

Net Zero North (NzN) will connect the Northern Powerhouse's science assets, skills providers, and businesses to forge a green recovery from Covid-19, putting the UK at the forefront of the global drive for net zero carbon.

A £300m investment by government will upskill the northern workforce through 16,000 student-years of net zero training delivered by Further Education colleges in towns, cities and rural locations, increase Northern Powerhouse GVA by £1.5bn and, contribute 20% of the reduction in carbon emissions in the North of England by 2030 required to put the region and country on track to achieve net zero by 2050.

COVID-19 and the climate emergency are the two most pressing crises facing the planet; the economic impact of Covid-19 has exacerbated the existing economic challenges of left-behind communities, low-skill and low-productivity jobs in the North, and the climate crisis puts at risk Northern jobs, where there is a higher level of carbon intensive business than the UK average.



Sustainable Hydrogen Economy

NzN will combine the region's research expertise, industrial capacity, and planned major investments in nuclear energy, offshore wind, and other renewables, with industry demand for new hydrogen production and storage processes, establishing the region as a testbed for sustainable hydrogen generation, storage and use (including in green transport, industrial decarbonisation, and heating of residential and commercial buildings).

This would position the North as a global leader in generation, storage, and usage of sustainable hydrogen, an industry expected to create 221,000 jobs and £18bn in GVA in the UK annually.



Grow Smarter

NzN will focus on restructuring the rural economy to support productive, technology intensive, environmentally sensitive, and high quality jobs in communities at risk of being left behind.

We will make the UK a scientific superpower in sustainable land use for net zero carbon emissions by 2050, by supporting practically-focused science in the production of bio-derived materials and carbon sequestration through a unique cross-sectoral collaboration of rural, urban and peri-urban land managers and owners, primary producers, local authorities and civil society, together with large multinational manufacturing companies, service industries and their supply chains.



Skills and Productivity

NzN will establish a 'NzN Skills Alliance' of universities, colleges, and employers, working together, to support a skills framework that will ensure that workers in all areas of the North can access high quality jobs in new clean industries. The Skills Alliance will establish an integrated net zero skills and productivity programme, supporting firms to adapt and transition to a net zero and cleaner economy, focussed on developing the next generation of business leaders at NVQ levels 3-7, as well as creating Skills Hubs in the North East and Teesside to support level 8 training and provide outreach to the wider community.

Delivery

The scale of the current crisis means that we need to utilise existing effective structures to deliver at pace and scale; NzN would be led by the N8 Research Partnership in collaboration with:

- Mayoral Combined Authorities; FE Colleges; Manchester Metropolitan and Teesside Universities; Industry Partners

NzN will accelerate the transition to net-zero for the whole UK by increasing the capacity of the Northern Powerhouse by:

- **Accelerate Adoption** of existing technologies through decision support tools, and addressing sociological barriers.
- **Research Programmes** to meet longer-term challenges, co-produced with business.
- **Innovation** support to access rapidly deployable expertise for close-to-market industry-led projects.
- **Skills and Learning**; deliver a programme so all people in the North benefit from the transition to a green economy.
- **Engage** all organisations supporting the green economy, for collaboration and knowledge exchange.

Work with us

To find out how N8 NzN can help your business contribute to a sustainable clean economy following COVID-19, please get in touch with N8 Director Dr Annette Bramley (annette.bramley@n8research.org.uk)