

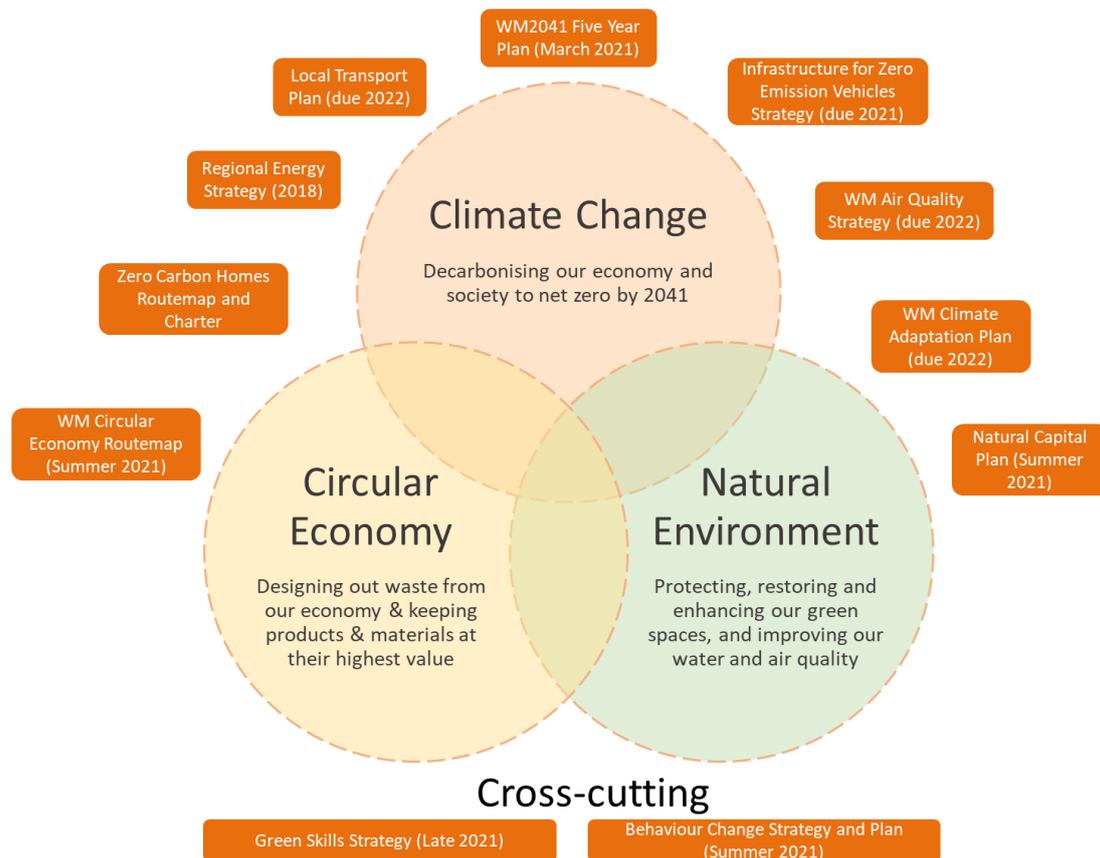
## Environment & Energy Programme – September 2021 update

### Background

In June 2019, the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) declared a climate emergency and the Combined Authority Board agreed a target for the region to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2041. A ‘green paper’ was written to indicate how the region could take action in order to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2041. This was approved by the Combined Authority Board in January 2020 for consultation until 12th March 2020.

The unfolding events of the pandemic resulted in the feedback from the consultation being combined into ‘WM2041: a programme for implementing an environmental recovery’ which was approved by the CA Board in June 2020, outlining the priority actions for a ‘green recovery’ from Covid-19.

Since the approval of this paper the Environment & Energy Programme has developed into the following areas, with corresponding plans or strategies that shape delivery activity.



Updates for the relevant Environment and Energy projects and actions that support delivery of the above are provided within this programme update.

## Summary of activity

The Environment and Energy programme priority theme to date has been climate change. Delivery activity will be added to Natural Environment and Circular Economy as this work develops in 2021.

Theme	Sub-theme	Delivery Activity
Climate Change	Net Zero System Management	Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Board
		Green Finance
		Centre for Climate Data
		Net Zero Officer Group / Net Zero Directors Group
	Regional Fuel Poverty and Retrofit	Net Zero Neighbourhood
		Establish SMART Hub
		Establish Warm Homes Save Lives (WHSL) partnerships
	Zero Carbon Homes	Zero Carbon Homes Charter and Routemap
	Regional Energy Strategy	Energy Devolution
		Local Area Energy Planning
		Commercial Green Energy Taskforce
		Large scale renewable energy projects in the WM
		Decarbonisation of manufacturing
		Support WM LAs with heat network infrastructure
Transport	WM Infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy (WM IZEV)	
	Local Transport Plan	
Natural Environment	Natural Capital Plan	Active Travel
		Natural Capital Plan
		WM Virtual Forest
		Community Green Grants
		West Midlands National Park
WM Air Quality Strategy	WM Air Quality Strategy	Natural Capital Officers Group
		WM Climate Adaptation Plan
Circular Economy	WM Circular Economy Routemap	WM Circular Economy Routemap
Cross-Cutting	Behaviour Change Strategy and Plan	
	Net Zero Business Pledge and business engagement	
	COP26 and Commonwealth Games	
	Green Skills Strategy	
	Net Zero Citizens' Panel	
	WMCA Carbon Literacy	
	5SPRING Green Innovation Programme	
	Birmingham Tech Accelerator	
	Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)	

## Environment and Energy Programme Recruitment

To support delivery of the entire programme, WMCA is currently recruiting to 10 new roles to join the Environment Team and Energy Capital. Funding for the posts was approved as part of the approval of the WM2041 Five Year Plan in March 2021 and most of the roles will be in post by mid-September 2021. Roles include:

<b>Environment Team</b>	<p>Natural Capital Programme Manager          Community Green Grants Project Officer          Graduate Environment Project Officer          Environment Behaviour Change Project Officer          Circular Economy and Green Economy Project and Delivery Officer</p>
<b>Energy Capital</b>	<p>Warm Homes Saves Lives Delivery Manager          SMART Hub Lead (Retrofit)          Net Zero Neighbourhood Delivery Manager          Energy Research Analyst and Partnership Co-ordinator          Commercial Energy Delivery Manager</p>

## Climate Change

<b>WM2041 Five Year Plan</b>
<b>Aim:</b> To identify activity required to ensure the West Midlands stays on course to reach net zero carbon by 2041.
<b>Progress:</b> WMCA approved the first <a href="#">Five Year Plan 2021 – 26</a> in March 2021. The programmes of work across energy, buildings, transport and natural environment, to support delivery of the FYP, are outlined in the sections below.
<b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a>

## Net Zero System Management

<b>Net Zero Governance</b>
<b>Aim:</b> To support and advise on the progress and delivery of activity to reach net zero by 2041.
<b>Progress:</b>
<b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk">ed.cox@wmca.org.uk</a>

**Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Board**

**Aim:** To establish local involvement and governance over energy infrastructure investment, pave the way for energy devolution and establishing a Regional Energy Systems Operator

**Progress:** Energy Capital have designed the governance associated with a Regional Energy Systems Operator through their WM RESO project. This project ends in December 2021 and it has been agreed that we will establish a Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Board as the mechanism to take the RESO forward. We have spoken to BEIS about this and submitted a proposal to the Minister requesting support to run a pilot RESO in the West Midlands with OfGEM, as part of the national consideration of how the energy system will evolve (see [FSO consultation](#)). This item has been discussed at the Energy Capital Board to solicit input on objectives and membership. Energy Capital have now drafted the initial Terms of Reference in collaboration with interested partners and are working with the WMCA on how this can sit within the wider governance set up.

**Contact** [cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

**Green Finance**

**Aim:** Develop priorities for green finance and investment and development of business cases

**Progress:** WMCA holds regular internal meetings looking at the investible propositions for achieving net zero. WMCA will be recruiting a Green Finance Lead who will develop the scope and approach to delivery, building on the work of the Five Year Plan.

**Contact** [ed.cox@wmca.org.uk](mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk)

**Centre for Climate Data**

**Aim:** Working closely with regional partners to bring together information to inform decisions on net zero and produce independent models and predictions

**Progress:** WMCA is currently scoping the data and remit required for the Centre for Climate Data.

**Contact** [ed.cox@wmca.org.uk](mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk)

**Net Zero Officer Group / Net Zero Directors Group**

**Aim:** To ensure co-ordination at a local authority level with relevant Directors and Officers

**Progress:** WMCA brings together the NZOG every 6 weeks and Net Zero Directors on a monthly basis to discuss relevant and timely issues and regional alignment.

**Contact** [Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk)

## Regional Fuel Poverty and Retrofit

### Net Zero Neighbourhood

**Aim:** To invest in a ‘demonstrator’ neighbourhood where we can show the potential to unlock a place-based approach to achieving several decarbonisation goals.

**Progress:** WMCA has developed a Net Zero Neighbourhood Partnership Framework, which has been circulated to potentially interested partners. The new Energy Capital team role of Net Zero Neighbourhood Manager will lead the development of the programme under the guidance of the SMART Hub lead. Both roles have been advertised and recruited with new colleagues joining the team in October/November 2021.

**Contact** [Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

### Establish SMART Hub - (Sustainable Market for Affordable Retrofit Technologies)

**Aim:** To create a core capacity in the region to unlock funding and activate a sustainable market for affordable retrofit technologies.

**Progress:** The new SMART Hub lead has been appointed and will join us in November 2021, alongside the Net Zero Neighbourhood Delivery Manager, who will join us in October 2021. Energy Capital has sought expressions of interest from partners to form an advisory board to support the development of the new SMART Hub and the new team. This will be set up in 2022 once the team have taken up their roles.

In the meantime Energy Capital have been funded by BEIS/ Midlands Energy Hub to support West Midlands Local Authorities to access LAD 2 funding and are now building on this, to position the region to access £82m of the [Sustainable Warmth funding](#) which closed to bids on 4 August. This consists of the third phase of the Local Authority Delivery scheme and the initial phase of the Home Upgrade Grant scheme: WMCA’s share of this would be £3m to retrofit 300 owner-occupied properties.

The first wave of the government’s Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund, (£160m of £3.8bn over 10 years) opens on 23 August with a deadline of 15 October 2021 – Energy Capital is working to assemble a consortium of local authorities and housing associations to bid for the first wave of this grant, which will deliver energy efficiency measures to social housing across the region in 2022. Wave 2 will open to bids in Spring 2022.

**Contact** [Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

### Establish Warm Homes Save Lives (WHSL) partnerships

**Aim:** To develop a co-ordinated approach to help shape and access national programmes and ensure long-term funding is directed to where it is needed most in the West Midlands, to support people in fuel poverty.

**Progress:** Energy Capital has responded to the recent ECO consultation recommending increased devolution of funding. £1bn of funding will become available next year under ECO4 and offers an opportunity for Energy Capital to deliver measures under this scheme.

The Warm Homes Saves Lives Delivery Manager role to develop the WHSL partnerships with ECO providers and others remains unfilled, but we are in discussion with Western Power Distribution about sharing resources to increase impact.

**Contact** [Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

## Zero Carbon Homes

### Zero Carbon Homes Charter and Routemap

**Aim:** To set out how we can achieve zero-carbon homes in the region by 2025.

**Progress:** In January 2021, the WMCA Housing & Land Delivery Board agreed the principles and contents of the Zero Carbon Homes Charter and Routemap, to guide WMCA's approach to meeting its commitment to delivering a ZCH standard by 2025. Concurrently, government set out transitional legislation to deliver its 2025 Future Homes Standard (FHS).

The Routemap provides an implementation plan for delivering the charter's vision, with a number of interim low carbon requirements and aspirational targets to 2025 and beyond. These interim requirements would ensure all schemes in which WMCA invests or intervenes meet a standard of net zero operational carbon by 2025. This is in line with the FHS requirement for all new homes to be 'zero carbon ready' from the same year.

WMCA officers are currently exploring options to establish WMCA's position as a national leader in the delivery of Zero Carbon Homes. For example, WMCA could include the FHS requirements within its funding agreements and Single Commissioning Framework prior to its formal adoption of government. Other options include addressing 'gaps' within the FHS, such as those around fabric and embodied emissions.

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## Regional Energy Strategy

### Energy Devolution

**Aim:** To ensure the West Midlands has the relevant energy infrastructure powers and responsibilities to support the transition to net zero.

**Progress :** A cross departmental lobbying group has been established within the WMCA, led by the PR team and fortnightly meetings are being held to monitor and shape our influencing work to secure energy devolution. Following the Mayor's engagement with Kwasi Kwarteng, engagement with officials has increased, and a letter summarising our devolution asks has been sent to the Minister at his request. A communique has also been developed by the WMCA team in partnership with UK100 to gain the support of other Mayoral Authorities in pursuit of this goal. Additional communications resources are also being procured to help take this Pathfinder work forward.

**Contact** [Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

**Local Area Energy Planning**

**Aim:** To work with local authorities to develop Local Area Energy Plans that map out the implications of transport, housing and industry’s decarbonisation plans to support effective investment in the region’s energy infrastructure.

**Progress:** This is closely linked to the development of the Net Zero Infrastructure Delivery Board which would oversee the production and implementation of a LAEP. Work has progressed with Cadent and WPD, who have agreed to fund a study to take us to the next level of detail regarding planning for energy, but this is unlikely to be as detailed as a local area energy plan for each local authority, which will require government funding. Funding for a LEAP in Rugeley has been secured.

**Contact** [Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

**Commercial Green Energy Taskforce**

**Aim:** To bring together a taskforce to support the region in accelerating the retrofit and renewable potential of commercial buildings.

**Progress:** The recently recruited Commercial Energy Delivery Manager is developing an outline internal strategy and identifying key partners to form the core of the commercial energy task force.

**Contact** [Kate.Ashworth@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Kate.Ashworth@wmca.org.uk)

**Large scale renewable energy projects in the WM**

**Aim:** To map, investigate and prioritise opportunities for utility scale solar and wind electricity generation across the region.

**Progress:** Based upon WSP’s technical analysis for the Five Year Plan, we are working to access and collate relevant data and incorporate it into our spatial analysis to enable a more targeted approach to delivering this outcome.

**Contact** [Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

**Decarbonisation of manufacturing**

**Aim:** To support the decarbonisation of local manufacturing by facilitating the replication of BEIS industrial clusters project in the Black Country.

**Progress:** Initial meetings with the Black Country project have taken place to explore if the WMCA circular economy work can support this programme.

**Contact** [Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Cheryl.hiles@wmca.org.uk)

**Support WM LAs with heat network infrastructure**

**Aim:** To ensure West Midlands Local Authorities can take forward heat network development opportunities where they are viable.

**Progress:** We are in discussions with the HNDU team in BEIS and Walsall Council about whether the WMCA can pick up the sponsorship of a heat network in the city, as the council do not have the resources to continue to drive the project forward following initial feasibility work undertaken for BEIS which identified the scheme as viable. An OBC has been written to access £200k of BEIS funding to supplement £50k allocation from WMCA to enable procurement of the next phase i.e., Detailed Project Development, which refines technical design and financial options ahead of commercialisation stage.

**Contact** [Kate.Ashworth@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Kate.Ashworth@wmca.org.uk)

**WM Infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles Strategy (WM IZEV)**

**Aim:** To work with regional stakeholders to ensure an integrated approach to infrastructure planning and delivery for zero emission vehicles across the region.

**Progress:** The draft Infrastructure for Zero Emissions Vehicle Strategy was published in July for consultation, with a series of workshops with stakeholders taking place in August, to enable input to finalise the Infrastructure for Zero Emission Vehicles strategy in September.

**Contact** [kate.ashworth@wmca.org.uk](mailto:kate.ashworth@wmca.org.uk)

**Transport**

**Local Transport Plan**

**Aim:** To update the statutory transport plan for the West Midlands to reflect the objectives of an inclusive, de-carbonised and integrated system, connecting lives and livelihoods cleanly and safely.

**Progress:** In July 2020 WMCA Board approved the approach and timescale to update the Plan. A transport green paper, was published in July 2021 and marked the start of an ongoing conversation to inform the development of the new Local Transport Plan. Public, stakeholder and political engagement has been taking place across a range of channels including a deep dive into issues through the Keep the West Midlands Moving online community. Alongside this work has been ongoing to develop a deeper evidence led understanding of the level of change needed in the transport system and the measures that can deliver that change in a number of scenarios: to decarbonise by 2041 or faster, by 2050 and also to demonstrate the implications of a business as usual transport strategy.

This will help shape conversations with Leaders in September later in the year to shape the level of ambition in the new West Midlands LTP. This will also form the basis of a transport policy / position statement to be produced to support WMCA engagement around COP 26 later in the year. The next stage of technical support to develop the new LTP is currently being procured. It is anticipated that a draft new West Midlands Local Transport Plan will be ready for consultation in early 2022 and formally adopted later in the year.

In parallel to the work on the Local Transport Plan, TfWM and local authorities are developing initial proposals for the City Regional Sustainable Transport Settlements (the funding stream formerly

known as Intra-City Transport Settlement). It is anticipated that the West Midlands will receive between £800m and £1.3 bn of capital funds to take forward transport investments. The value of the settlement (between the range above) will depend on the quality of the bid and assessment against DfT's criteria (key ones of which include: driving growth and productivity, levelling up and decarbonising transport). Proposals are currently being developed in collaboration with local authorities and a report seeking authority to submit the West Midlands' proposals to Government is planned for WMCA Board in September.

Also of note is work on the West Midlands Bus Service Improvement Plan. This is required in response to the Government's National Bus Strategy published earlier in the year. Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIP) are how the WMCA, working closely with their local bus operators and local communities to plan and deliver a fully integrated service with simple, multi-modal tickets, more bus priority measures, the same high-quality information for all passengers in more places and better turn-up-and-go frequencies that keep running into the evenings and at weekends. It is anticipated that a BSIP for the West Midlands will be presented to WMCA Board in September.

**Contact** [david.harris@tfwm.org.uk](mailto:david.harris@tfwm.org.uk)

#### Active Travel

**Aim:** To develop the walking and cycling infrastructure for the region and support people to increase the amount of active travel that they do.

**Progress:** This is a TfWM-led programme which has received over £15m investment from Department for Transport via the Emergency Active Travel Fund (Tranche 1) and the Active Travel Fund (Tranche 2). There are over 50 infrastructure schemes across all LA's for pop up cycle lanes, pavement widening, cycle parking schemes and road closures. To support this infrastructure TfWM have delivered a package of 8 supporting measures including cycle parking, online engagement, social prescribing pilot in the Black Country Roll & Stroll, a regional campaign launched to promote Cycling and walking. These projects are scheduled to be delivered over the next 2 years.

TfWM will be delivering 31 community led projects through the £2m Better Streets Community Fund including upgrading three crossings in Dudley, delivery of Parking Buddies to Clifton Primary School in Birmingham and resurfacing of pathways at Woodgate Valley Park to create an inclusive cycling centre and many more. All schemes will be delivered by July 2022.

West Midlands Cycle Hire was launched in March 2021 and is now live in all 7 West Midland Local Authorities with expansion plans underway.

The next round of funding available in 2021/2022 includes £1.9m in revenue, which is now secure. In addition, WMCA has recently submitted an application to the capital fund and await the outcome.

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## Natural Environment

### Natural Environment Plan

The Plan has been finalised and is being launched week beginning 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Supporting projects being delivered currently include:

<b>WM Virtual Forest</b>
<b>Aim:</b> To provide an online platform that brings together tree planting organisations across the region to champion and support of the ambitious plans for tree planting to support the net zero transition as well as broader natural capital outcomes.
<b>Progress:</b> WMCA launched the Virtual Forest website in November 2020. A wide range of regional stakeholders have joined as partners. Over 18,000 trees have been planted on the site, with many tree planting opportunities postponed due to Covid-19 restrictions. It is anticipated that there will be significant activity in the next tree planting season starting November 2021.  WMCA is also working with Severn Trent Water as part of the Commonwealth Forest initiative to identify suitable locations for the extensive tree planting targets.
<b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk">Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk</a>

<b>Community Green Grants</b>
<b>Aim:</b> To provide grants to regional organisations to support outcomes associated with the Natural Capital Plan as well as other areas of Environment and Energy activity.
<b>Progress:</b> The project received £725,000 in grant funding as part of the Five Year Plan approval in March 2021. WMCA is currently designing the grant programme with regional partners and the new Community Green Grants Officer will lead the delivery once in post. It is anticipated the grant will launch in Autumn 2021 for two years.
<b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a>

<b>West Midlands National Park</b>
<b>Aim:</b> To develop a new type of national park, bringing together the region's green and blue spaces.
<b>Progress:</b> WMCA has continued to work with Birmingham City University to identify a full project pipeline to begin to deliver on the WMNP activity and the governance arrangements around it. We are also working with the National Trust to support their work on the Eight Hills Regional Park (which will be located in Bromsgrove), which compliments our programme of work on natural capital.
<b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a>

### Natural Capital Officers Group

**Aim:** To ensure relevant co-ordination at a local authority level around WMCA's emerging Natural Capital Plan and work programme.

**Progress:** WMCA brings together the Natural Capital Officers Group every 6 weeks.

**Contact** [Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk)

## WM Air Quality Strategy

**Aim:** To produce a WMCA Air Quality Strategy that outlines the current issues, policy context and required actions to improve regional air quality.

**Progress:** WMCA is working with the University of Birmingham's WM Air to develop an understanding of the scope, policy context and interventions that could form a regional plan. There will be new regulations coming through the Environment Bill due for publication in autumn 2021 that will inform the Strategy. An options paper is being developed on air quality for the WMCA Board in November 2021.

**Contact** [Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk)

## WM Climate Adaptation Plan

**Aim:** To produce a Plan that outlines the key risks to the West Midlands from climate change impacts and the actions required to adapt and manage risks.

**Progress:** Following the publication of the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment, 16th July 2021, Sustainability West Midlands were involved in this work and are currently engaging regional (West Midlands wide) stakeholders to share findings and develop a WM Climate Change Risk Assessment and Action Plan. WMCA is working with SWM to understand how this work could be used to inform a WMCA adaptation plan, as well as identifying what further work local authorities are currently engaged.

**Contact** [Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk)

## Circular Economy

### WM Circular Economy Routemap

**Aim:** To identify the West Midlands' strengths and opportunities in transitioning to a more circular economy that maximises the value of resources and materials.

**Progress:** WMCA has formed a regional taskforce and appointed Useful Projects to support the production of the routemap. Extensive stakeholder engagement has been completed and a draft Routemap is being produced. The Routemap identifies priority sectors and projects for manufacturing, construction and food as well as the conditions and policies required to maximise social impact from the transition. The routemap will go to WMCA Board in September 2021.

**Contact** [Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk)

## Cross-Cutting

<p><b>Behaviour Change Strategy and Plan</b></p> <p><b>Aim:</b> To develop WMCA’s understanding of how it can most effectively communicate its ambitions and positively influence people’s behaviour to achieve the region’s net zero carbon goals by 2041.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> WMCA has appointed Behavioural Insights Team to deliver this project. The team have completed the evidence review and will shortly be launching a trial with their Predictiv tool to test key messages and visuals. The project will be completed by mid-September 2021 with resource and advice to support WMCA, local authorities and partners in delivering communications and behaviour change activity that supports delivery of the Environment and Energy programme.</p> <p><b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk">Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Net Zero Business Pledge and business engagement</b></p> <p><b>Aim:</b> To engage and celebrate regional organisations on the journey to net zero</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> The <a href="#">WM Net Zero Business Pledge</a> launched in March 2021 following its development with a range of regional businesses. It is being managed by Sustainability West Midlands who have a unique regional network of sustainability champions and events. A communications and events programme aligned to the build-up to COP26 is currently being produced.</p> <p><b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk">Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>COP26 and Commonwealth Games</b></p> <p><b>Aim:</b> To engage with external events as an opportunity to promote West Midlands business and provide community support in relation to our Environment and Energy Programme.</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> WMCA is convening a regional group to support the WM@COP26 campaign. In the build up to COP26, WMCA is working with UK100 to host a local leaders summit and conference mid-July 2021. WMCA is chairing the CWG 2022 Sustainability Legacy Group, covering carbon reduction, conservation and circular economy, as well as a cross-cutting behaviour change theme.</p> <p><b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk">Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Green Skills Strategy</b></p> <p><b>Aim:</b> To work with regional stakeholders to develop a Green Skills Strategy linked closely with investment and job growth, introducing skills training in key areas that exhibit early job demand and demand for new or updated skills</p> <p><b>Progress:</b> Building on WSP’s analysis in the Five Year Plan, the Productivity and Skills Team are working on a plan for immediate skills requirements as well as 'green skills foresighting' to understand the long-term picture for skills needs for climate change and environment across the region.</p> <p><b>Contact</b> <a href="mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk">Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk</a></p>

**Net Zero Citizens' Panel**

**Aim:** To develop a Citizen's Panel that can inform and influence regional plans for WM2041.

**Progress:** WMCA are scoping the remit and stakeholders required for a Panel to be established.

**Contact** [ed.cox@wmca.org.uk](mailto:ed.cox@wmca.org.uk)

**WMCA Carbon Literacy**

**Aim:** To support WMCA employees in developing their understanding of climate change

**Progress:** WMCA has produced Carbon Literacy materials, using the templates provided by [Carbon Literacy Project](#). The Environment Project Officer starting in September will be delivering the training to WMCA staff once appointed.

**Contact** [Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk)

**5PRING Green Innovation Programme**

**Aim:** To support businesses in finding solutions to our energy and environment challenges using 5G

**Progress:** The WM Green Innovation Challenge was set up by WMCA with WM5G's 5PRING Accelerator to support the work of innovative SMEs across the region, particularly in finding solutions to some of our most pressing challenges. 10 SMEs completed the 5PRING programme (touching on energy, natural capital, circular economy, build environment and behaviour change). Further information - [Ten start-ups pioneering new 5G tech in West Midlands](#)

**Contact** [Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk)

**Birmingham Tech Accelerator**

**Aim:** To support businesses in developing solutions to our energy and environment challenges

**Progress:** The Environment Team is working with Birmingham Tech as part of a programme to support scale-ups with an interest in low carbon solutions. WMCA is sponsoring firms focused on net zero as part of an action from the Digital Roadmap. See [New 'accelerator' will grow start-ups that tackle climate change](#)

**Contact** [Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Richard.rees@wmca.org.uk)

**Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP)**

**Aim:** To report WMCA activities and progress to address carbon emissions to the globally leading initiative.

**Progress:** WMCA Environment Team submitted the report on behalf of WMCA in August 2020 and were awarded a B. The submission for 2021 went in at the end of July and we are awaiting results.

**Contact** [Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk](mailto:Jacqueline.homan@wmca.org.uk)

### WMCA Environment & Energy related news

- 11 Aug 2021 - [Mayor launches Great Clean Up campaign](#)
- 04 Aug 2021 - [Work begins at eco-homes development in Telford](#)
- 29 Jul 2021 - [Mayor praises Wolverhampton Circular City status](#)
- 23 Jul 2021 - [Agreement signed to create 5000 sustainable homes](#)
- 22 Jul 2021 - [Transport plan launched with climate change at its core](#)
- 13 Jul 2021 - [Local leaders unite in call for new net zero powers](#)
- 12 Jul 2021 - [New green skills investment to benefit thousands](#)
- 08 July 2021 - [Mayor visits revolutionary local battery business](#)
- 06 Jul 2021 - [E-scooters help to cut car emissions](#)
- 05 Jul 2021 - [Low carbon manufacturing is region's fastest growing sector](#)
- 01 Jul 2021 - [Mayor states case for region as a net zero leader](#)
- 28 Jun 2021 - [Second phase of Wolverhampton railway station opens](#)
- 25 Jun 2021 - [Free travel to be included in Games ticket price](#)
- 23 Jun 2021 - [Call for more businesses to sign up to Net Zero Pledge](#)
- 21 June 2021 - [West Midlands Cycle Hire arrives on the streets of Sandwell](#)
- 15 June, 2021 - [West Midlands company putting the wind in the sails of the push to net zero](#)
- 09 June 2021 - [On your bike! Secure 'cycle pod' opens at Birmingham New Street](#)
- 09 Jun 2021 - [Electric vehicle training centre launches at Walsall College](#)
- 07 Jun 2021 - [Cycle hire scheme success with almost 500 bike rides a day](#)
- 05 Jun 2021 - [Registration opens for international net zero conference](#)
- 02 Jun 2021 - [Futuristic 5G-enabled transport projects unveiled](#)
- 24 May 2021 - [Cycle hire scheme rolls in to Birmingham](#)