

Climate Change Solutions (CCS)

has led a wide range of projects since its 2003 formation, developing synergies and partnerships. Since the UN Paris Agreement it has helped accelerate understanding and actions, towards achieving the UN 30 Climate Emergency objectives.



Recently COP 27 has highlighted the shortfall of previous commitments to contain warming within 1.5 degrees, with real prospect of failure. The need for CCS and organisations like us – advocating and demonstrating practical change – has never been greater.



CCS core work is organising conferences, exhibitions, and workshops. Alongside this it has supported a range of high-profile projects.

Galvanising business support

Identify building owners, leaseholders and or renters to share solar data with a view to installing solar PV for power or solar thermal for hot water. Their first step being to request the existing energy supplier for a quote, with a second step to have an energy efficiency survey which the local council can supply.

The Heart of England Community Energy solar farm with 55,000 panels Stratford upon Avon generates the equivalent green energy to supply 4,500 homes for 25 years. Tony McNally being one of eight co-founding directors and John Stott as Chair, donating £30,000 each year to mainly local charities particularly Act on Energy addressing fuel poverty. CCS initiated the solar mapping project from this experience to promote more widely the benefit of solar in the region. It's included several public events and workshops featuring HECE speakers and co-sponsorship contributions.

A West Midlands Solar Procurement Partnership

Arising from a round table meeting hosted by KPMG, August 2022, addressing the need for the above cross sector stakeholder partnership to assist in delivering locally, the share of the UK objective of a 500% increase in solar power within a decade. Included would be all the associated technologies i.e., inverters, smart systems, storage, and EV points together with appropriate energy efficiency. A ten-year strategic plan would provide an incentive to the local manufacture of these technologies as well as training many thousand new as well as existing workers. Economy of scale could be provided throughout the supply chain and making it more attractive for customers, particularly homeowners. Initial conversations have happened with the West Midlands Mayor Andy Street, and West Midlands Combined Authority.

Where there is a range of collocated buildings encourage consultation with respective building owners to explore the opportunity of establishing integrated community decentralised energy to maximise on site generation and consumption, with minimal engagement with the Nation Grid. At this stage of the project a key challenge is to 'get the word out' to as many organisations as possible that could benefit from this technology. Thus, it is proposed that CCS in partnership with local networks set up a rolling programme of workshops for a) Coventry & Warwickshire, b) Greater Birmingham, c) Black Country and North Staffs with a focussed team for each. They would develop on the growing network of organisations currently involved.



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West Midlands Bright Solar Future

Solar power offers the biggest, best, and cheapest means of generating clean green power locally. This Climate Change Solutions led project aims to accelerate progress towards a solar powered West Midlands.



"European companies are rushing to get solar panels installed on the roofs and open spaces around their businesses to offset their exposure to the latest surge in natural gas and power prices"



“We are on a highway to climate hell with our foot still on the accelerator.”

(Antonio Guterres United Nations Secretary General closing COP27 Egypt)

Climate Change Solutions was established in 2003 and since then has developed opportunities, projects and partnerships towards the UN's 30 Climate Emergency Objectives and a net zero carbon emission UK.



The recently held UN conference COP 27 highlighted both the urgency and shortfall of previous targets if we are to contain global warming within the targeted 1.5 degrees average. UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres told the summit that the world was losing its fight against climate change

The governments plans to decarbonise the UK electricity system calls for an 500% increase in solar power within a decade. The West Midlands as the traditional powerhouse of Britain has a vital role to play in meeting the 2030 Climate Emergency imperative. And right now, solar can also offer an alternative to the hike in grid prices, which have increased the cost of doing business and driven many people into fuel poverty. Now is a moment of opportunity for the West Midlands to play a role in addressing the concurrent threats of climate change and the energy crisis.

The potential

Our solar mapping of large south facing and flat roofs together with car parks has demonstrated the potential to achieve 500% solar growth and more. The first stage project saw both sides of Coventry's 5 1/2 mile canal and then Coventry City Centre and South Constituency solar mapped by Warwick University students and Richard Berry, Director CCS Ltd. The project was then extended in Birmingham covering 250 organisations in the Tyseley Environmental Enterprise District.

There are plans to extend the mapping to other area within Birmingham East Regeneration Zone as well as Birmingham International Airport.

This demonstrated the potential for 63,000 solar panels. The project was led by Beata Pesian with support of Jon Bloomfield on behalf of CCS and Mossen Randeree, Birmingham Energy Institute and David Horsfall, Director Tyseley Energy Park, together with Birmingham University students. There are plans to extent the mapping to other areas of Birmingham.

Following on from the work in Coventry, a presentation will be given to Coventry University Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency MSc students to encourage consideration of their potential contribution to the solar project. Dr Tom Rogers Assistant professor and Angeline Donastorg Sosa are working on a new software tool to enable much larger scale and detailed mapping of the buildings. Brian Stevens Business Delivery Manager Coventry University Enterprise Ltd will also be contribution to the project.

About one third of Coventry 's large south facing and flat roof as well as car parks the mapping identified the potential for 288,000 solar counting homes and other sources. It would make a major the next decade with multiple local benefit from clean, green, cheaper panels.

Projecting from this there is the potential for 1 million not contribution to the UK aim for a 500% increase of solar power within and secure supply, as well as creating new jobs and businesses. Making Coventry's Solar Future - Prospectus was publicly launched event 27/10/2021 chaired by Zarah Sultana Coventry South MP with a civic welcome support by Cllr John McNicholas Lord Mayor Coventry City Council and several key stakeholders presenting.

Margo James, Executive Chair Warwick Manufacturing Group and Chair Coventry Climate Change Board following up a site visit to the HECE solar farm is seeking closer engagement with both the WMG and Coventry City Council Sustainability Team and the university. Ken Granger, Climate Change Solutions Director is the Coventry & Warwickshire Solar Future Co-ordinator.

Climate Change Solutions was formed at an event hosted at the KPMG office in Birmingham with Joe Roxborough its first Secretary, Dr Brian Walters Chair, (Former Midland Environment Agency Director,) and Tony McNally Managing Director plus five other directors, with its office at Coventry University TechnoCentre. Events to celebrate its 20th anniversary will be planned through 2023 with a special event in June as part of the UK Green Week—**watch this space!**



Whilst much of the work undertaken so far has been done on a voluntary basis thanks to all who have contributed, particularly the students. It will now require sponsorship and or grant funding to achieve the result consistent with the UK aim of a 500% increase of solar power within the next decade.

West Midlands Bright Solar Future can lead this movement – to do so will require the commitment of all including high-level partners to support the cocreation and delivery.

