

ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

ISSUE 8: JANUARY 2021

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WELCOME TO THE ENERGY STRATEGY E-BULLETIN

Happy New Year to you all and welcome to our eighth Energy Strategy update, and the first e-bulletin of 2021.

Within our last edition we touched on clean energy growth and hydrogen energy opportunities. In this month's update we have provided additional signposting to a range of funding opportunities that fall within these sectors.

We will also be focusing on the information and advice that people might need in the coming years as we decarbonise our energy sector.

The year ahead clearly brings an abundance of opportunities within the energy sector and so, in partnership with all our stakeholders, we look forward to forging onward in the year ahead.



Thomas Byrne

Thomas Byrne
Director, Energy Strategy

ENERGY STRATEGY DELIVERY BODY – PROVIDING INFORMATION, ADVICE AND SUPPORT

Regardless of age, everyone in Northern Ireland uses energy daily – to provide power and heat in our homes, our schools, our hospitals, our places of work, and to fuel our travel. To achieve our goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2050 together, we will all need to make very different energy choices in the future. We recognise that for a lot of people these changes will feel difficult and may incur costs, so it is critical that we support all consumers to help them make new, cleaner energy choices in a way that is easily understood.

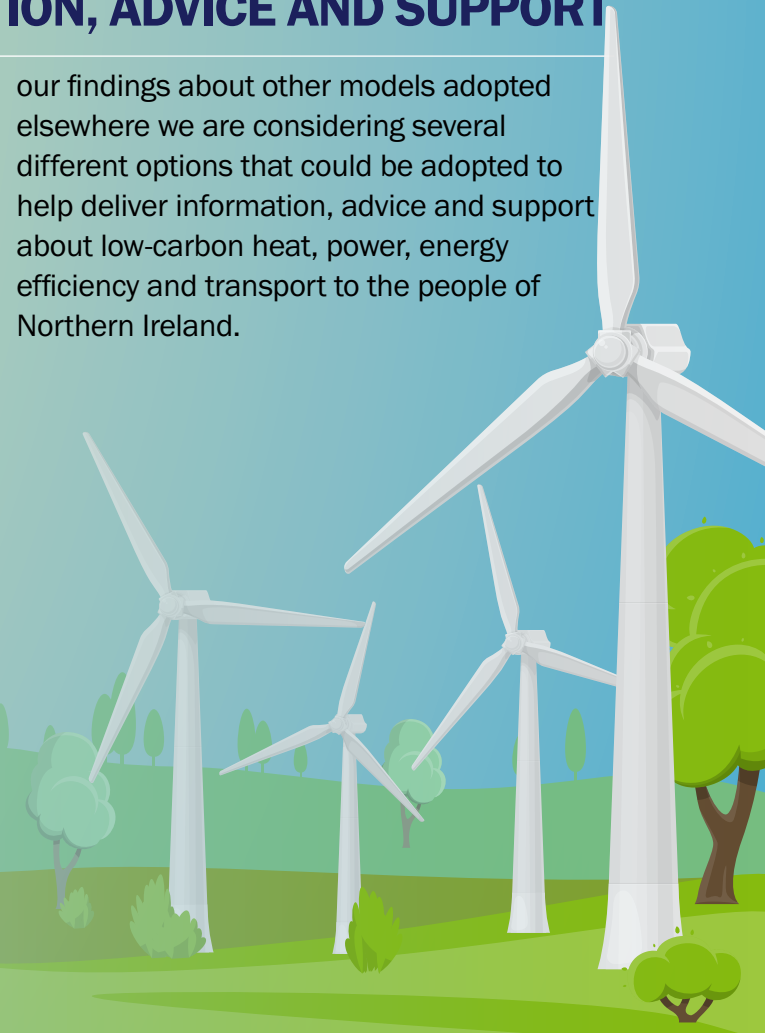
Energy advice, information or support is currently provided by a range of organisations in Northern Ireland, such as the Housing Executive, the Consumer Council, the Utility Regulator and voluntary organisations. Unlike other countries, we don't have a single 'one stop shop' for people to find out more about renewable energy choices, get advice in relation to their home or workplace and

secure financial assistance to make the change to cleaner energy options.

The Call for Evidence demonstrated overwhelming support for this type of simplified, centralised approach to energy advice provision. We've also been considering how neighbouring countries do this. Many respondents supported the model currently adopted by the Republic of Ireland to deliver their energy transition - the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

We commissioned independent research to further understand the SEAI model and learn about its impact in helping consumers in the energy transition. The research also considered if government policy aims and objectives were achieved through the services delivered and carried out a comparison with the current provision of services locally. Using this research alongside

our findings about other models adopted elsewhere we are considering several different options that could be adopted to help deliver information, advice and support about low-carbon heat, power, energy efficiency and transport to the people of Northern Ireland.



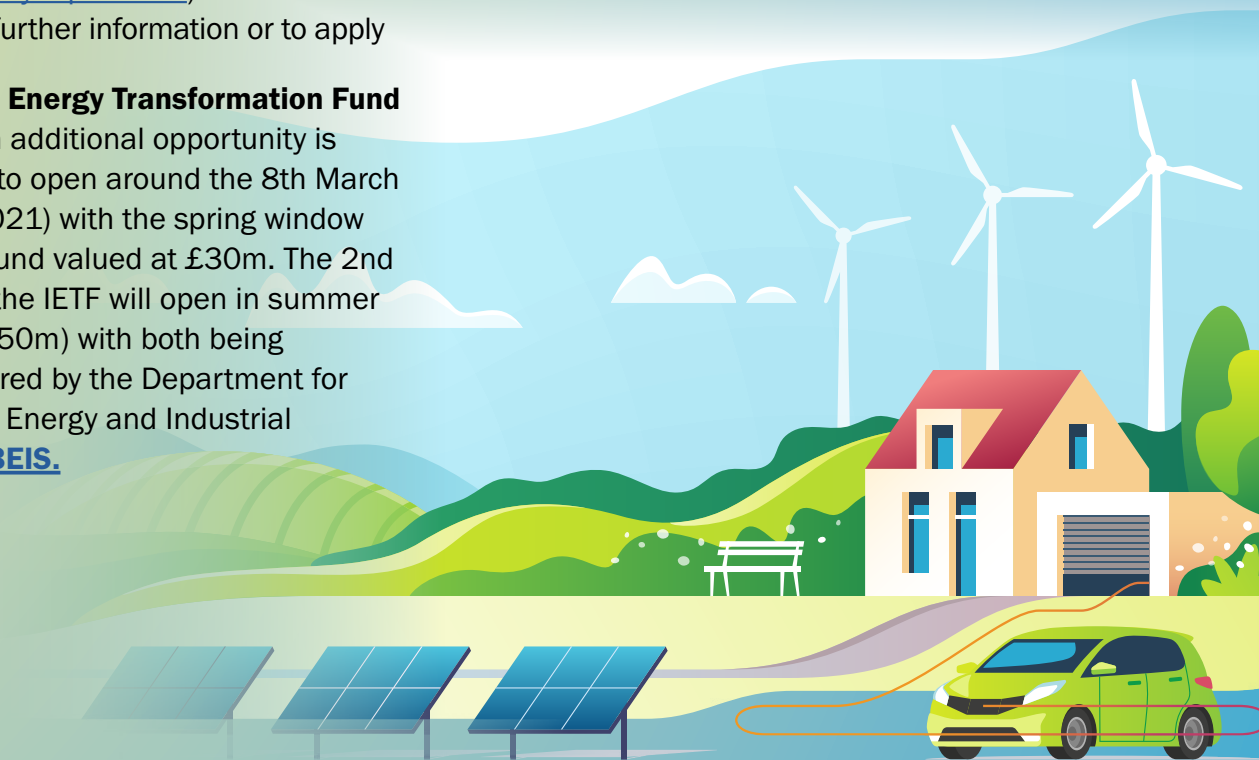
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW CARBON ENERGY

We are keen to ensure that Northern Ireland manufacturers, research bodies and businesses are aware of the opportunities that exist in the low-carbon economy, including hydrogen. These opportunities include advanced manufacturing of pressure vessels and storage solutions, as well as a range of funding schemes that are designed to help further the move towards net-zero across Northern Ireland and the UK:

- **CASE** have announced a new programme to support research and development of decarbonisation solutions across the energy system within NI, with applications within hydrogen and the heat sectors being particularly welcome. Projects do not have to be market ready but must have a clear pathway to commercialisation and demonstrate a benefit to the Northern Ireland economy.

Deadline for application 5pm, Friday 26 February 2021. Contact Simon Murray (s.murray@qub.ac.uk) or Sam McCloskey (s.mccloskey@qub.ac.uk) or 028 9097 5577 for further information or to apply

- **Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF)**. An additional opportunity is expected to open around the 8th March (to July 2021) with the spring window phase 1 fund valued at £30m. The 2nd phase of the IETF will open in summer 2021 (£250m) with both being administered by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy **BEIS**.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW CARBON ENERGY *(continued)*

- **Direct Air Capture and other Greenhouse Gas Removals Innovation.** Phase 1 of the competition is now open to applications. This will provide up to £250,000 funding per project for this initial design phase, which will then have the opportunity to apply for phase 2 which will look at piloting or further developing these designs.

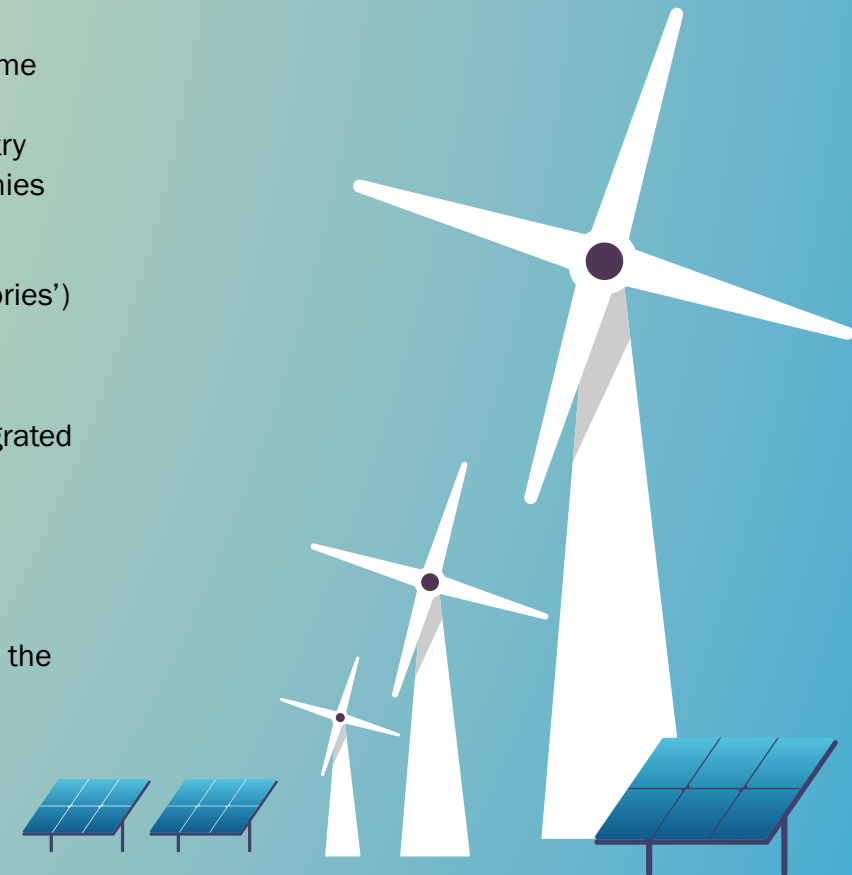
Registration for the fund closed in November 2020. Anyone who registered an interest should submit their formal application by 5th February 2021

Further information can be found via the energy efficiency section of the www.gov.uk website or [Contracts Finder](#).

- **The Automotive Transformation Fund (ATF)** is a £1bn programme to support the industrialisation of an electrified automotive supply chain in the UK. This new, long term funding programme will support both R&D and capital projects within the automotive industry and will begin by focusing on companies involved in:

- batteries including cells ('gigafactories')
- battery management systems
- electric machines, drives and integrated power electronics
- fuel cells

To find out more [click here](#), or to get involved register your project through the [Funding Tool](#).



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOW CARBON ENERGY *(continued)*

- **Carbon Capture Usage and Storage Fund.** This £1bn fund was recently announced in the Prime Minister's 10-point plan for carbon capture processes and technologies within the UK (criteria yet to be confirmed).
- **(BEIS) Low carbon Hydrogen production fund for £250m** is to be launched late 2021.

REPORT ON THE FUTURE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

A new research report, commissioned by the Department for the Economy, has highlighted the range of economic and wider societal benefits that can be achieved by significantly improving how we use energy and move towards a net zero carbon economy.

The [report](#) can be viewed on the Department's website.

