



Funding for the green economy

Energy Institute seminar

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Overview

Introduction

- The green economy.
- Our objectives.

Delivering change

- The action plan 2022.

Funding to support delivery

- What has DfE delivered?
- Current UK wide funding snapshot.
- Northern Ireland specific funding.
- Barriers & response
- DfE eZine “Funding innovation for net zero.”

Review

- Key take aways.

The green economy

The core low carbon and renewable energy sector in Northern Ireland already generates around £1.06bn in turnover annually and provides 5,300 full time equivalent jobs.¹

- Fabricate, install, export or provide O&M for renewable technologies or related components, zero emission transport or green fuels.
- NI competence centers focused on research & development of projects, product or processes across the TRL scale.
- Associated advanced sectors underpinning 10x Economic Vision in specialist equipment manufacturing & supply chain worth at least £4.0b

Our vision

We will create new jobs and grow a skills base for the low carbon economy through innovation, support and focusing on our competitive strengths.

1: Low carbon and renewable energy economy, UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk) .

Our objectives

The Northern Ireland Energy Strategy² was published December 2021 followed by the first-year action plan in February 2022.

Overarching strategic aims:

- Deliver energy savings of 25% from buildings and industry by 2030.
- Meet at least 80%³ of electricity consumption from a diverse mix of renewable sources by 2030.
- Double the size of our core green economy to a turnover of more than £2 billion by 2030.
- Northern Ireland to be entirely self sufficient & energy secure via indigenously produced green gas and electricity with sufficient resilient flexible reserves.

2: Energy Strategy – The Path to Net Zero Energy and 1st action plan 2022 – 2023.

3: New climate change bill has increased target from 70% to 80% with impact to be modelled.

The action plan 2022

Is a closely managed approach to short term action planning and reporting demonstrating government's commitment to the delivery of its agreed energy strategy over the longer-term.

22 action points are currently under development in the 1st year with a number focused on early funding for the green economy:

- Deliver £10m through the green innovation challenge fund.
- Deliver a business case to develop the £15m Hydrogen Centre of Excellence at AMIC.
- Deliver a £15m energy efficiency scheme.
- Deliver £10m for local government invest to save projects.
- Deliver up to £5m for decarbonizing heat demonstrator projects.
- Deliver £3m for geothermal heat demonstrations.

What has DfE delivered

In the period before the Energy Strategy up to publication of the action plan, several crucial actions in supporting the green economy were implemented:

- January 2020 - £3.6m for Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy Phase 2 at QUB.
- January 2021 - £5m for 1mW electrolyser at NI Water to produce hydrogen and oxygen.
- September 2021 - £23m Skills up program (includes engineering & reskilling.)
- March 2022 - £4.5m for Green Innovation Challenge Fund (Pilot)

Current UK wide funding snapshot

As part of the Prime Minister's 10-point plan published in November 2020, the £1b Net Zero Innovation Portfolio was launched to enable the growth of the green economy across the UK. Most elements of this are available to Northern Ireland with regular application windows.

Major funding currently available:

- Net Zero Hydrogen Fund (NZHF) - £240m from 2022 to 2025.
- Industrial Hydrogen Accelerator (IHA) - £26m from 2022 to 2025.
- Automotive transformation fund (ATF) rolling application windows with advanced propulsion center (APC). Current window £20m – SuRV program.
- Innovate UK smart grants – £25m to July 2022.
- Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) Phase 2 - £70m to September 2022.

Northern Ireland specific funding

Dfe, in conjunction with the NIO and all other executive departments expect to deliver a range of green growth support from 2022 open to NI business, research base and public sector:

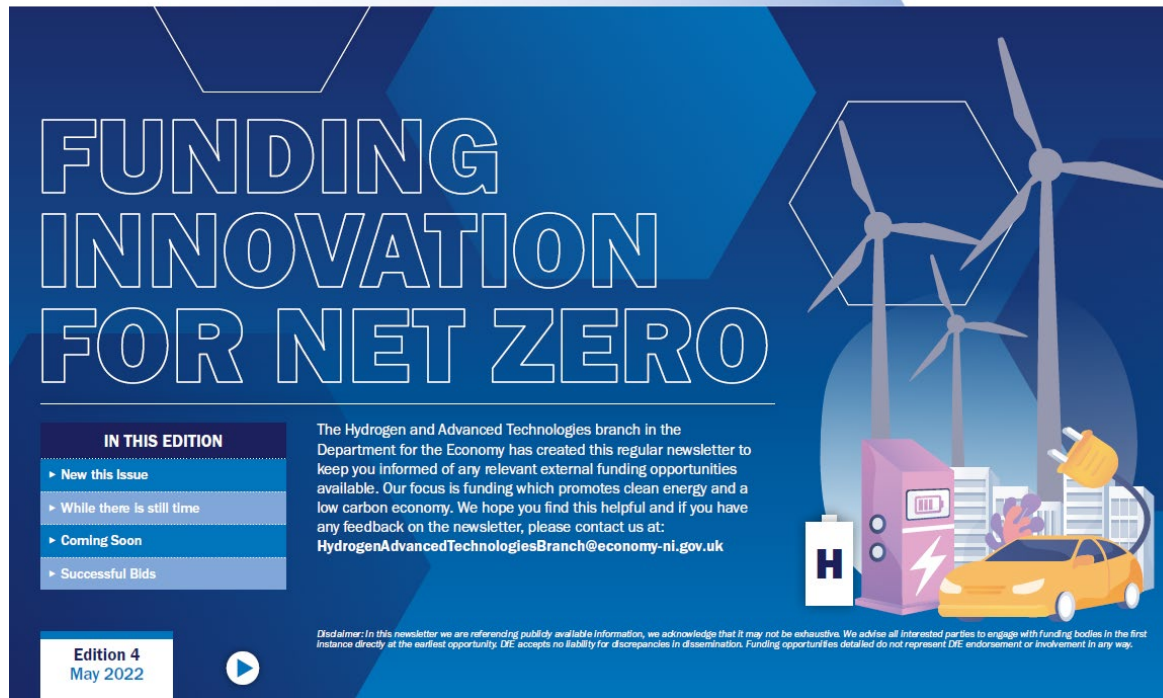
- Green Innovation Challenge Fund (GICF) - £30m 2022 – 2025.
- £15m - £20m will be made available in the next year for:
 1. Future fuels program*
 2. Cryogenics research*
 3. Geothermal demonstrator*
 4. Green energy for transport*
 5. Technology demonstrator support*

* Currently in early development subject to delivery.

Barriers & response

Barrier	Specifically	Response
Bad communication	No funding awareness Eligibility yes/no? Match funding need?	DfE eZine
Lack of collaboration	No project partnering	Networks
No skills	Not technically compliant Low competence Inconsistent bid writing	New courses Funding working group Invest NI program

DfE eZine



The Hydrogen & Advanced Technologies Team within Energy Group (DfE) are responsible for and regularly compile, an eZine “Funding Innovation for Net Zero” which is reflective of NI applicable green economy funding available to us from across the UK.

Should you wish to know more about this publication or to sign up as a recipient, please contact the team email below.

hydrogenadvancedtechnologiesbranch@economy-ni.gov.uk

Key take aways

- DfE has been active in the innovation sector to support green growth & is developing future funding.
- Over £1billion for green economy support in the Net Zero Innovation Portfolio.
- Businesses should prepare a range of potential projects to enable decarbonization (accelerator projects.) with statutory approvals⁴ in place & be agile to start.
- Interested parties should register in order receive the DfE eZine for sight of what funding is available or what is coming.
- Use collaborative networks to full extent for partnering.

4: Such as planning, building control or NIE connection agreements.



Thank you

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