

Policy Motion

Powering the North West: Delivering Green Hydrogen and Clean Industry

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Summator: Sharon Harris, Warrington

Conference affirms its support for Federal Policy Paper 160 “For People for Planet” which supported the production of “Green Hydrogen” ie. hydrogen produced by the electrolysis of water. The paper expresses a strong preference for electrification wherever possible but recognises hydrogen as an important and appropriate solution where electrification is impractical. It proposes Green Hydrogen uses should include ; energy storage, a role in decarbonising aviation, some long-distance HGV fuelling and high temperature industrial heat applications. The paper notes the availability of renewable energy for electrolysis as key to the growth of Green Hydrogen.

Conference also re-affirms its support for our Regional Conference motion “Powering Regeneration; The case for Marine Energy.” This motion supported exploitation of the globally exceptional tidal ranges along our Irish Sea coast. It proposed boosting economic regeneration by establishing or relocating high energy consuming industries, such as green hydrogen within our Region noting that taking advantage of proximity to reliable marine energy sources reduces the need for costly transmission infrastructure .

Conference notes that:

1. The North West of England has industrial clusters, internationally significant chemical and manufacturing industries, major logistics and freight corridors, and port infrastructure, together with significant renewable energy opportunities in offshore wind, solar and tidal power.
2. To meet net zero targets the UK must rapidly decarbonise sectors that are difficult to electrify directly, including; heavy and energy-intensive industries, freight transport, shipping, industrial heat, long-duration energy storage.
3. Green hydrogen — produced by electrolysis from water using renewable electricity — serves two purposes. It can be used directly as a zero emission fuel that may play an important role in industrial decarbonisation and clean freight. However, since the production process is reversible it can also serve as a means of power storage balancing renewable electricity generation and strengthening UK energy resilience.
4. Increased storage capacity is essential for renewable energy development in the North West. Wind and solar are variable and tidal range energy if its output is “smoothed” through storage could contribute to base load.
5. The North West is well placed to become a leading centre for green industrial innovation, supporting; high-skilled jobs, inward investment, energy security, and regional economic renewal.
6. Liberal Democrats have consistently supported: rapid renewable energy expansion, clean industrial growth, devolution of power, community energy, and evidence-led climate policy.

Conference believes that:

- I. Public confidence in hydrogen policy depends upon: transparency, clear climate benefits, affordability and the prioritisation of green hydrogen over fossil-fuel-derived hydrogen.
- II. Electrification and energy efficiency should remain the primary route for domestic heating and many transport applications.

- 38 III. Green Hydrogen should therefore be prioritised where alternatives are limited or less practical. It
39 has an important role in completing the renewable energy jigsaw through its potential
40 contribution to energy storage and use in applications where electrification is difficult.
- 41 IV. The transition to net zero must also be an industrial and regional renewal strategy.
- 42 V. The North West should aim to become a national leader in; renewable energy clean
43 manufacturing, hydrogen innovation, energy storage and sustainable freight and logistics.
- 44 VI. Devolution should give regions greater power to coordinate: transport, energy infrastructure,
45 skills, industrial strategy, innovation funding.
- 46 VII. Local communities should directly benefit from clean energy investment.

47 **Conference calls for:**

- 48 A. Integration of green hydrogen within a Regional Energy Transition and Clean Industry
49 strategy involving;
- 50 i. Collaboration and collective action across the region between combined authorities, local coun-
51 cils, universities, industry, transport operators, community energy groups.
- 52 ii. Expansion of renewable energy production including wind, solar and marine energy together
53 with energy storage capacity.
- 54 iii. Use of the enhanced generation capacity to support economic growth with electricity tariffs for
55 high consumption industries, including green hydrogen, that reflect the lower transmission costs
56 associated with relative proximity to renewable energy production facilities.
- 57 B. Establishing the North West as a centre for green hydrogen production to support and attract
58 industries for whom decarbonisation through electrification is problematic such as those requiring
59 high heating temperature, heavy freight, industrial processes, shipping, and rail freight where
60 appropriate.
- 61 C. Investment in clean transport corridors including; zero-emission freight hubs, integrated rail
62 freight, hydrogen and electric refuelling infrastructure, and better public transport integration.
- 63 D. A regional skills and retraining programme for clean energy transition supporting workers
64 moving from; fossil fuel industries, traditional manufacturing, and carbon-intensive
65 logistics sectors.
- 66 E. Strong safeguards to ensure; genuine carbon reduction, protection against greenwashing,
67 full lifecycle emissions reporting, high environmental standards.
- 68 F. Greater local and community benefit, including; community energy partnerships, local ownership
69 opportunities, local procurement expectations, fair distribution of economic benefits.
- 70 G. Liberal Democrats to campaign for the North West to become; the UK's leading clean industrial
71 region, a centre for green hydrogen innovation, a model of sustainable regional growth.
- 72 H. Submission of this motion, or a developed version, to the Liberal Democrat Federal
73 Conference Spring 2027