

# WEST MIDLANDS AT COP26

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A year of action in the  
Home of the Green  
Industrial Revolution



**West Midlands at COP26**  
Home of the Green Industrial Revolution



## West Midlands at COP26

COP26 will be largest international event the UK has ever hosted.

The West Midlands sees it as a unique opportunity to promote excitement in the region to inspire behaviour change among our citizens and businesses, drive new economic trade and investment opportunities, and build a closer relationship with government.

As such, COP26 should be part of a bigger step along the route to net zero and we will be coordinating a year-long programme of events to highlight this opportunity, right across the region and working with national and international partners.



## Home of the Green Industrial Revolution

Places and people are at the heart of our regional approach to achieving a net zero carbon future.

Our programme will examine the opportunities for achieving net zero carbon through the interlocking infrastructure that underpins our cities and places, the systems that operate within them, and the people who live and work in them and who can be the most effective agents of change:

- Decarbonising our industries, homes and transportation.
- Optimising the efficiency of our energy and transport systems and the built environment.
- Through technology and engagement, enabling our citizens and businesses to make a difference.
- Securing our natural environment and biodiversity ecosystems.

The West Midlands is the Home of the Green Industrial Revolution. From the advanced manufacturing power of some of the world's leading companies, to its 5G-enabled smart energy and industry systems. Unlike the first industrial revolution, we won't be leaving anyone behind: our transition will be fair and equitable to everyone. We will ensure that the vulnerable and marginalised in society play an equal part in shaping and directing our route to net zero and benefit equally from our shared green future.

| Spring 2021 →  | July 2021 →  | Autumn 2021 →  | November 2021 →  | Spring - Summer 2022   |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| Programme Coordination   | Net Zero Leaders Summit  | Pre-COP Programme  | COP26  | COP26 Legacy   |
| WMCA will work with regional partners to build a powerful, coherent offer to the UK government (local authorities, partner agencies, universities, businesses, innovators, social enterprises).  | WMCA is working with UK100 to convene a Summit of Mayors and local leaders, alongside a national conference and international networking event. Taking place on 13th July, this will be a key milestone on the route to COP26.                                 | Over the autumn, WMCA will coordinate a comprehensive programme of events, including visits and seminars; integrating and maximising partner events such as Coventry's City of Culture programme and the pre-COP activities being planned by businesses and universities.                    | Building on the Net Zero Leaders Summit in July, WMCA will collaborate with UK100, M9 Group of Mayors, Core Cities and government to showcase a collaborative approach and ambition as an exemplar international model, building on UNFCCC's 'Race to Zero | WMCA will coordinate a programme of events in Spring 2022, across the West Midlands, which demonstrate the practical application of the announcements made at COP26. These events will involve regional, national and international partners from business, government, research institutes and communities.   |
| WMCA will inspire and support collaboration between UK100, the M9 Group of Mayors and Core Cities to provide a coordinated national approach to government, both for COP26 and in the development of new policy as part of the July Net Zero Leaders Summit. | As well as sharing best practice and building international connections, the Summit itself will be an opportunity for Mayors and local leaders to set out a blueprint for a new relationship with government in delivering the UK's net zero carbon ambitions. | The events programme will also make positive use of the Cabinet Office's recent EOI process - incorporating and showcasing topics from any unsuccessful submissions, and providing 'taster' sessions for bids that have been selected for COP26, to boost interest in the region and beyond. | Alongside national and international collaboration, WMCA has prepared an outline programme demonstrating how the respective elements of the West Midlands EOIs submissions could be presented at COP26. (see below).                                       | <p>The Spring events programme will lead to and inform two milestone events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> <b>May 2022 - Forum for Global Challenges</b><br/> A major international conference hosted by the University of Birmingham's Institute of Global Innovation. The conference is aiming to generate practical solutions to global issues from social inequalities to environmental resilience and the power of the green economy. </li> <li> <b>July-August 2022 - the Commonwealth Games</b><br/> will have social value and environmental sustainability at their core to deliver the first ever carbon neutral games. Our zero carbon ambitions will be woven into all the key decisions in the planning of this major international event and its green credentials will be showcased to encourage local behaviour change among citizens and businesses through powerful engagement activity. </li> </ul> |





## National & International Engagement

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As well as leading a coordinated approach to COP26 across the region, the West Midlands Combined Authority is also supporting a collaborative approach between key national partners. This will ensure that local leaders and regional mayors, and their national networks, are recognised for their role in delivering the UK's ambitious net zero targets. This will ensure that our programme has national support and through our partners' wider networks, international reach, as well as practical regional impact.

### UK100

We are jointly leading the **Net Zero Leaders Summit** in July, which will start to frame a new policy relationship with central government around climate change.

At **COP26**, we will be collaborating with UK100 on their proposed side events with national and international partners, building on the work developed through our joint Summit, as an international exemplar model.

As part of our **COP26-legacy** events, we will be including UK100 and its network into our regional programme including the University of Birmingham's Forum for Global Challenges.

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### M9

We are supporting a coordinated approach across the M9 Group of Mayors to provide a coherent voice to government in the build-up to COP26. This will demonstrate the benefits to government of the individual assets of each of the regions as well as the benefits of combining those strengths.

At **COP26**, we will contribute strongly to the M9's engagement programme, both through UK100, ICLEI and C40 activities, and the M9's own expression of interest for the Green Zone.

We will be involving M9 partner regions in our series of events post-COP26, up to and including the Commonwealth Games in July 2022.

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### Core Cities

We have formed a collaboration group between Core Cities representatives, M9 and UK100 to ensure a fully coordinated approach across policy development, events and engagement with government in the lead-up to COP26.

At COP26, we will be participating with Core Cities through events and receptions across Glasgow to highlight the benefits of a collaborative place-based approach to achieving net zero carbon through local delivery.

Core Cities representatives will be important partners in our Spring-Summer 2022 events - providing insights into the implementation of new government policy announced at COP26 and the practicability of replication of initiatives arising from the West Midlands programme.

# West Midlands at COP26 Regional Programme in Glasgow

|                                     | Event Presentations                         |  |   | Exhibitions  | Cultural Activity  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|--|
| Adaptation, Transition & Resilience | Decarbonisation                             | Black Country Consortium   | Decarbonising the Black Country           |  |  |
|                                     |   | University of Birmingham   | National Centre for Decarbonising Heat    |  |  |
|                                     | Smart Energy Systems                        | Energy Capital & WM5G  | Principles of smart energy systems.       | Bryt Energy (Sustainability West Midlands)   |  |
|                                     |   | Coventry City, Coventry University & Warwick University                              | Implementing local energy systems (RESO)  |  |  |
|                                     | Energy Innovation & Scaling Up              | Energy Research Accelerator  | New Generation models                     |  |  |
|                                     |   | University of Birmingham   | Community Cooling Systems                 |  | Illness & Disease through Heat photography exhibition (University of Birmingham) |
|                                     |   | Arup   | Scaling transition to the national level  |  |  |
|                                     | Circular Economy - maximising our resources | WMCA   | Circular Economy Roadmap                  |  |  |
|                                     |   | International Synergies Ltd  | Industrial Symbiosis                      |  |  |
|                                     |   | Aston University   | Bioproduct maximisation                   |  |  |
| Clean Transport                     | Clean Transport Manufacturing               | Coventry University  | Centre for Advanced Low Carbon Propulsion | Cenex Low Emissions Strategy (Sustainability West Midlands)                        |  |
|                                     |   | University of Warwick  | UKBIC                                     | National Express (Sustainability West Midlands)                                    |  |
|                                     | Clean City Transport & Mobility             | Coventry City, Coventry University & Warwick University, Transport for West Midlands | Transforming Mobility                     | Outdoor space - zero carbon transport systems (Coventry) & hydrogen railways (UoB) |  |
|                                     |   | Birmingham City  | Transport, Walking & Cycling              |  |  |

|                        | Event Presentations |                          |   | Exhibitions  | Cultural Activity                              |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|---|--|--|
| People, Place & Nature | Built Environment   | Energy Capital           | Building Smart Homes                            | Institute of Engineers - planning & development (Sustainability West Midlands) |  |
|                        |                     | Arup                     | Decarbonising the Built Environment             | Mott MacDonald - adaptation & operations (Sustainability West Midlands)        |  |
|                        |                     | Mott MacDonald           | Zero Carbon Cities                              | Low Carbon Homes (Sustainability West Midlands)                                |  |
|                        | Cities & Place      | WMCA                     | The Role of People & Place in Net Zero          |  |  |
|                        |                     | Birmingham City Council  | Whole Place Solutions                           |  |  |
|                        |                     | Coventry City of Culture | Celebrating Zero Carbon in the Culture of Place |  |  |
|                        | Nature              | Birmingham City Council  | Greening the City Centre                        | Herefordshire New Leaf Sustainable Development (Sustainability West Midlands)  | The Walking Forest (Coventry City of Culture)  |
|                        |                     | University of Birmingham | Water Crisis & Integrity                        | Biophilic City (Sustainability West Midlands)                                  |  |
|                        |                     | Arup                     | Regenerative Land & Water Management            |  |  |
|                        | People              | WMCA                     | Behaviour Change Programme                      | WMCA Business Pledge (Sustainability West Midlands)                            | Carbon Family (BBC - Coventry City of Culture) |
|                        |                     | Coventry City            | Green Code for People Planet Profit             |  |  |

# The West Midlands: Zero Carbon Assets

## Clean Transportation & Mobility

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|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UK Battery Industrialisation Centre (UKBIC)</li> <li>Advanced Propulsion Centre</li> <li>TfWM programme</li> <li>HydroFLEX (BCRRE)</li> <li>WMG</li> <li>5G integration</li> <li>Air-One - Urban Air Port</li> <li>National Automotive</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovation Centre</li> <li>HORIBA MIRA</li> <li>All Electric Bus Fleet (Coventry)</li> <li>Centre for Hydrogen &amp; Fuel Cell Research</li> <li>Midlands Future Mobility</li> <li>Coventry Airport Gigafactory Site</li> <li>Centre for Advanced Low</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carbon Propulsion Systems (C-ALPS)</li> <li>Battery and magnet recycling (UoB). £2.6m RaRE (Rare-earth Recycling for E-machines)</li> <li>Centre of Excellence in Rail Decarbonisation</li> <li>Jaguar Land Rover</li> <li>London Electric Vehicle Co.</li> </ul> |
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## Adaptation & Resilience

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|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Retrofit (WMCA)</li> <li>Advanced Manufacturing in Construction</li> <li>National Centre for the Decarbonisation of Heat</li> <li>Institute of Brownfield Land (Wolverhampton Uni)</li> <li>Warm Homes Saves Lives</li> <li>Brownfield Resource</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Innovation Centre (Wolverhampton Uni)</li> <li>Retrofit Centre of Excellence</li> <li>Institute of Sustainable Construction &amp; Circular Economy</li> <li>Demonstrator Neighbourhood</li> <li>Rugeley Power Station (Engie)</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Worcester Bosch</li> </ul> |
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## Circular Economy

- Circular Economy Taskforce (WMCA)
- Circular Economy Roadmap (WMCA)
- Industrial Symbiosis (International Systems Ltd)
- Institute of Circular Economy (Wolverhampton Uni)

## Smart Energy Systems & Industrial Decarbonisation

- RESO (Regional Energy System Operator)
- Repowering the Black Country (BCC)
- Energy Systems Catapult (ESC)
- Tyseley Energy Park (TEP)
- Energy & BioProducts Research Institute
- Birmingham Centre for Energy Storage (partnering with U4E on cooling)
- Energy Research Accelerator
- Energy Capital
- Sandwell Smart Grid
- National Grid HQ
- Cogen

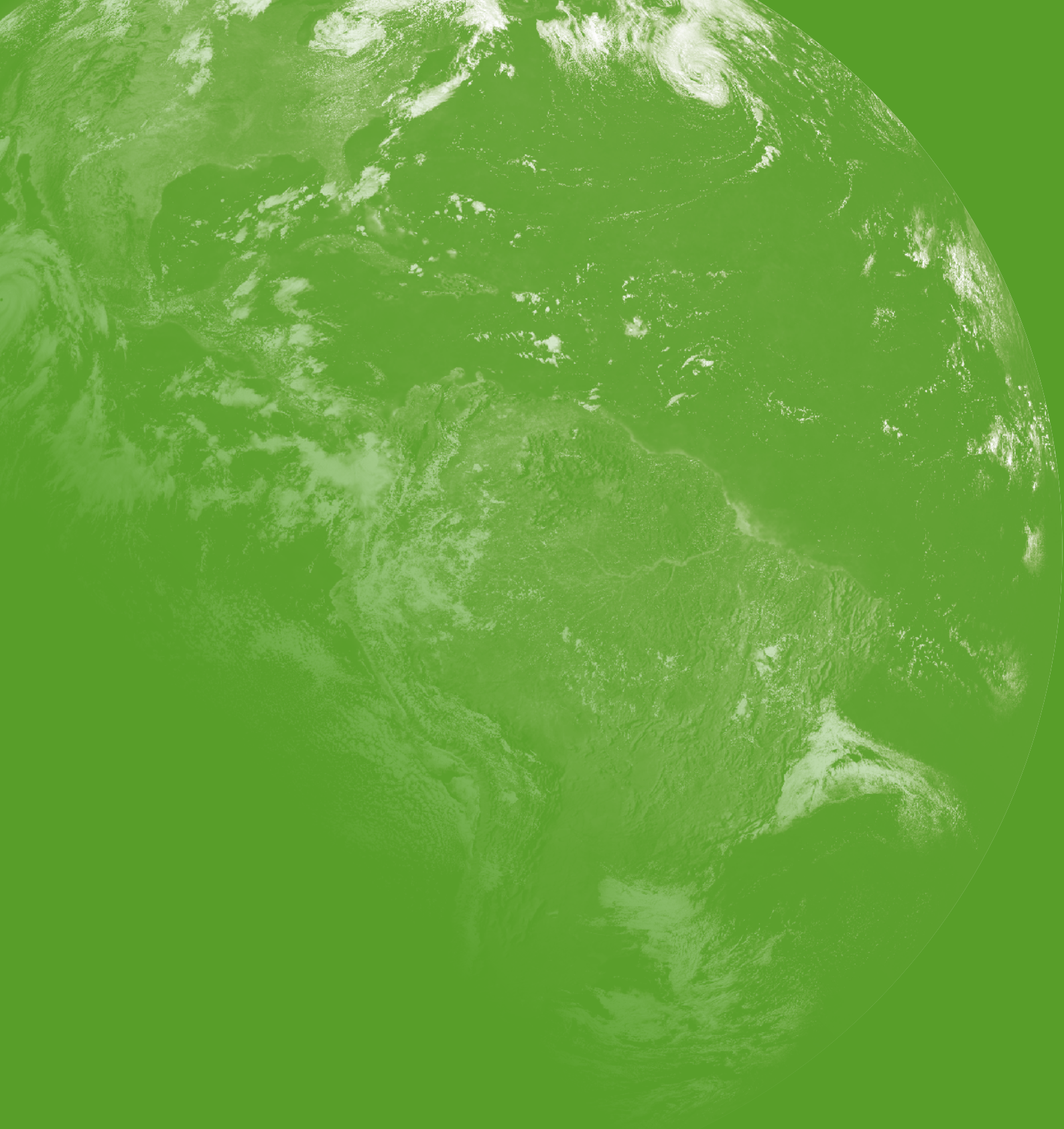
## Place - Natural Capital – Tourism

- WM National Park (WMCA)
- Virtual Forest (WMCA)
- Whole Place Zone (GBSLEP)
- Birmingham Water Council (UNESCO Chair in Water Sciences)
- Business & Tourism Programme (WMGC)
- Coventry City of Culture
- Commonwealth Games

## Enabling Technologies

- 5G UK Test-bed
- 5PRING Innovation Challenge (WM5G)
- Midlands Centre for Cyber Security





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