

Protos is a destination for energy, innovation and industry. This community newsletter provides an update on progress at the site and what's coming up.



4.9 million tonnes of plastic waste is generated in the UK each year

AT A GLANCE

The climate crisis is the biggest challenge facing society, and Protos is committed to playing its part to address it. Read more inside about how Protos is contributing to reducing the country's carbon emissions.



Our nature areas are thriving – find out more about the species and wildlife you can expect to see at Goldfinch Meadows and Snipe Haven on the last page.



LATEST NEWS

UK FIRST PLASTICS TO HYDROGEN FACILITY APPROVED

In March this year, Cheshire West & Chester Council approved plans to deliver a 'UK first' waste plastic to hydrogen facility at Protos. It will use pioneering technology that was developed by Powerhouse Energy at the University of Chester Energy Centre next door to Protos.

The facility will take unrecyclable plastics, that would otherwise end up in landfill, and use them to produce hydrogen. This clean and low-cost hydrogen could be used to initially power buses and Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) in the area, before being rolled out to hydrogen cars, helping to reduce air pollution and improve air quality on our roads.

The £20m development will see 14 full time permanent jobs created at Protos with over 100 jobs created in the North West during construction. Construction is expected to start later this year.

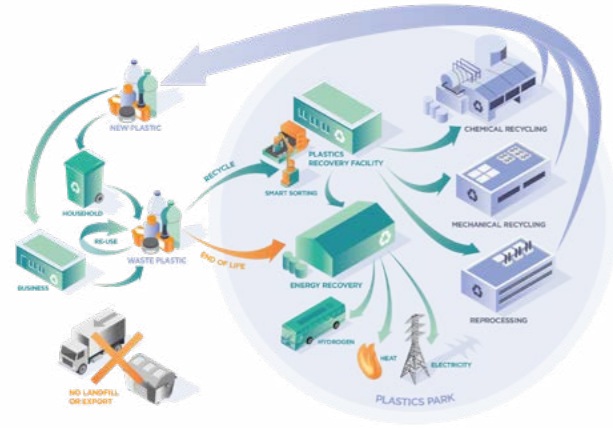
WORK BEGINS TO POWER UP PROTOS

We have started work to power up Protos, investing more than £16m on two new substations and a new grid connection. The infrastructure work is essential to enabling the future of Protos by providing capacity for energy generators to send electricity to the national grid. An Independent Connection Provider is building the substations and associated works while Scottish Power Energy Networks is replacing an existing pylon and preparing upgrades for the final connection due to be completed by December 2023.

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FIRST PLASTIC PARK PROPOSED AT PROTOS

When it comes to plastic waste we're not stopping with the plastic-to-hydrogen facility. Protos is set to be the home for another UK first – a Plastic Park that can provide a complete solution for plastic waste. Alongside the plastic-to-hydrogen facility we're looking at other technologies which will increase recycling and can also break plastic back into its component parts. This could be the first of many Plastic Parks across the UK which can help the country deal with the 4.9 million tonnes of plastic waste we generate each year, preventing it ending up in landfill, exported overseas or in the ocean. We'll be consulting with the local community on a planning application later in the year.



TOWARDS NET ZERO

Climate change is one of the biggest challenges facing society and at Protos we're playing our part to address it. Greenhouse gases are a major factor in global warming, and the UK Government was the first major economy in the world to pass a new law to end our contribution. The target will require the UK to bring all greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050.

Cheshire West & Chester Council has also declared its own climate emergency, and is aiming for the area to be carbon neutral by 2030 by looking at how heavy industry can decarbonise and how homes can become greener.

2050

UK target to bring all carbon emissions to net zero

2030

Cheshire West & Chester Council is aiming for the area to be carbon neutral by 2030



? What does net zero mean?

'Net zero' means getting a balance between emissions produced and emissions taken out of the atmosphere. This will require switching to low carbon and renewable fuels and if putting carbon into the atmosphere is unavoidable, balancing that out by investing in schemes which remove carbon elsewhere.

? Isn't this a world-wide problem, with most of the emissions being produced somewhere else?

A quarter of all the UK's greenhouse gases come from heavy industry, like the production of chemicals and goods, such as cars. We have a concentration of these types of businesses in the North West and particularly in Cheshire. To give an idea of the scale, 5% of all of the UK's energy is used in North Cheshire, because these facilities need so much power to run. This means Cheshire West & Chester has the fourth largest carbon footprint of any UK borough due to the concentration of heavy industry.

? Does this mean the end of the region's manufacturing industry then, if we have to stop producing carbon emissions?

It is a big challenge, but also an opportunity. As we head towards the net zero target, you'll hear the phrase 'clean growth' a lot – which is about continuing to grow and support the industries which have given so much to the success of the region, but with low carbon, clean energy at the heart of production. There's also the potential for creating 33,000 more jobs, as the region sets itself up as a centre for innovation in clean growth.

? How is Protos Helping?

Protos clusters together innovative technologies in energy generation and resource management. Our aim is to deliver low-carbon energy directly to industrial and domestic customers through a local energy grid which could see costs substantially reduced and save thousands of tonnes of carbon emissions.



We already have an operational biomass facility, which uses waste wood to generate enough electricity to power over 40,000 homes each year. We also have plans approved for an energy from waste facility, a plastic to hydrogen facility and the UK's first commercial scale Bio-Substitute Natural Gas (BioSNG) plant – which will use bio-resources to create fuel for the transport sector.

The **Protos Community Forum** is holding this year's Annual General Meeting online on **Wednesday 23rd September at 6:30pm**. This meeting is open to the public to attend.

For further details and to register for a place, please email community@protos.co.uk



GOLDFINCH MEADOWS AND SNIPE HAVEN

We have been working with Cheshire Wildlife Trust to manage the nature areas which are thriving. There are a variety of birds and ducks currently making Protos their home. Chiffchaff, blackcap and whitethroat can still be seen on Goldfinch Meadows but it won't be long before they start their Autumn migration back to southern and western Europe, southern Asia and north Africa.

We've also spotted some really important species, including tree sparrows which have been in decline since the 1970s and a rare wading bird the black tailed godwit – both of which are on the red list of birds of conservation concern. If you're lucky you might even spot the illusive water rail, a secretive wetland inhabitant with a long red bill.

Water vole surveys have shown that the water voles managed to survive the wet weather earlier in the year. A member of the public was lucky enough to witness one swimming in the perimeter ditch earlier in the Summer.

We've also spotted gadwall, mallard, little grebe, coot and moorhen all using the ponds at Snipe Haven.

The wild bird seed mix which was planted earlier this year is thriving and will provide a valuable winter food source for farmland birds between January and March.

If you visit the nature areas please take your rubbish with you to help protect the area and keep it clean and tidy. We've had some issues of rubbish being left and fly-tipping so we're reminding everyone to treat the areas with respect. They are for everyone to enjoy so please look after them so they continue to flourish.

You can download the nature areas map at protos.co.uk/community/nature/

COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

Earlier this year we added another

£40,000



to the Protos Community Benefit Fund. The fund supports a wide range of local causes from community buildings to sustainability projects to health and wellbeing.

Interested in applying for funding? Visit protos.co.uk/how-to-apply/ to find out more and apply.



WHAT IS PROTOS?

Protos is Peel L&P Environmental's destination for energy, innovation and industry. Located at Ince, the £700m strategic energy hub clusters complementary businesses, including resource recovery and energy intensive industries, associated supply chain and energy generation.

PROTOS



Get in touch for more information on Protos

Visit: protos.co.uk

Email: community@protos.co.uk

Call: Freephone 0800 689 1095 (During office hours Mon-Fri).

You can also follow us on Twitter @ThisIsProtos **LinkedIn** Protos