



Annual Report 2025/26

The 2025/26 year for The Solent Cluster was characterised by consolidation rather than expansion, as limited resources and continued policy uncertainty for industrial clusters outside the Track process shaped the scope of our activity. In this context, delivery focused on maintaining core functions, sustaining collaboration across our network, and ensuring that key strands of work - such as industrial engagement, decarbonisation dialogue, and participation in national and international forums - continued to provide value to members. This Annual Report sets out the progress made against the 2025/26 Business Plan, reflecting a year in which stability, continuity and stewardship were the primary priorities.

Activity	Output	What We Delivered
Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan (LIDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available to members a range of reports from The Solent Cluster Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plan (LIDP). • Identify alternative hosts to progress recommendations of the LIDP project (including Maritime UK Solent, businesses, Local Government). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All reports have been made available on The Solent Cluster website here: The Solent LIDP Solent Cluster. This includes the key Transforming Pathways report, and the How To guides. • The Solent Cluster is being re-homed within Solent Freeport, who will take on the report assets of the Local Industrial Decarbonisation Fund. • Attendance at LIDP end of project celebration event in June 2025.

Events and networking

- Host regular networking events for the industrial low carbon sector of the area annually.
- Provide a range of speakers to broaden knowledge of lower carbon technologies and opportunities.
- The Solent Cluster hosted an online update on the UK Industrial Strategy - *Shaping the Solent's Clean Energy Future: Online Strategy Session*. 20 attendees.
- Hosted a Networking Session in January 2026 (40 attendees) with presentations from:
 - Hynamics
 - ABB
 - SSE
 - Atkins Realis
- The Solent Cluster held a Networking event - *Preparing for Carbon Capture in the South* at Womble Bond Dickinson's office in Southampton on 26th March 2026. 45 Attendees. Presentations from:
 - Womble Bond Dickinson
 - CCSA
 - ABB
 - Crondall Energy
 - Pace CCS
 - Petrofac
- Meetings with 15 businesses.
- Engaged with the Dorset Clean Energy Super Cluster.
- Attended the Energy Transition in the Solent meeting in May 2025.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at LIDP end of project celebration event in June 2025.
International collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain membership of the World Economic Forum Transitioning Industrial Clusters Network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the World Economic Forum Transitioning Industrial Clusters Network has been maintained and will be passed to Solent Freeport.
UK collaboration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider opportunities to work with UK industrial clusters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the CCSA convened roundtable with Andrew Bowie MP - Shadow ESNZ and Scottish Secretary in June 2025. • Attendance at LIDP end of project celebration event in June 2025. • Attendance at Southampton Energy Coalition meeting. • Attendance at "The original 'Industrial Clusters Mission' - where are we now?" meeting • Maintained regular engagement with OWIC. • Maintained engagement with DESNZ.
Dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make available reports from the World Economic Forum Transitioning Industrial Clusters Network on our website. • • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These reports are directly available from the World Economic Forum Transitioning Industrial Clusters website here: Home Transitioning Industrial Clusters World Economic Forum. • Reports have been promoted on LinkedIn.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended a meeting of the New Forest Parish Councils, in Beaulieu in April 2025 to update on the work of The Solent Cluster.
Regional Energy Strategic Planner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convene local MPs to provide an update on the work of The Solent Cluster. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Solent Cluster arranged for NESO to attend the Southampton Maritime Action Forum - convened by Darren Paffey MP - to update on the Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan (tRESP) for the southeast. • The Solent Cluster submitted a consultation response to NESO on their <i>Request for information – Strategic Investment for regional energy planning</i> in July 2025.
Corporate activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition the corporate and operational setting of The Solent Cluster to a new host. • Publish an Annual Report. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Solent Cluster is being re-homed within Solent Freeport. • This is the annual report, and it is published on The Solent Cluster website here: Resources Solent Cluster
Enquiries desk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain an enquiries point for industrial decarbonisation enquiries to re-direct as appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The info@thesolentcluster.com email account has been monitored and emails and all enquiries responded to.
Maritime decarbonisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Maritime UK Solent to support the establishment of the Solent as a global centre of excellence for Maritime Decarbonisation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Centre for Green Maritime Innovation is a University of Southampton Project. This has gained

		<p>momentum, with a launch at a Parliamentary Reception in June 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maritime Solent continues to support this work and convened a session alongside the promotion of the Clean Maritime Demonstration Competition and Zero Emission Vessel and Infrastructure funds workshop at University of Southampton on the 25th March 2026.
<p>Support the promotion of the HAR2 Hynamics Fawley Green Hydrogen Project</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Hynamics to support the identification and development of supply chains, off-takers and education. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met with Hynamics Team at UK HQ in London in April 2025. • Regular engagement has been maintained with Hynamics. • Hynamics attended The Solent Cluster Networking session held in January 2026.