



THE
SOLENT
CLUSTER

WORKING TOGETHER FOR
A LOWER CARBON FUTURE

MEMBER WELCOME PACK

An aerial photograph of the Solent waterway. On the left, there is a large industrial facility with numerous white storage tanks and complex piping. Several large ships, including tankers and cargo vessels, are docked at a long pier extending into the water. The water is a deep blue, and the sky is filled with white clouds. In the foreground, there's a green, grassy area with a sandy beach. The overall scene depicts a major industrial and maritime hub.

WELCOME TO THE SOLENT CLUSTER

We are delighted to welcome you as a member of The Solent Cluster, a partnership that represents an incredible opportunity for local communities, the region, and the UK, and can affect real change in sustainable energy production and consumption. What's more, we will play a fundamental role in supporting the UK in reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050.

A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE SOUTH

The Solent Cluster is the only project of its kind in the region and is backed by companies with the technical expertise and global track record of delivering cost effective low carbon solutions. This effort could position the Solent at the centre of low carbon fuel production in the UK and make a major contribution to the country's Net Zero ambitions by 2050.

Together we can create a hub of expertise and innovation that will enable the development of a new hydrogen and lower carbon energy facility creating sustainable fuels for marine, aviation and transport as well as providing low carbon power to heat homes, businesses, and public buildings in our region and beyond.

We would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about the need for The Solent Cluster as part of the UK's decarbonisation strategy, our vision and the aims and objectives of this crucial initiative.

WE WANT TO PLAY OUR PART IN BUILDING A NET ZERO FUTURE FOR THE UK

The Government has set targets for the UK to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions to Net Zero by 2050 and has identified six decarbonisation zones. The creation of clusters within these zones enables local industries, businesses and communities to create decarbonisation solutions to best suit their regional requirements and support the UK decarbonisation strategy.

At present two clusters have been formally recognised by Government with a target of four in total. Establishing The Solent Cluster is a critical step in enabling organisations to bid for government investment support for projects to decarbonise the Solent region.

To begin the essential decarbonisation of the region as quickly as possible, we need to work together to reduce CO₂ emissions from our local industries, this will include carbon capture and storage (CCS).

By developing our ability to produce and deliver lower carbon fuels and energy, through reliable supplies of hydrogen, our plans will also help UK business remain competitive within the global market, while supporting energy resilience, fuel security and affordability.

By supporting local industry to create sustainable production processes, we can position the South Coast region as a leading clean energy hub.



South Wales

**HyNet
North West**

Merseyside

Grangemouth



Teesside



Humberside



Solent



OUR VISION IS FOR THE SOLENT TO BECOME A LEADING CENTRE FOR LOW CARBON INVESTMENT

This will grow the regional economy, protect skilled jobs and create new employment opportunities in the cleaner energy technologies and industries of tomorrow

OUR MEMBER'S CHARTER

A SHARED VISION

The Solent Cluster partnership represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity for communities, the region and the UK. This is our chance to affect real change in energy production and consumption. We will play a fundamental role in the world's fight against climate change, enabling the UK to reach Net Zero emissions by 2050.

In becoming a leading centre for low carbon investment, we can grow the regional economy, protect skilled jobs, and create new employment opportunities in the technologies and industries of tomorrow, while significantly reducing carbon emissions.

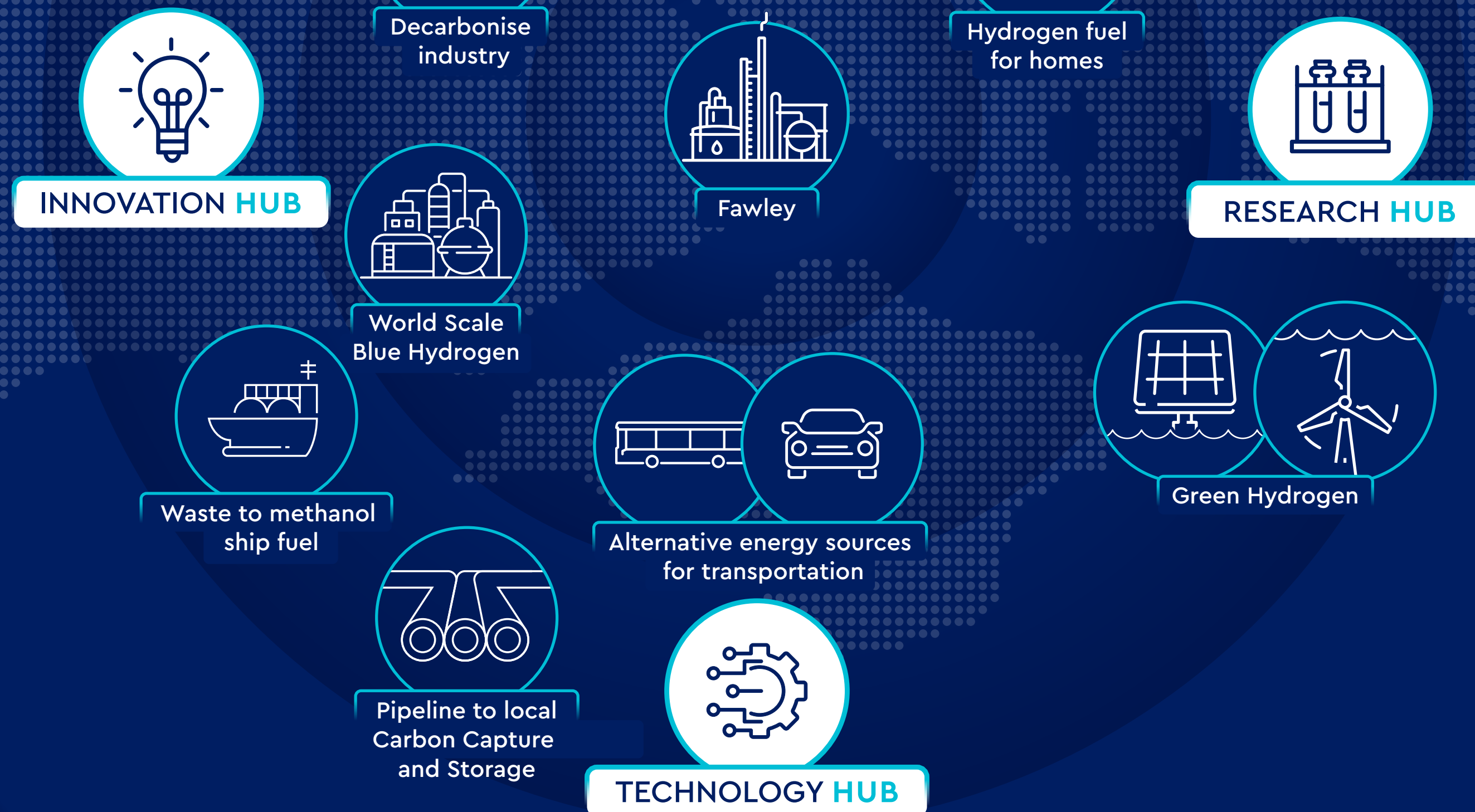


WE ARE THE SOLENT CLUSTER

The Solent Cluster founding members Solent Local Enterprise Partnership, ExxonMobil, the University of Southampton and you our members will help drive and implement the first major decarbonisation initiative that would substantially reduce CO₂ emissions from industry, transport and households across the Solent and Southern England.

- We have the opportunity to create the UK South Coast Low Carbon Hub by 2030, building on the Solent Freeport and existing activities.
- We have the potential for businesses, industries and communities in the South and beyond, to build strong, reliable, secure and sustainable processes and products that will benefit the region for generations to come.
- We can make a difference. Hampshire and its marine gateway, the Solent, is one of the largest and most successful industrial areas in the UK supporting around 90,000 businesses and a £50bn economy. With around 200,000 large vessel movements each year, the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth are major trade and commercial hubs connecting the UK with the global economy. Our region is also close to the UK's busiest airports. Working together we can help this vital industry to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions and meet its ambitions for a lower carbon future.

THE SOLENT CLUSTER POTENTIAL THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



Together we can:

- Become a leading area for low carbon investment, now and for the future
- Bring new jobs and investment for the benefit of our communities
- Help secure existing jobs and livelihoods
- Help the UK remain competitive and deliver on national energy priorities
- Foster new technology, research and innovation
- Support UK energy security
- Make a major contribution in the UK's move to Net Zero

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A MORE
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

"To form a decarbonisation cluster that spans the public, private and higher education sectors is a monumental step forward for the region. It will introduce sustainable fuels for local transportation, the aviation and the shipping sectors; create low carbon energy to heat homes, businesses and public buildings; and open up new highly skilled jobs opportunities.

This can only be achieved by working together as a community, covering all sectors and ultimately working with the same desire to achieve a low carbon economic future for the Solent region."

Dr. Lindsay-Marie Armstrong

Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Academic Cluster Lead for the Solent Industrial Decarbonisation Cluster at University of Southampton

"Decarbonisation is at the heart of our economic strategy for the area and the The Solent Cluster will enable us to pioneer approaches to climate change adaptation and decarbonisation, linked to our coastal setting, and establish real expertise which other regions – nationally and globally – can learn from.

The Solent Cluster will provide a platform for the excellent work that is already taking place and the partnership has a unique opportunity to affect real change in energy production and consumption, establishing the Solent and wider region as a leading centre for low carbon investment now and in the future."

Anne-Marie Mountifield

Chief Executive of Solent Local Enterprise Partnership

"This is a compelling project and an important opportunity to decarbonise the Solent Region, **and we are proud to be a part of this collaborative effort to significantly reduce CO₂ emissions from multiple sectors.**"

Dan Ammann

President of ExxonMobil Low Carbon Solutions

OUR GOALS



To enable the Solent and wider region to become a **leading area for low carbon investment**, now and for the future.

To provide a platform to showcase the Solent's low carbon innovation and collaboration and **embrace innovation and future fuel technologies**.

To enable the **production of reliable and sustainable fuel** sources.

To make a **tangible difference to the communities, businesses and industries** that are situated in the Solent.

To **help the UK remain competitive** and deliver on national energy priorities.

To **bring new jobs and investment** for the benefit of our communities and **secure existing jobs and livelihoods**.

To make a **major contribution** in the UK's move to Net Zero.

THE LAUNCH OF THE SOLENT CLUSTER

The launch of The Solent Cluster was a hugely successful event with high profile speakers and more than 130 attendees from across the Solent. It was wonderful to see so many people gathered together with a joint interest in creating a lower carbon future for the region and beyond.

If you didn't catch it at the time you can watch the highlights from the launch event [here](#)

We now have 50 members and counting from business, industry, academia and the local community who have joined together and taken membership of The Solent Cluster. A fantastic start, but the real work begins now. We are glad to have you onboard.





NEXT STEPS FOR THE SOLENT CLUSTER AND OUR MEMBERS

The Solent Cluster Project Manager

We are recruiting a full-time project manager for the cluster, who will bring together our members from industry, academia, and public bodies. They will be a key contact for all our members and will organise cluster activities, support working groups and ensure the successful implementation of agreed plans.

The Governance Working Group

We are working closely with the Solent LEP to develop the governance framework for The Solent Cluster. At present, we are establishing a Governance Working Group to meet over the next couple of months and provide advice on the most appropriate architecture and support the cluster while the governance framework is agreed.

Member Communications

Our 12-month plan is now well underway, and we are working hard to create and compile compelling collateral that you can use both within your own organisations and to act as an advocate for The Solent Cluster. As a region, we will be competing against other clusters for central Government support. The cluster will of course be making its own representations to central Government and other stakeholders, but we would like wherever possible to co-ordinate activity with you and our other members.

The Solent Cluster Website

We have been working hard behind the scenes on Phase 2 of The Solent Cluster website. This will be a central source of information and inspiration covering all aspects of The Solent Cluster initiative. Along with our vision and objectives we will cover the technical aspects of the project, news and views and important case studies as they develop.

The Solent Cluster needs your help

We are keen to work closely with all our members and get to know you and your organisation better. To do this we are speaking to all The Solent Cluster members and asking them to meet and contribute to a Member Profile Questionnaire. By understanding more about your organisation, why you were keen to join The Solent Cluster and your plans and aspirations for decarbonisation now and in the future, we will be able to help and support you as much as possible. We very much look forward to speaking to you in more detail soon.

THERE ARE EXCITING TIMES AHEAD

Introducing our Members

Once we have completed the profiling interviews with all our members, we will be creating our dedicated member area on the new website. You will sit alongside our other valued members and each profile will give visitors insight into your organisation, your membership of The Solent Cluster and your decarbonisation objectives and activities.

Operational Working Groups

We are delighted by the huge diversity of businesses and other organisations that have already joined The Solent Cluster and we continue to receive more expressions of interest every week. In the coming months we are planning on setting up a series of working groups to focus on various decarbonisation challenges, opportunities and solutions, as well as on communications and public affairs.

Member Events

We are planning several cluster members events to provide a forum for further networking and a space to share progress and seek your input. We very much hope you will be able to join us, and we will contact you with updates and invitations as things progress.



MEMBERS

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A LOWER CARBON FUTURE



**Thank you for your continued
commitment and enthusiasm.**

We look forward to working with you and
the other members of The Solent Cluster
on this exciting low carbon energy project.

Please help and support us by following
and sharing any related activity for
The Solent Cluster on these channels.

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