

COP26 Hydrogen Highlights

During the first two weeks of November, the world came together in Glasgow for COP26 with the common goal of resolving the global climate crisis.

Recognising the important role that hydrogen will play in the global transition to net zero, there have been a number of significant announcements and developments being made during the COP26 fortnight in relation to the future of hydrogen.

Jubilee Easo, partner in our Clean Energy team, commented:

"For some time, support for low carbon hydrogen has been growing. In the UK, the launch of the Hydrogen Strategy in the summer was a good starting point for the future of hydrogen policy and the hydrogen economy in the UK. It is encouraging that the support for low carbon hydrogen and the importance being placed on it as a key part of the move to net zero is being replicated in the global arena of COP26. To deliver a successful hydrogen economy, however, a clear global policy framework will be needed to ensure barriers to the development of low carbon technologies, such as hydrogen, can be removed."



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1 & 2
November

- Glasgow Breakthroughs
- The Energy Transition in South Africa



The Glasgow Breakthroughs

At the outset, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson outlined the “Glasgow Breakthroughs” (i.e. the first five goals of COP26), which are anticipated to provide 20 million new jobs worldwide and contribute over \$16 trillion across emerging and advanced economies. Alongside making power, road transport, near-zero emission steel and agriculture more affordable, the PM announced the goal of ensuring **affordable renewable and low carbon hydrogen is globally available by 2030**. The [Breakthrough Agenda](#) hydrogen goal, the metrics by which it can be measured and key initiatives for international collaboration to achieve the goal were endorsed by 33 countries. The key measurable indicators to be reported on by the IEA, in collaboration with IRENA and the UN High Level Climate Action Champions will include production and point of supply costs, volume of low carbon hydrogen production globally, greenhouse gas abatement from the production and take-up of renewable and low carbon hydrogen and the investment in research, development, demonstration and deployment of renewable and low-carbon hydrogen technologies.

Supporting the Glasgow Breakthroughs, the [Breakthrough Energy Catalyst Programme](#) aims to raise \$3bn in concessional capital with a view to that investment leading to \$30bn of investments to reduce clean technology costs and create markets for green products for green hydrogen, Direct Air Capture, long-duration energy storage and sustainable aviation fuel. The capital injection will include £200m of UK support.

Just Energy Transition in South Africa

In a political declaration between the Governments of the Republic of South Africa, the UK, the USA, the Republic of France and the Federal Republic of Germany, together with the European Union, a resolution was made to support the Just Energy Transition in South Africa. The resolution is to establish an ambitious long-term partnership to support South Africa’s efforts towards low emissions and climate resilient development, as well as accelerating the just transition and decarbonisation of the electricity system. This will include developing new economic opportunities, such as green hydrogen, as South Africa moves towards a low carbon future.

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November

- Delivering the Breakthroughs – Mission Innovation
- Hydrogen Council calls for greater hydrogen uptake



Delivering the Breakthroughs – Mission Innovation

Mission Innovation, launched at COP26 by government leaders, is committed to accelerating investment into clean energy technologies. Mission Innovation and Breakthrough Energy are collaborating to advance public and private sector collaboration, moving clean energy technologies forward towards commercialisation. The partnership is seeking to expand collaboration with governments across the globe and will collaborate with Breakthrough Energy to support the Glasgow Breakthrough goals.

Hydrogen Council calls for greater hydrogen uptake as it publishes “Hydrogen for Net Zero” report

The Hydrogen Council issued a letter from a coalition of CEOs, calling for the world leaders attending COP26 to accelerate the uptake of renewable and low carbon hydrogen by 2030. The letter highlights the need for policy decisions to be made sooner rather than later to unlock the benefits of hydrogen. Alongside the letter, the Hydrogen Council published its report “[Hydrogen for Net Zero](#)” focusing on the deployment of hydrogen until 2030 and 2050 to achieve Net Zero emissions. The scenario-focused report identifies different uses for hydrogen in industry, power, mobility and buildings, and presents a call to action to deliver across three fronts: to stimulate demand, enable access through infrastructure and create scale to bring down costs and close the economic gap of hydrogen decarbonisation solutions as against conventional alternatives.

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November

- End of coal
- Africa and Latin America Green Hydrogen Alliances
- IRENA and WEF launch
- Plans for Green Hydrogen
- First Movers Coalition



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End of coal – make way for clean technologies

On the same day as the [Statement on International Public Support for the Clean Energy Transition](#) was signed, a 190-strong coalition, called the “Powering Past Coal Alliance”, agreed to phase out coal power and end support for new coal power plants, both domestically and internationally (for more information, please see our [COP26 Energy Day update](#)). Phasing out reliance on coal requires a replacement energy source to be developed, providing a great opportunity for the development of low carbon hydrogen solutions.

Africa and Latin America Green Hydrogen Alliances

Energy day at COP26 saw the launch of the Africa and Latin America Green Hydrogen Alliances, with membership from six African countries and five Latin American countries. The alliances will collaborate on the development, regulatory frameworks, financing and certification of green hydrogen, with the aim of kickstarting millions of metric tons of production of reliably near-zero-carbon green hydrogen for use in domestic and international industries.

IRENA and WEF launch “Enabling Measures Roadmaps for Green Hydrogen”

In partnership, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the World Economic Forum (WEF) launched a series of “[Enabling Measures Roadmaps for Green Hydrogen](#)” at COP26. The aim of the toolbox is to empower policymakers to prioritise policies for green hydrogen and accelerate its deployment at the international level. The first roadmaps for Europe and Japan were developed through a series of consultations with leading industry players and international organisations. They show the top 10 measures and critical timelines for implementation for cost reduction, demand growth, international standards, infrastructure and technology development.

Plans for Green Hydrogen Standard announced

The Green Hydrogen Organisation (GH2) and the UN High-Level Climate Action Champions have announced that they intend to develop a global [Green Hydrogen Standard](#). The collaborative effort between government, industry and civil society will work to provide certainty and transparency to investors and other stakeholders with regard to the development and use of green hydrogen. The Green Hydrogen Standard is based on the three pillars of rigorous accounting of greenhouse gas emissions, tracking of the overall environmental, social and governance impact of certified hydrogen, and the requirement that any development impact of the GH2 standard certified green hydrogen is assessed based on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals. A meeting to develop the standard further is due to take place on 1 December 2021 in Geneva.

First Movers Coalition launched

The World Economic Forum (WEF) has launched the [First Movers Coalition](#), a public-private partnership between the US State Department and WEF, bringing together companies to “jumpstart the global demand” for innovative technologies that will help to deliver net zero by 2050. In sectors such as aviation, road transport and steel production, members of the coalition are committing to using emerging technologies and purchasing fuel and steel produced using low carbon technologies, such as hydrogen. The second phase of commitments will be shared in early 2022.



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November

– UAE Hydrogen leadership roadmap



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UAE Hydrogen leadership roadmap

The UAE have launched their Hydrogen leadership roadmap at COP26. Working with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), the UAE will support low-carbon hydrogen business through critical enablers, including a clear regulatory framework, backed by policies, incentives, standards and certification. The Hydrogen leadership roadmap comprises of three core objectives – unlocking new source of value creation through exports of low carbon hydrogen and derivatives, fostering new hydrogen derivative opportunities through low carbon steel as well as other priority UAE industries and contributing to the UAE's 2050 net zero commitments. (More information on the [Energy Transition Accelerator Financing](#) (Etaf).

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November

– WBCSD and SMI hydrogen pledges
– Australia's clean-vehicle strategy



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WBCSD and SMI publish hydrogen pledges

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD) and the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI) published pledges made by 28 companies to drive growth in the demand for, and supply of, hydrogen. The companies have pledged across three categories – demand, supply and financial or technical support – and cover a wide range of sectors, including financial services, energy production and supply companies, and vehicle and equipment manufacturers.

Australia's clean-vehicle strategy launched

The Australian Government has launched its "Future Fuels and Vehicles Strategy" setting out its plans to reduce emissions in the transport sector. Backed by a \$2.1 billion investment, the Australian Government is partnering with industry to invest in enabling battery charging and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure for road transport, one of the five priority initiatives being focused on to create an environment that promotes consumer choice, stimulates industry development and reduces emissions.

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November

– Scotland's draft Hydrogen Action Plan
– Hydrogen-powered Airbus



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Scotland's draft Hydrogen Action Plan

The Scottish government published its [draft Hydrogen Action plan](#), setting out its plan for the next five years, backed by £100 million of funding, to implement the policy positions and ambitions set out in the Hydrogen Policy Statement. The aim of the plan is to scale up hydrogen production in Scotland, whilst facilitating the development of a domestic market, maximising the benefits of integrating hydrogen into the energy system in Scotland and strengthening innovation and international collaboration.

EasyJet aims to be first to fly passengers in hydrogen-powered Airbus

EasyJet announced its plans to be the first airline operator to launch the first hydrogen-powered Airbus aircraft for passenger travel. The company's aim is that, by 2035, EasyJet passengers are flying on zero-emissions aircraft. The announcement comes alongside EasyJet's confirmation that it has joined "Race to Zero", a UN-backed campaign to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. It is expected that EasyJet will present its net-zero roadmap in the coming months.



– General COP26 highlights



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For a look back at our daily updates on the COP26 developments, please go to our [dedicated COP26 page](#) on our website.

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