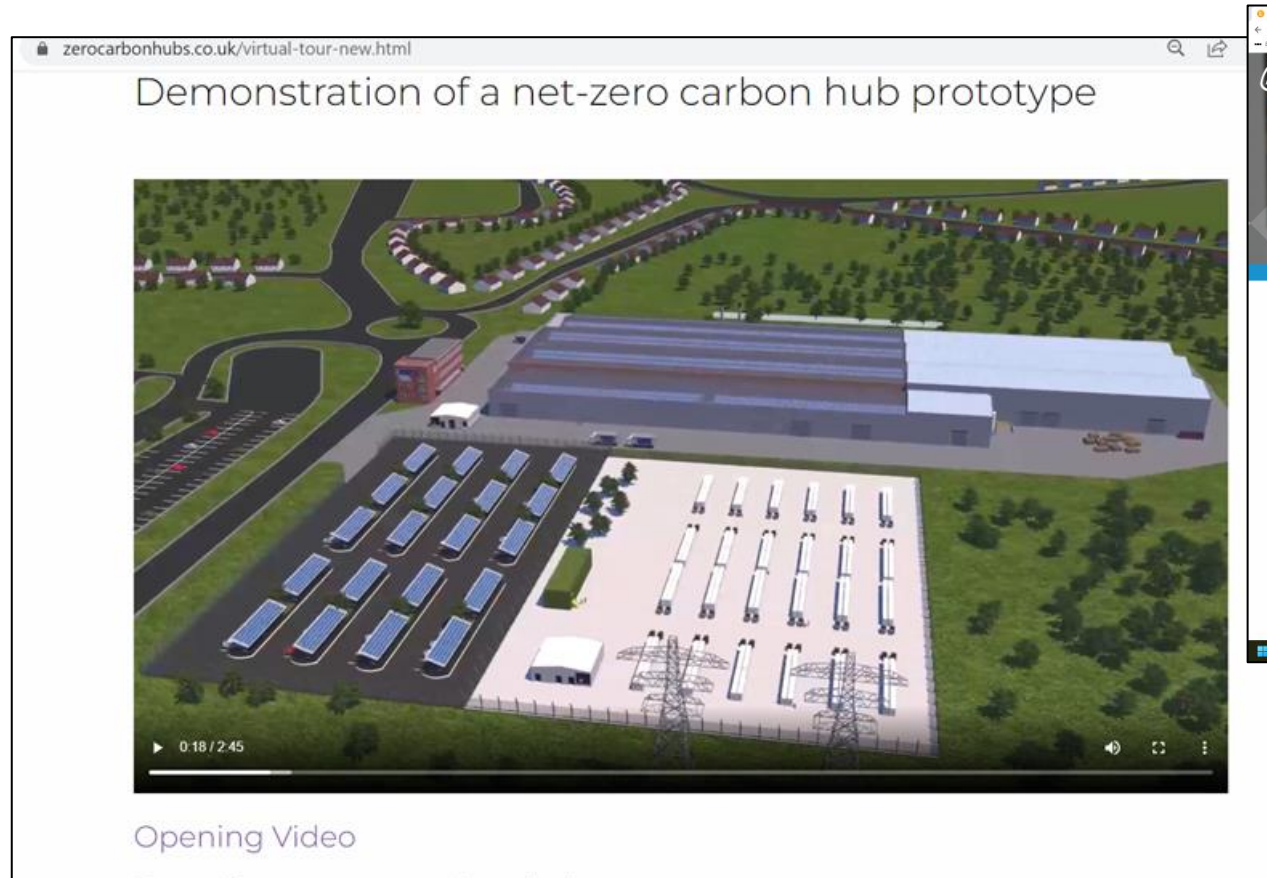


A standard methodology for developing zero carbon industrial hubs



**Key partner:
CR Plus**

A virtual zero carbon hub provided video animations, impartial advice and opportunities to engage with experts



Industrial companies could sign up to a platform which collected sub-metering data and provided ongoing analysis. Communities of interest (COINs) built local relationships. In these ways, the cluster begins to behave more like a single large industrial site, opening up more efficient financing and service opportunities for firms, energy network operating companies and suppliers.

www.zerocarbonhubs.co.uk – key partner: Pro Enviro

Key lessons and insights

- Data and relationships
 - Building on experience and existing institutions
 - Trust – competent and trusted independent delivery partners
 - Commercial confidentiality is fundamental
 - Access to finance and political developments
- Flexibility and market-sensitivity
 - Most participants engaged because of perceived business risk (energy costs, net zero unknowns)
 - Sympathetic to history and ambitions
- Inclusivity and openness
 - Industry Advisory Board
 - Reaching beyond zero carbon hubs
- Excellent project management
 - Simple, consistent, clear
 - Standard methodologies where appropriate
 - Great team – everyone had a clear role and contribution

Ongoing exploitation and next steps

- Individual project development
 - Five of the six hubs are proceeding at some level
- Replication
 - Within companies and across geographies
 - Strong interest in expanding across WMCA – ongoing discussions
- Black Country Industrial Cluster Limited
 - Anchors are establishing their own managing/support entity
- Centre for Manufacturing Transition
 - Seeking partners for national initiative in this spirit

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Repowering the Black Country

The Centre for Manufacturing Transition

A national initiative to support, inform and represent UK manufacturing through the transition to a net zero world.

UK Research and Innovation | INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY | Camirus | kew | District Ealing | WMG | Loughborough University | Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership | UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM | m3+ | Pro Enviro | R