

KNOWLEDGEABLE AND CONNECTED.

Knowledge base

- The city has a good general business environment conducive to investors in this sector, helped by the city's 2020 carbon neutrality aims
- Birmingham has strengths in its universities in the low carbon fuel technology sphere, related to its traditional strengths in the automotive industry
- Access to a talent pool of 97,000 graduates from institutions within a one hour drive of Birmingham, with a high concentration in key Business, Technical and Science subjects - 62 per cent of all graduates

This strength at university level in turn ensures Birmingham has a good base of suitably skilled graduates in this area of industry for potential investors to recruit from:

- **Aston University Bioenergy Research Group** is one of the largest university-based research groups in thermal biomass conversion in the world, and is home to the European Bioenergy Research Institute (EBRI), led by Professor Andreas Hornung
- **University of Birmingham** – The University's Institute for Energy Policy and Research has significant capabilities in future power systems, hydrogen materials and supply chain research applied to clean hydrogen
- **Birmingham City University** – The University's Faculty of Technology, Engineering and the Environment (TEE) is a national centre of excellence for learning, innovation and technology transfer
- **Energy Technologies Institute** – The University of Birmingham, together with other Midlands Universities, hosts and supports the Energy Technologies Institute as part of the Midlands Energy Consortium



"It was important to be in the middle of the country, have very good road access and also to have good airport links to Germany... additionally Birmingham is a great city with good support for business."

Daniel Parsons, Juwi Solar

Well connected

Birmingham is at the heart of the UK's motorway and rail network, and is recognised as the best connected UK city. It has easy access to all major cities across the country and an international airport just 10 minutes from the city centre.



Birmingham Unlimited

Business Birmingham is your access point to Birmingham's business networks within the clean technologies sector and here to help you benefit from the city's strong enterprise culture. By working as a strategic partner and consultant with your internal project team, we can provide relevant information for your organisation and a comprehensive package of support.

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FUTURE PROOF CITY.

The environmental technologies sector is a growth area for global business, with low carbon research and development activities becoming increasingly important. Birmingham is a powerhouse for renewable energy from low carbon fuels to waste management and bioenergy to solar photovoltaic.

World-class university research, the development of an integrated transport infrastructure and our involvement in the largest domestic retrofit programme in the UK, are some of the many reasons why Birmingham leads the way as a sustainable, future-proof city.

A bright future

- Birmingham is constantly innovating and evolving. Its future goals are clearly outlined in the **Big City Plan** – the most ambitious and far-reaching citywide development project ever undertaken in the UK
- World class property developments under construction include the iconic **£600 million New Street Station Gateway** and the landmark **Library of Birmingham**
- A **high quality of life** can easily be achieved in the city, and is ranked above other leading cities such as Prague, Dubai and Hong Kong according to the Mercer's 2010 quality of living survey. Birmingham is also one of Britain's greenest cities with **8,000 acres** of parks and open spaces

- With **connectivity high on the city's agenda**, proposals are also in place for the expansion of Birmingham Airport and a High Speed 2 rail terminus in Birmingham's Eastside, an area undergoing a multi-billion pound regeneration
- A **sustainable and environmentally focused city**, Birmingham champions the use of innovative products and practices to lower the city's carbon footprint at a reasonable cost

"Birmingham is a great place for business in the low carbon economy. Thanks to Birmingham City Council's strong commitment to carbon reduction, housing retrofit and local supply chains, opportunities for renewable energy and micro-generation businesses have been accelerated."

Mark Clemson, New World Solar

Joseph Chamberlain Memorial Clock Tower,
The University of Birmingham



New Street Station, Navigation Street View



LEADING DEVELOPMENTS.

A leading centre for low carbon

- The city is already ahead of its CO₂ reduction targets; with a strategy successfully underway to reduce CO₂ emissions by **60 per cent** by 2026
- The sector has **200+ firms** and employs **4,200+ people** in the city
- These figures represent a rise of **20 per cent** and **27 per cent** respectively compared to 2005
- **Greater proportion of larger firms** than the UK as a whole; 14 per cent employ more than ten people, compared to 11 per cent in the UK
- Home to leading companies within the sector including: Severn Trent Plc, Enpure Holdings Ltd, Veolia, Smurfit Kappa Group Plc, Ecorys Holding B.V., Weir Waste Services Ltd, Jaguar, Land Rover and Tata
- **£98,000** Gross Value Added (GVA) per worker, more than twice the city average

Mitsubishi i-MiEV as part of the CABLED project



courtesy of E.ON

Brueton Park, Solihull



Recent developments

- **Low carbon vehicle technologies**, linked to the city's long history in automotive manufacturing and research
 - The wider area attracted over **£40 million** of government funding for research and development
- **Rapid recent growth** in micro-generation/renewable energy
 - Birmingham Energy Savers aims to invest **£100 million** to retrofit **15,000 homes** across the city
- **Leading edge** low carbon and renewable energy research
 - **Hydrogen fuel cell technology** at the University of Birmingham's Centre for Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Research
- **Infrastructure** in recycling and waste management
 - Energy recovery facility run by Veolia which converts **350,000 tonnes** of the city's rubbish into electricity
- **Engineering skills** in low carbon
 - The work of the many Birmingham based engineering consultancies, such as Arup, Atkins, Capita Symonds, Environ, URS/Scott Wilson, Waterman, White Young Green
- **District heating and combined heat and power facilities**
 - City centre CHP schemes are being developed by the **Birmingham District Energy Company Limited (BDEC)** - a joint venture between Birmingham City Council and **COFELY District Energy** (formerly Utilicom), reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions

A talent pool of 97,000 graduates from the wider Birmingham area within a one hour drive.

Bio-mechanical Pilot Plant reactor,
University of Birmingham



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