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|  <p>THE<br/>SOLENT<br/>CLUSTER</p> <p>WORKING TOGETHER FOR<br/>A LOWER CARBON FUTURE</p> | <h1>Annual Report 2024/2025</h1> |
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| Activity   | Output   | Deliverable   |
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| <p>The Solent Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan (LIDP)</p> | <p>Deliver all work packages associated with the LIDP project.</p> | <p>The Solent Cluster and partners successfully delivered all LIDP project. The final report, <a href="#"><i>Transitioning Pathways</i></a>, was published in early 2025.</p> <p>The report was unveiled at a prestigious networking event at Southampton Football Club, where around 100 delegates heard from a range of international and national speakers including from the World Economic Forum, the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero, ERM, and the Carbon Capture and Storage Association. The event also included an in-depth panel discussion with project partners.</p> <p>The £885k project comprised £715k grant funding and £170k contributions from industry.</p> <p>The <i>Transitioning Pathways</i> report is important evidence for the region - setting out the current emissions baseline, and the interventions required to achieve net zero by 2050 and the relative contribution to achieving this target for varying types of intervention. The document provides a focus for activity moving forward and a key evidence base for advocacy and policy dialogue.</p> |

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| Attendance and Presenting at the 5th UK CCUS & Hydrogen Decarbonisation Summit, Leeds | Exhibitor stand to promote The Solent Cluster. Participation in a panel session to ensure The Solent Cluster is part of the narrative and discussion for Hydrogen and CCUS in the UK.                                | <p>The Solent Cluster hosted a high profile stand and took part in a panel session on workforce development and supply chains. The event attracted over 750 delegates and more than 60 exhibitors from Government officials, regulators, academia and service companies from the UK and abroad.</p> <p>The event provided an exceptional platform to engage with other industrial clusters and to raise the profile of The Solent Cluster.</p>  |
| Attendance and Presenting at Innovation Zero 2024, Olympia London                     | Exhibitor stand to promote The Solent Cluster. Includes a speaker presentation and a panel session over 2 days to ensure The Solent Cluster is part of the narrative and discussion for Hydrogen and CCUS in the UK. | <p>The Solent Cluster attended Innovation Zero with a prominent and well-attended stand over the two days of the event, maintaining momentum and a high profile at this national event. Board members of The Solent Cluster took part in panel sessions and the Executive Director presented on the work of The Solent Cluster.</p> <p>This was the second Innovation Zero event, and organisers reported a 44% increase in attendees on its first year.</p>  |
| Attendance at Party Conferences   | Exhibitor stand to promote The Solent Cluster and an opportunity to engage directly with politicians.  | <p>The Solent Cluster had a significant presence at the Labour Party conference in Liverpool in September with a stand and strong attendance from the Board including participation in roundtable discussions. Key Ministers including the Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, and Chancellor attended the CCSA stand and met Industrial Clusters, including The Solent Cluster.</p> <p>The Government's Energy Mission Champion - Tom Hayes MP, attended a CCSA convened round table, which was also attended by The Solent Cluster Executive Director.</p> |

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|                                    |   | The Solent Cluster also had a presence as part of the CCSA stand at the Conservative party conference in Birmingham in October.  |
| Bi-monthly member network meetings | Showcasing the low carbon solutions being developed in the region.  | <p>Network meetings have been held regularly across the region, introducing several expert speakers on a range of themed topics, such as skills, AI, innovation and the LIDP. All network meetings were well attended with an average of 40 - 50 attendees at each.</p> <p>The Executive Director and a Board Director attended a meeting of New Forest Parish Councils to provide an update on the work of The Solent Cluster and public perceptions on decarbonisation projects. This event attracted over 20 attendees.</p> |
| Corporate Activity                 | Agree and implement a sustainable funding model for the operation of The Solent Cluster and delivery of the Business Plan | The Solent Cluster membership model was launched in November 2022 <a href="#">The Solent Cluster launches membership programme to drive lower carbon energy innovation   Solent Cluster</a> .  |
|                                    | Publish The Solent Cluster's first Annual Report  | The Solent Cluster Annual Report 2024-2025 was published in May 2025.  |
|                                    | Publish The Solent Cluster's first Annual Business Plan   | The Solent Cluster Business Plan 2024 - 2025 was published in July 2024 <a href="#">The Solent Cluster Business Plan 2024-2025   Solent Cluster</a>  |
|                                    | Finalise recruitment to The Solent Cluster Board  | The Solent Cluster Board recruitment was finalised with 10 board members, representing industry, the energy sector, education, local government and SMEs. <a href="#">Governance   Solent Cluster</a> . This process completed in October 2024.  |

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|  | Establish relevant supporting Governance architecture.  | The Solent Cluster has a full Board of Directors. Company membership has transferred from Solent Partners (following its close) to Paris Smith LLP for an interim period. No wider governance architecture is required at this time given the small size of the organisation and limited public funding.  |
|  | Strengthen The Solent Cluster membership  | An e-newsletter was sent monthly throughout the year highlighting key industry news, updates and events to over 500 subscribers, with an excellent average read rate of over 50%.   |
| Work with UK Regional Low Carbon Clusters on Shared Priorities | <p>Strengthened relationships with colleagues across the UK low carbon clusters and stronger influencing capability.</p> <p>Shared learning on the approach to operating a cluster and the projects being progressed within clusters.</p> | <p>The Solent Cluster continues to engage with the CCSA and other Industrial Clusters, including at party conferences and the national LIDP Celebration Event hosted by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in Rochdale in June 2025.</p> <p>In January 2025, The Solent Cluster joined the <a href="#">World Economic Forum Transitioning Industrial Clusters Initiative</a>, enhancing collaboration and shared learning with other UK and global clusters. This relationship supported the attendance of xx from the World Economic Forum to the launch of our Transitioning Pathways report in February. In addition, The Solent Cluster will be part of a UK Transitioning Industrial Clusters Event in June 2025.</p> |