

**biz4Biz**

# Sustainable Biz

JUNE 2023

**MANCHESTER  
SPIN-OUT SIGNS  
\$1BN DEAL**

**THE ART OF  
RECYCLING**

**DELOITTE  
LAUNCHES 2023  
SEMICONDUCTOR  
OUTLOOK**

**Motor industry commits to  
sustainable leather sourcing**



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# Welcome...

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 in the UK requires public authorities to consider how the services they procure can improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of their local area. This means that public authorities are required to consider the social value of contracts, not just their financial value.

The Act has created real terms value in several ways:

**Improved social outcomes:** The Act has helped to deliver improved social outcomes for communities by encouraging public authorities to consider the social impact of their procurement decisions. This has resulted in the delivery of services that better meet the needs of local communities.

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**"The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 has created real terms value by encouraging public authorities to consider the social impact of their procurement decisions."**

**Increased local procurement:** The Act has encouraged public authorities to procure goods and services locally, which has helped to support local businesses and economies. This has created jobs and economic growth in local areas.

**Reduced costs:** By considering the long-term social and environmental impact of contracts, public authorities have been able to reduce costs associated with negative social and environmental impacts. For example, contracts that promote sustainable practices can help to reduce the costs associated with climate change.

Overall, the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 has created real terms value by encouraging public authorities to consider the social impact of their procurement decisions. This has helped to deliver improved social outcomes, increased local procurement, and reduced costs associated with negative social and environmental impacts.

At a recent ConneXions lunch at Knebworth House we were delighted to host senior representatives from the widely recognised Social Value Portal, home to the TOMS measurement of Social Value now widely used and accepted as the national baseline for Social Value. It was also a great pleasure to attend and speak at the Social Value Conference in Westminster in June, such a powerful gathering which has done so much good to encourage collaboration on the subject.

**ADRIAN HAWKINS OBE**  
**biz4Biz Chairman, Chairman of the Stevenage Development Board, Herts LEP Chairman.**



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# Tesco underlines commitment to maintain sustainable water management

As leading signatories to the WRAP Courtauld 2030 Water Roadmap, Tesco have confirmed that they are committed to delivering the Courtauld target that 50% of the UK's fresh food is sourced from areas of sustainable water management. This ambition aligns with their commitment to restoring nature in food production, improving biodiversity and meeting our net-zero target across our supply chain by 2050.

In 2019, as part of their partnership with WWF, Tesco identified several priority catchments across the UK and internationally where they source food from, with key projects being delivered in East Anglia, the Wye & Usk and River Soar catchments, and Navaisha Basin (Kenya), Groenlandberg and Koue Bokkeveld (South Africa).

Internationally, the partnership has invested in a range of measures, including clearing invasive vegetation, and supporting local businesses and organisations to help protect biodiversity. In the UK, 130 farms are engaged across the three project areas, with over 90% receiving at least one advisory visit, which provides bespoke guidance on options to improve nutrient and soil management on site.

Clean water is vital for nature, food production and society. As well as promoting and protecting biodiversity in our supply chains, it is fundamental to bringing quality food to our customers. It's why Tesco has taken a range of measures across their sourcing regions to protect this vital resource, both here in the UK and further afield.

Some 40 farms have so far undertaken land use improvements across 790ha, including under-sowing maize, sowing cover crops, improving fencing to keep livestock out of watercourses, planting hedges or trees, installing

buffer strips, and/or tramline disruption. In total, 329million litres of water has been replenished and returned to the environment.

This work shows what can be achieved when farmers, advisers, conservationists and retailers work together to support nutrient management on specific farm sites. However, they recognise localised efforts will not be enough to turn the tide for UK rivers.

The Wye and Usk region continues to face a number of compounding issues, including an increase in agricultural production, including poultry, egg, livestock and arable farming, which have all led to a decrease in river water quality due to diffuse agricultural pollution; habitat degradation; the increasing effects of climate change, including major flooding in the area; a lack of oversight from relevant authorities and industry; and ongoing sewage discharges into the river by local water companies.

To help overcome the challenge of diffuse agricultural pollution we've part of the Wye and Usk Foundation's Wye Agri Food

Partnership. This Partnership was set up in 2019 and consists of processors, suppliers and retailers all working towards reducing the food sector's impact on water within the catchment.

Across the UK, producers in Sustainable Farming Groups, which are led by suppliers, farmers and Tesco colleagues across sectors such as poultry, dairy, beef, lamb and potatoes, are driving improvements in farm animal welfare and environmental performance. As part of this engagement, farmers and suppliers are delivering soil, nutrient and manure management plans.

In addition to their current farm assurance requirements they are working closely with environmental certification schemes to develop supplementary environmental requirements that will be independently verified. In the coming months this will include specific trials in the Wye Valley with key suppliers across poultry, beef and lamb supply chains.

Tesco are also encouraging all our suppliers to sign up to WRAP's Courtauld Commitment 2030.





# Volkswagen committed to more sustainable leather sourcing

**T**he brands of the Volkswagen Group have joined the Leather Working Group (LWG). The Group seeks to play a leading role in the auto industry in terms of responsible raw material procurement, and becoming a member of LWG is a further milestone on the way to achieving greater sustainability throughout the entire value chain. "The Volkswagen Group is assuming responsibility for sustainable and transparent supply chains. Becoming a member of the LWG is an important step. The organization's expertise will help us become even more sustainable in our use of leather," said Dirk Große-

Loheide, Member of the Brand Board of Management of Volkswagen responsible for Procurement and member of the Extended Executive Committee. "Leather is a mark of quality for our customers. Together with our suppliers, we are committed to internationally accepted standards. The facilities in which our leather is manufactured is also important. They should receive certification from LWG," says Barbara Frenkel, Executive Board Member for Procurement at Porsche AG. In the Volkswagen Group, Porsche AG is responsible for evaluating sustainability risks in leather sourcing and implementing mitigation measures.

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**"Leather is a mark of quality for our customers. Together with our suppliers, we are committed to internationally accepted standards. The facilities in which our leather is manufactured is also important."**

“Traceability in the supply chains is one of the most important ways in which companies can ensure that they are sourcing leather responsibly. This is at the core of our efforts,” said Christina Trautmann, Head of the Leather Working Group. “We are looking forward to the Volkswagen Group’s active involvement. With its support we intend to drive forward the development of tools and methods that will have a positive impact on the leather industry.”

LWG is a non-profit organisation headquartered in Milton Keynes. It ensures transparency as well as uniform environmental and social standards for leather supply chains around the globe. It also offers certification of leather manufacturers. The around 2,000 member companies of LWG represent more than one-quarter of global finished leather

production. Members include players from all along the leather supply chain, from tanneries to leather processing industries and associations to traders and buyers.

Joining the Leather Working Group underpins the Volkswagen Group’s ambitious sustainability strategy. In 2021, the Group published its first dedicated Responsible Raw Materials Report. In the report, Volkswagen details its methodology and activities as part of a newly established management system for raw material procurement.

The report covers 16 high-risk raw materials, including battery materials such as lithium and cobalt, but also leather. The highest risk to human rights and the environment is frequently at a level of the supply chain in which Volkswagen itself does not have direct

contractual relationships. This makes achieving transparency and implementing standards particularly challenging.

Material-specific tender specifications for leather were introduced in early 2022. Since April 2022, suppliers have been required to comply with these for all new contracts awarded. The specifications call for both disclosure of the country of origin of the raw material and a leather-specific sustainability certificate – issued, for example, by LWG. Volkswagen thus requires its suppliers to respect animal welfare and be responsible in their leather production and processing. For example, strict criteria with regard to water usage and avoidance of water pollution in the tanning process must be adhered to. As a matter of principle, Volkswagen brands do not use any leather that contributes to illegal deforestation.





## Biden-Harris Administration launches first programme to Improve safety on America's roadways by preventing wildlife-vehicle collisions

U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has announced details for the first-of-its-kind pilot programme to make roads safer, prevent wildlife-vehicle collisions, and improve habitat connectivity. The programme, which was created through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, previewed at the recent White House Conservation in Action Summit, will be administered by the Federal Highway Administration, makes grant funding available to states and communities to construct wildlife crossings over or below busy roads, add warning signs for drivers, acquire mapping and tracking tools, and more.

**"The grant funding will promote activities that reduce wildlife vehicle collisions, including warning signs for drivers and construction of wildlife crossings both over and under roadways where habitats exist on either side of a busy road."**

"Every year, Americans are injured and killed in crashes involving cars and wildlife," said U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg. "By launching the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, we are taking an important step to prevent deadly crashes in communities across the country and make America's roadways safer for everyone who uses them."

Wildlife vehicle collisions are a clear safety issue, especially in rural areas. Each year in the United States, roughly 200 people are killed – and many more are injured – in more than one million collisions involving wildlife and vehicles. Through the Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program, DOT is taking the unprecedented step of dedicating funding for wildlife crossing projects that will make roads safer – making a total of \$350 million available over five years, including more than \$111 million in grants through its first round of awards funding this year.

"There are proven practices to prevent crashes between vehicles and wildlife, and with this investment, we're going to take commonsense steps to reduce collisions and make roads safer for rural and urban communities alike," Federal Highway Administrator Shailen Bhatt said. "Thanks to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, communities that may not previously have had access to funding for these critical projects can finally make roads safer while

protecting wildlife and their movement corridors."

The grant funding will promote activities that reduce wildlife vehicle collisions, including warning signs for drivers and construction of wildlife crossings both over and under roadways where habitats exist on either side of a busy road. Grants are available for all project activities, including but not limited to research, planning, design, and construction. The FHWA seeks to award non-construction and construction projects under the Wildlife Crossings Program, including research on safety innovations, mapping and tracking tools, and the design and construction of overpasses and underpasses.

The program supports the Department of Transportation's National Roadway Safety Strategy (NRSS). The strategy sets a goal of achieving zero roadway deaths and serious injuries through a Safe System Approach, which includes multiple approaches to prevent crashes from happening in the first place. The projects funded by the Wildlife Crossings pilot program will improve the overall safety of the traveling public and reduce the economic drain caused by wildlife crashes (such as loss of income, medical costs, property damage, and decline in productivity and quality of life), while simultaneously supporting species survival.

# Datacentre UK Receives Schneider Electric's First Sustainability Impact Award in the United Kingdom and Ireland

Schneider Electric, the digital partner for sustainability and efficiency, has announced Datacentre UK, experts in designing, building and supporting data centres, server rooms and comms rooms, as a winner of the Schneider Electric Sustainability Impact Award in the UK and Ireland.

Datacentre UK received the award for enabling its customers to achieve their decarbonisation goals by prioritising energy efficiency within their data centre designs and operations. This includes its work with customers across the education, healthcare, and public sectors - helping them modernise legacy data centre infrastructures in the quest to reduce energy consumption, improve power usage effectiveness (PUE) and operating costs.

The awards are part of Schneider Electric's efforts to support partners who are concerned about climate change and are under pressure to address the issue for shareholders, customers, employees, and the younger generation. As the world becomes more electric, Schneider Electric facilitates sustainable practices with solutions that are simplified, open, and digital. This includes enabling partners to assess their own carbon footprint and build a trackable and traceable plan of action, as well as certifying partners' ability to assess the sustainability of their supplier and customer ecosystems. "Climate change is the defining issue of our time and to limit the planet's warming to 1.5° Celsius, we must realise that no company can do it alone," said Marc Garner, SVP, Secure Power Division, Schneider Electric, Europe. "Today's businesses must look beyond their own operations and consider their entire value chain, and to reach net zero, it will ultimately require a collective effort that calls upon businesses to share best practices, while supporting customers and



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"Climate change is the defining issue of our time and to limit the planet's warming to 1.5° Celsius, we must realise that no company can do it alone"

suppliers in their efforts to decarbonise. I'd like to congratulate Datacentre UK for its fantastic effort in helping its data centre customers reduce their environmental impact and in enabling them to reach their sustainability goals." "Amid rising energy costs and environmental issues, prioritising sustainability and reducing energy consumption have become the most important considerations for us, and our customers. Winning the Schneider Electric Sustainability Impact Award is a testament to our unwavering commitment

to sustainability, and we are delighted to have been recognised for the work we have done to help decarbonise our customers' operations" said Paul Almond, Managing Director, Datacentre UK. "Sustainability is not a one-time achievement but a continuous effort towards building a better future. We are very aware of the expectations placed on businesses like ours to demonstrate how we are decarbonising our own operations and those of our customers. We wanted to get ahead and play our part in the journey to net zero."

The Schneider Electric Sustainability Impact Awards were launched earlier this year to celebrate and recognise the pivotal role that Schneider's extensive network of partners play in delivering a more resilient and sustainable electric world. Participants are carefully assessed on how they are leveraging energy and digital & automation solutions in operations, reducing energy usage, increasing operational efficiency, and embracing circularity across the value chain.





# Government consultation considers the effects of air pollution

**A** UK government consultation has now closed and submissions are being considered to consider the effects of air pollution.

The UK Government has recognised that there is more to do to protect people and the environment from the effects of air pollution, which is why they claim to be taking significant and wide-ranging action to drive improvements to air quality.

They have stated that effective action is needed at all levels and there is a key role for local government in identifying and targeting measures to improve air quality in their areas.

The Air Quality Strategy sets out the actions the government expects local authorities to take in support of achieving our long-term air quality goals, including ambitious new PM2.5 targets. It provides a framework to enable local authorities to make the best use of their powers and deliver for their communities.

This consultation sought views on the revised draft Air Quality Strategy. The responses to this consultation will be used to help inform the final Air Quality Strategy due to be published later this year. The organisers were interested in views from local authorities and other local partners,

and also welcomed responses from all other interested parties and the wider public.

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**"They The UK Government has recognised that there is more to do to protect people and the environment from the effects of air pollution, which is why they claim to be taking significant and wide-ranging action to drive improvements to air quality."**

# The art of recycling with Thomas Dambo



**T**homas Dambo has used recycling, sustainability, and unlimited imagination to become one of the world's leading recycle artists. After graduating from the Kolding Design School with a master's degree in interactive design, he has used creativity and versatile design skills to create colour installations as the basis of his current work. He has created gardens made of plastics, a DIY Christmas market made from refuse and all manner of awe-inspiring displays. Today Thomas is best known for his project "The Trail of A Thousand Trolls"

featuring a number of trolls which are all made from recycled wood. Indeed there are 87 of the sculptures worldwide, showing up in Denmark, Germany, China, and the USA to name just a few countries. Their aim is to share the message of sustainability through all the interest, visits and shared social media posts of the public. And his trolls are now hoping to help the planet because as Thomas says, they hold a meeting every 211 years to talk about the state of mankind - and this is now due! The Troldefolkefest as it is known will also be the subject of another work due soon.

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## Manchester spin-out signs \$1 billion game-changing deal to help tackle global sustainability challenges

A spin-out company from the graphene innovation ecosystem at The University of Manchester has formed an international partnership that will spearhead an unprecedented scale-up of graphene-based technologies intended “to make a substantial impact on global CO2 emissions”.

UK-based Graphene Innovations Manchester Ltd (GIM), founded by University graduate Dr Vivek Koncherry, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Quazar Investment Company to create a new company in the UAE.

**“When fully replacing kerosene, SAF can slash lifecycle carbon emissions by more than 70% compared to conventional fossil jet fuel.”**

This exciting UK-UAE partnership - which highlights potential opportunity for UK innovators to access global investment and international markets and supply chains - will be one of the most ambitious projects to date to commercialise graphene as it fast-tracks cutting-edge R&D into large-scale manufacture – an investment vision worth a total of \$1 billion.

This new venture will develop and produce premium, environmentally-friendly products using advanced 2D materials, including breakthrough graphene-enhanced concrete that does not need

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"We are proud to be associated with Quazar so that we can assemble a powerful world-class team to provide us the opportunity to massively deploy our graphene-based technologies."

Dr Vivek Koncherry, CEO of Graphene Innovations Manchester

cement or water and can be made using recycled materials.

Dr Vivek Koncherry, CEO of Graphene Innovations Manchester, based in Manchester's Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre (GEIC), said: "We are proud to be associated with Quazar so that we can assemble a powerful world-class team to provide us the opportunity to massively deploy our graphene-based technologies."

Waleed Al Ali, CEO of Quazar, who will be active in helping bring the new company to successful, large-scale commercialisation, said: "The new graphene company will take a global lead in making environmentally friendly concrete and other products. We are glad that Quazar can play an active role in helping fulfil the UAE's His Highness Sheikh Saeed Bin Hamdan Bin Mohamed Al Nahyan's support for the UAE Vision 2030".

James Baker, CEO of Graphene@Manchester, added: "This agreement with our GEIC partner Graphene Innovations Manchester and Quazar is a seminal moment for the commercialisation of graphene as it demonstrates huge confidence in the potential for this advanced material to help lead our transition into a net zero world. "It is also a very proud moment for the Graphene@Manchester community as it confirms that our innovation ecosystem is providing exactly the right platform to

nurture pioneering R&D into graphene and other 2D materials that is world-class.

"Manchester is known as the 'home of graphene' – but increasingly, it's also being recognised as the home to its commercialisation potential. We are therefore able to form international partnerships, such as those in the UAE, based on this reputation; and from this position of strength we can place our city-region and the UK more generally into graphene's global economy.

As part of this ambition a new 'Sustainable Materials Translational Research Centre' is set to be created by the multi-million pound Greater Manchester Innovation Accelerator programme. The new centre is a partnership with the University's

Graphene Engineering Innovation Centre, the Henry Royce Institute, the High Value Manufacturing Catapult, and Rochdale Development Agency, and aims to connect local businesses to national opportunities, all underpinned with outstanding materials research.

A strategic partnerships that is highlighted is the ambitious agreement between the University and Abu Dhabi-based Khalifa University of Science and Technology which aims to deliver a funding boost for graphene innovation to develop new sustainable technologies. Attracting international funding to the North-West is also helping the UK government level-up R&D spending across the nation.



Traditional farming accounts for 24% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions.





According to a UN report, agricultural activities have had the largest impact on ecosystems on which people rely for their food, with crops and livestock using over 33% of the planet's land surface and 75% of its hydric resources. Overcultivation, overgrazing, deforestation, overuse of chemical inputs and poor irrigation practices, are unsustainable traditional farming practises which have been identified as major causes of desertification. How we treat our land can either push us further into a state of environmental emergency, or it can help us solve it. Regenerative Farming is the best tool we have today to help our land recover from decades of exploitation.

#### **WHAT IS REGENERATIVE FARMING?**

Regenerative farming, or regenerative agriculture, is a holistic soil management practice that has the objective of maximising the natural capacity of our soils to absorb and store CO2 from the atmosphere. It focuses on shifting our farming approach from “extraction” to “regeneration” by looking at how we can always give more than we take. Scientists estimate that by boosting carbon storage in agricultural soils by just 0.4% each year, we can store more carbon in the soil than humanity emits in a year.

Regenerative farming creates sustainable long-term ecosystems by maximising soil health and increasing its natural capacity to absorb and store CO2 from the atmosphere.

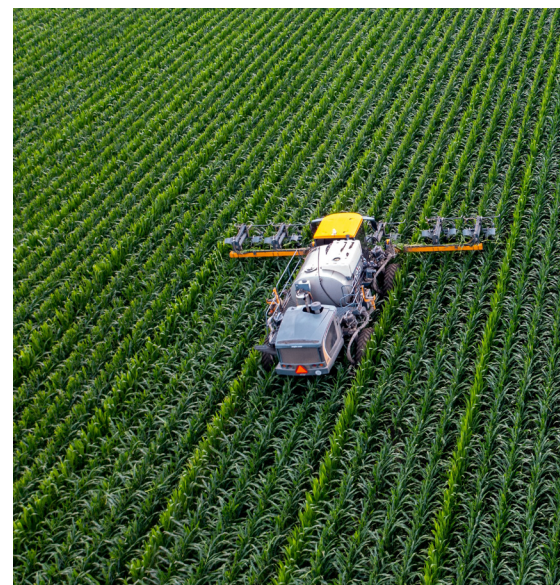
As an example of regenerative farming at Sheep Inc their New Zealand Sheep Stations are at the forefront of the regenerative farming movement. Through regular soil testing, Lake Hawea Station discovered that by implementing it, they were able to sequester 1% of carbon in their soil in a year.

#### **Some of the practices the stations adopt include:**

1. Minimising soil disturbance.
2. Keeping the soil covered.
3. Maximising pasture diversity.
4. Managed grazing for the sheep.

By “farming the soils” with more diverse plants and a healthier microbiome, soils hold water and nutrients better. There is less erosion and fewer fertilisers needed. These soils create healthier pastures, which improves the health of animals, humans and our planet.

Through regenerative farming, today Lake Hawea Station is naturally sequestering more CO2 from the atmosphere than their operations emit. Making their property, and the wool they produce, naturally carbon negative. All the stations play an active role in changing the route this planet is on. They are real Softcore Radicals, who work relentlessly to prove a new path forward is possible and that farmers can move from being seen as villains to heroes in the climate battle.



# Frito-Lay and Quaker Open New Industry-Leading Greenhouse Learning Center to Fast-Track Sustainable Packaging Innovation

**F**rito-Lay and Quaker have announced the opening of an industry-leading Greenhouse Learning Centre at its R&D headquarters. The Learning Center will be used to field test, measure, and analyse compostable packaging with an aim to speed up the rate of innovation. This facility represents a key milestone to achieve the company's PepsiCo Positive (pep+) packaging goal to design 100 percent of packaging to be recyclable, compostable, biodegradable or reusable by 2025.

"Our sustainable packaging vision is to build a world where packaging need never becomes waste," said Denise Lefebvre, senior vice president of R&D for PepsiCo. "We're actively changing our own compostable snack packaging technologies. By sharing these technologies, we're inviting the industry to make these changes as well. We are prioritizing, investing in and expediting projects to build a more circular, inclusive economy."

The R&D packaging team will use the Greenhouse Learning Centre to test the biodegradation properties of compostable packages in different environments to accelerate learnings, validate lab results through simultaneous, real-time experiments as packaging formulations are improved and iterate packaging solutions quicker.

The Learning Center is intended to enable packaging products to move from testing to certification-ready at least two to three times faster in an effort to drive the business and the entire industry forward. The new facility, the first of its kind across PepsiCo globally, is located next to and complements the existing prototyping lab where compostable packaging is born. It also aims to actively change industry standards by educating

partners and stakeholders on the benefits of transitioning to compostable packaging, demonstrate circularity with biodegradable materials and provide training to co-ops and visitors. The R&D team at Frito-Lay and Quaker has been conducting research and forming strategic partnerships for many years to improve the packaging process. After releasing the world's first 100% commercially compostable chip bags in 2010, Frito-Lay and Quaker continue to make progress in evolving its compostable packaging.

"We look forward to leveraging key findings from the Greenhouse Learning Center, alongside our scale, reach, and expertise across North America and

globally, to drive progress across our organisation and the entire industry," said David Allen, chief sustainability officer, Frito-Lay and Quaker. "We must work together to inspire positive change for the planet and people, and Frito-Lay and Quaker are proud to be leading the way." Building on its learnings from the launch of Off The Eaten Path's next-generation, commercially compostable packaging, the company introduced other options made from 85% renewable plant materials that produce approximately 60% lower greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions than traditional snack bags. Moving forward, the company will be focused on home-compostable packaging and packaging that's biodegradable, and research conducted at the Greenhouse will play a key role.

PepsiCo has integrated sustainability into its business for several decades and, in 2021, the company announced PepsiCo Positive (pep+), an end-to-end transformation that puts sustainability at the center of how the company will create growth and value. It has established goals under one comprehensive framework: Positive Agriculture, Positive Value Chain and Positive Choices. For more information about pep+ visit [PepsiCo.com/PepsiCoPositive](https://PepsiCo.com/PepsiCoPositive).

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**"The Learning Center is intended to enable packaging products to move from testing to certification-ready at least two to three times faster in an effort to drive the business and the entire industry forward."**







# The Norwegian government invests in Eramet Norway's projects

**E**ramet Norway, the Group's Norwegian subsidiary specialising in the transformation of manganese ore into alloys, has been awarded 12 million euros in funding for two of its climate projects by Enova, a public enterprise owned by the Norwegian Ministry of Climate and Environment. Thanks to its long-standing commitment to reducing its impact on the environment and climate, Eramet Norway is among the best companies in its sector with a carbon footprint that is less than 40% of the average. At the end of March 2023, Eramet Norway was rewarded for its efforts in this area by Enova with a €12 million (NOK 132 million) grant supporting two projects to optimise

its energy consumption and minimise its CO2 emissions. Recovering, transforming, storing The gas emitted by the pyrometallurgical furnaces of the Sauda plant, which are today in majority flared, generate CO2. The gas also represents a potential source of energy which is currently unused. To reduce the impact on the climate and optimise its energy consumption, Eramet Norway has been testing a gas engine since 2021, which uses furnace gas to produce electrical and thermal energy. The next step is to install six additional engines to recover as much energy as possible. This full-scale energy recovery unit (ERU) will provide more than 12 MW of power, corresponding to more than 90 GWh per

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**"Recovering, transforming, storing  
The gas emitted by the pyrometallurgical furnaces of the Sauda plant, which are today in majority flared, generate CO2."**



# Deloitte launches 2023 semiconductor industry outlook

**A**s the global semiconductor industry is facing both shortage and oversupply challenges at once, how can companies move forward? Deloitte's annual outlook has taken a closer look at five major trends in the industry—and how an economic downturn could provide an opportunity for the industry to reset and refocus.

Heading into 2023, global macroeconomic and geopolitical factors are emerging as the dominant forces shaping the semiconductor industry. Rising interest rates, high inflation, lower consumer confidence, and tech-led stock market retreats have led to a dramatic loss in market capitalisation: The top 10 global chip companies' combined market

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"Rising interest rates, high inflation, lower consumer confidence, and tech-led stock market retreats have led to a dramatic loss in market capitalisation"



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"In response to the higher cost of capital, inventory drawdowns from customers and the supply chain, and a decline in earnings, many chip companies are cutting costs, reducing employee headcount, and pushing out (but not cancelling) capital expenditures for additional capacity."

cap is down 34% from US\$2.9 trillion in November 2021 to US\$1.9 trillion in November 2022.

In response to the higher cost of capital, inventory drawdowns from customers and the supply chain, and a decline in earnings, many chip companies are cutting costs, reducing employee headcount, and pushing out (but not cancelling) capital expenditures for additional capacity. But there could be a bright side: A downturn may provide an opportunity for the industry to focus on things other than just trying to catch up during a shortage. As the sections that follow will show, Deloitte anticipates that 2023 could

act as the pause that refreshes and allows the semiconductor industry to consider five big things:

- Bring manufacturing closer to home with both entirely new fabs and the expansion of existing facilities
- Manage the diversification risks and challenges that come with localisation and friendshoring
- Digitally transform and digitise many parts of their processes: financial planning and operations, order management, and supply chain
- Address and balance the semiconductor talent equation:


shortages in some roles but layoffs in others

- Establish and accelerate the path toward achieving environmental, social, and governance goals, particularly around sustainability

Download the full report to learn more about the impacts of semiconductor industry trends, key actions to take, and critical questions to ask.

[DOWNLOAD REPORT](#)





# The future is sustainable. The future is green!



**T**here is an economic and cultural shift towards sustainability. Rather than being “bright” and another famous colour, the future is sustainable. The future is green. One of the fundamental purposes of sustainability is for businesses to continue to provide their goods and services but in such a way that you do not use resources that cannot be replaced and that do not damage the environment.

#### **Are you ready to embrace sustainability?**

At the moment, there are few direct incentives or penalties for an SME business to embrace sustainability, however, that is changing. In particular, eventually Government policy will directly impose sustainable goals on SME businesses. This has already happened to the property sector (for example through EPC ratings), and for large businesses (for example carbon credits), and macro-policies are evident (for example in the proposal to phase out petrol and diesel cars from 2030) and the UK Government’s call for small businesses to be net zero by 2050. If you are an SME in a large company’s supply chain then you may already have been required to improve your sustainability in order to continue to be a supplier. In addition, there are numerous benefits for an SME to adopt sustainable policies, for example, a company’s reputation can be enhanced, and customers are increasingly demanding sustainability as a part of a company’s

goal. As a business, you may also see the benefit in seeing if a new product or services can be added to existing lines that, say, introduce a new sustainable product, or provide a new service that fits into the growing sustainable economy. Maybe you could find an opportunity to take advantage of this fundamental shift in the economy.

#### **First steps to sustainability**

The first steps to sustainability can be easy and may include the company undertaking an internal review or audit to see if there are small and easy ways for it to improve its sustainability, for example, using less energy or less paper or improved recycling waste. Where you can’t use less paper, you could look at sourcing FSC certified products or offsetting the usage by planting trees and orchards. With many local councils now starting to plant community orchards and woodlands, why not make it a team building day for your staff? Implementing these changes can create cost savings. Other steps could include installing energy saving light bulbs or screens, or switching to electric vehicles and other cleaner forms of transport to reduce the carbon footprint, such as public transport, or carpooling. You could also look at environment-friendly packaging options, or introducing cycle to work schemes for employees. How about adding solar panels to the roof of your building? At Tollers we’ve been exploring and implementing these things ourselves.

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**“As a business, you may also see the benefit in seeing if a new product or services can be added to existing lines that, say, introduce a new sustainable product, or provide a new service that fits into the growing sustainable economy.”**

#### **How can we help?**

A move towards more sustainable practises does not necessarily need to be a cost in terms of management time and resources. To adopt some of the changes outlined above, you may want to set up new company policies, or update your terms of business, employment contracts, or supplier or service agreements. Tollers’ legal experts can help you with this. After all, we’ve looked into it for ourselves! For more information on how your business could embrace more sustainable practices...Talk to Tollers on 01438 901095, our teams are on hand to guide you through the process.

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## Introducing electric vans into your fleet

In a key step towards achieving net zero emissions, the UK Government has pledged that sales of new petrol and diesel cars and vans will stop by 2030. This is because UK transport accounts for 28% of all greenhouse gas emissions, making up the largest share of all sectors, including energy generation, business, residential and agriculture.

This policy is driving fleet operators to transition to electric vehicles. Loyd Davies from ElectrAssure explains what you need to know make the switch.

### Why choose an electric van?

Whilst electric vans are more expensive to purchase or lease, they can save you money on fuel, tax and maintenance, making them cheaper to operate over the vehicle's lifetime. They also produce zero tailpipe emissions, reducing your fleet's carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) emissions.

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**"A key factor to consider is your mileage. To assess the potential for a fleet of electric vans, you need to know the distances your vehicles travel daily. Then you can compare your mileage to the battery range of the electric vans available."**

### What electric vans are available?

The electric van market is growing and the number of models and capabilities of the vehicles are too. There are over 20 electric van models that fit the criteria for the UK Government's Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) plug-in van grant. Small



and medium sized vans offer driving ranges of approximately 200 miles. Larger vans up to 3.5 tonnes are also coming to market, offering a range of panel vans, chassis cabs and other bespoke options.

### Could an electric van work for my business?

A key factor to consider is your mileage. To assess the potential for a fleet of electric

vans, you need to know the distances your vehicles travel daily. Then you can compare your mileage to the battery range of the electric vans available. It's also worth considering whether you have downtime during the working day that could be utilised for top-up charging if required.

#### **The business case for electric van fleets**

Electric vans can make financial sense due to their reduced running costs. Higher upfront costs can be offset via significant savings on fuel and maintenance. There are also tax benefits and government purchase grants available. OZEV's plug-in van grant funds 20% of the purchase price (up to £8,000) for vans that produce CO2 emissions of less than 75g/km and can travel at least 16km (10 miles) solely on battery power.

Migrating vans used for last-mile deliveries and shorter journeys to electric can dramatically reduce vehicle maintenance costs. Diesel Particulate Filters don't reach their operating temperature on short journeys and are prone to clogging which

can cause vehicle breakdowns. eVans avoid this issue and are perfect for shorter journeys.

Fully electric vans are also exempt from Vehicle Excise Duty (VED). Hybrid and plug-in hybrid vans are still subject to the annual £275 fee. Other benefits include free parking in certain local authorities, 100% cleaner vehicle discount from London's congestion charge and some local authorities even offering free charging.

#### **What about charging infrastructure?**

If vans are parked in a depot overnight, lower power, lower cost chargers can be used to recharge them in the 12-18 hours on site. If drivers take their vehicles home and have their own driveway, a charge point can usually be installed at their home and again the vans can charge overnight. Where drivers do not have off-street parking, or the vans are too big to fit on home driveways, you may need dedicated rapid chargers in the depot for recharging in 30-60 minutes during the day.

**"Migrating vans used for last-mile deliveries and shorter journeys to electric can dramatically reduce vehicle maintenance costs. Diesel Particulate Filters don't reach their operating temperature on short journeys and are prone to clogging which can cause vehicle breakdowns."**

Your installer should engage with your electrical distribution network operator (DNO) at the early stage of installation. Early engagement can help you understand any limitations, timescales and costs that may be involved in increasing the electricity capacity on your premises.



# Get Set

Is your business set for maximum availability when it comes to charging your EV fleet?

When you rely on your electric vehicles for your business, downtime simply isn't an option. Our clients value us because we refuse to let them down.

Contact us today for an initial, no-obligation audit by our team of specialist electrical engineers. We'll keep you moving.

Find out why you should trust us with delivery, support and management of your EV charging system.

[www.electrassure.co.uk](http://www.electrassure.co.uk)

 **ElectrAssure**  
Intelligent EV charging solutions

**Sustainability superpower: UK  
can unlock more than £70bn of  
economic benefits and export  
£17bn of renewable energy a year**







"Deforestation is responsible for around 15% of greenhouse gas emissions and also contributes to habitat and biodiversity loss."

The race to net zero presents the UK with a once-in-a-generation economic opportunity, unseen since the discovery of oil and gas reserves in the North Sea in the 1970s, according to a landmark report.

The UK could unlock more than £70 billion of economic benefits a year if it adopts a bold strategy of going “beyond net zero” to become a world leader in clean energy, a report by the UK Business Council for Sustainable Development has found. Becoming a “sustainability superpower” would create an additional 279,000 British jobs (and support a total of 654,000 British jobs) across clean energy industries.

Just as the UK became a major exporter of North Sea oil and gas during the 1980s and 1990s, Britain’s potential to generate huge amounts of clean energy would turn the UK from a net importer of energy to one exporting “vast amounts” of clean power, worth £17bn a year, to mainland Europe. Thanks to its proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and competitive advantages in offshore wind generation the report found the UK can fulfil the Government’s

ambition of becoming a “clean energy superpower” if it can turn its barriers to growth into enablers.

These barriers to growth, which could become enablers, include:

Creating a National Grid that is fit for purpose.

- Delivering massive energy storage, using a range of technologies, to capture the tens of Terawatts of power lost each year when Britain needs to switch off renewable energy sources because they are generating more energy than the grid can handle.
- A national programme of retrofit to fix Britain’s stock of old draughty homes, offices, and other commercial properties.
- Early intervention to catalyse the market for hydrogen.

The report was written by former government economist Chris Walker for the UK Business Council for Sustainable Development, in partnership with Prologis UK and Inspired Plc.

## “The ‘clean’ sector of the beauty industry alone is forecast to be worth US\$22 billion globally by the end of next year, highlighting the consumer demand for such products.”

It highlights the potential rewards of sustained, aggressive strategy aimed at maximising the UK’s competitive advantages in generating clean energy. The report analysed two competing scenarios facing the UK as it heads towards its current target of decarbonising all sectors of the economy by 2050. It says: “Because we are in a global race with critical tipping points, one version of 2050 sees the UK becoming a world leader in the energy transition by attracting trillions of pounds of global private investment, innovating in key technologies and deploying them at an international scale to become a clean energy superpower. This is the ‘beyond net zero’ scenario.

“In another version of 2050, the UK lapses into clean energy mediocrity and stumbles along. This is the ‘near net zero’ scenario.” In the “beyond net zero” scenario, the UK achieves economic benefits of £70.3bn a year by 2050 - not including the social value of reduced greenhouse gas emissions and averted climate change. This includes an additional £36.4bn of Gross Valued Added (GVA) delivered by clean energy generation and a £17.0bn boost to the UK’s trade balance.

There would be a further £2.2bn of agglomeration benefits, while disposable incomes would see a £14.7bn bump as a result of lower energy prices.

The report finds the economic benefits of the “beyond net zero” scenario to be more than twice the £35.0bn benefits of pursuing the “near net zero” path.

The report says: “The UK’s strong competitive advantages in clean energy generation mean it is uniquely well positioned in the race to net zero which can deliver significant and sustained

economic growth, raised productivity and increased exports.

“Other advanced economies will undertake similar journeys to the UK at the same time. For the UK to cement its leadership in tackling this challenge, crucial public policy decisions need to be taken, backed up by investment from private sector organisations to ensure that the UK makes and captures the necessary investment to capitalise on its strengths.” The report includes a number of potential policy options to help fully exploit the UK’s clean growth potential. These include:

- An annual quota of government interest-free ‘retrofit loans’ provided to owner-occupier households, as well as residential and commercial landlords
- Large-scale rooftop solar installations to achieve a five-fold increase in solar capacity by 2035
- Government innovation funding to leverage private investment, for the development and trialling of alternative storage solutions to hydrogen and electric batteries
- Use of ‘priority grid connection auctions’ for electricity generators and energy storage providers to raise money for investment in National Grid priority projects
- Regulating to place an obligation on wholesale or retail gas suppliers to blend all gas supplies with a residual amount of hydrogen

Jason Longhurst, Chair of the UK Business Council for Sustainable Development, said: “It is now almost four years since Britain effectively fired the starting pistol on the global race to net zero by becoming the first major economy to set a net zero emissions target in law.

“Today, more than 90% of global GDP is covered by some form of net zero target. “We commissioned this report to find out more about the opportunities which net zero can bring to Britain.

“The findings are clear. The UK can unlock more than £70 billion of economic benefits a year if we become a world leader in the race to net zero.

“We have the potential to generate huge amounts of clean energy which would turn the UK from a net importer of energy to a nation exporting vast amounts of clean power, worth £17bn a year, to mainland Europe.

“We believe this paper delivers an evidence base to enable our government to drive new incentives to transition, leverage in further private sector investment and position the UK as one of the world’s most investable markets for companies tackling the challenges created by climate change.

“Having fired the starting pistol on the race to net zero it’s now time for the public and private sector to work together to put Britain at the front of the field again.”

[YOU CAN DOWNLOAD THE REPORT HERE](#)



# Report finds just 4% of “Sustainable” investment funds would automatically comply with requirements of US, UK and EU regulatory investment fund label and naming rules

Clarity AI, the leading sustainability tech platform, has released a new analysis on funds with sustainability or ESG-related terms in their name which found that regulatory regimes for sustainability disclosures and labels differ significantly across the US, UK and EU, leaving both issuers and investors confused.

“When looking at funds with all three investment fund regimes – the US, UK’s, and EU’s – we found that over 95% of funds with the word “sustainable”, or similar term, would require renaming or restructuring in order to be sold across all three markets. This is not only an added cost in terms of compliance, but also underscores how different actors – in this case regulators – are interpreting the meaning of core concepts like ESG and sustainability.” said Patricia Pina, Head of Product Research and Innovation at Clarity AI.

When looking specifically at the EU, in November 2022 the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA) released a consultation that sought to put minimum thresholds in place for Article 8 – or “light green” – funds that use certain ESG or sustainability-related terms in their names. ESMA proposed that any fund using an ESG-related term in its name would need to ensure that:

- 100% of the assets it invests in adhere to minimum safeguards by following the minimum exclusion criteria outlined in the Paris-aligned benchmark regulation.

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**"To promote transparency, Clarity AI addresses the confusion by providing an unbiased view of portfolio sustainability, mapping frameworks and regulatory labels across jurisdictions."**

- 80% of the assets it invests in are used to meet the ESG-related characteristics that it promotes (i.e. aligned with the terms in the name).
- 50% of the assets it invests in are sustainable investments as defined under Article 2(17) of SFDR, if the fund uses the term “sustainable” or any derived term (e.g. “sustain”) in its name.

Clarity AI examined these proposals, drawing on data from over 18,000 funds across Europe. To test the ESMA proposals on the funds that do have references to ESG, Clarity AI looked at the planned (via European ESG Templates, or EETs) and actual (via Clarity AI’s own data) level of sustainable investment in different Article 8 funds. Clarity AI’s analysis found only 20% of Article 8 funds with the term

sustainable (or a derivative thereof) currently plan to make sustainable investment of over 50% as outlined by the consultation. These funds would therefore fall short of the proposed amendments. In fact, the picture is bleak in terms of sustainable investment made by Article 8 funds with “sustainable” in their names: a similar number (20%) plan to make less than 10% sustainable investment. Furthermore, the proposal from ESMA does not appear to align particularly closely with either of the proposals from the UK or the US.

“Although each jurisdiction might have contextual differences worth taking into account, capital markets are global markets and we need stronger regulatory alignment across borders. Understanding and characterising ESG and sustainability differently will only contribute to increasing the existing confusion in the market and potentially result in ‘greenwashing,’ which is exactly what these regulations aim to fight,” added Pina.

To promote transparency, Clarity AI addresses the confusion by providing an unbiased view of portfolio sustainability, mapping frameworks and regulatory labels across jurisdictions. However, understanding the challenges and pitfalls of cross-border regulations is essential to combat limited regulatory alignment. Advanced technology can help ensure that investors remain safe and result in better outcomes for investors, markets, and the transition to a sustainable economy.

# Campaign to stop adverts for bigger SUVs fuelling the climate emergency

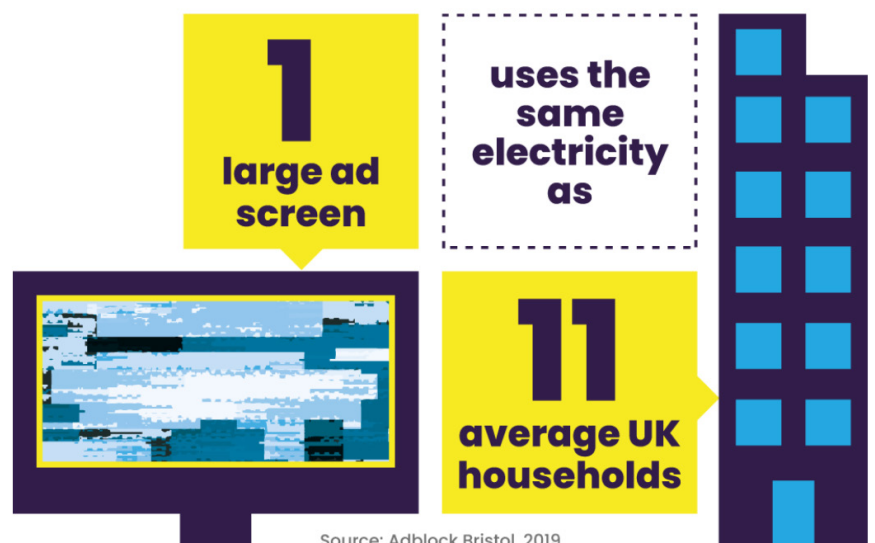


**B**advertising' is a campaign to stop adverts fuelling the climate emergency.

This includes ads for cars, airline flights and fossil fuels. The campaign group claim that tobacco advertising ended when we understood the harm done by smoking. Now we know the damage done by fossil fuel products and activities, we should stop promoting them as well.

High-carbon goods are products and activities that emit high amounts of CO2 emissions such as fossil fuels, large diesel or petrol car engines and air travel.

Adverts for large cars, air travel or fossil fuels are particularly bad for the environment given the high levels of carbon emissions they are responsible for. Research shows there is a link



Source: Adblock Bristol, 2019



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"In response the 'Badvertising' campaign is calling for an immediate end to advertising for the 'dirtiest third' of new cars being sold."

between advertising and higher levels of consumption. None of us are immune to the adverts that we are exposed to. Therefore, high-carbon advertising plays an important role in the climate crisis by promoting harmful consumer habits. The campaign is organised by the New Weather Institute and the climate action charity Possible. The project is funded by the KR Foundation.

- The campaign is launched with a report which has found that:
- Rapidly increasing sales of bigger and more polluting cars in the UK and globally risk are putting vital climate goals out of reach new cars sold in UK
- 150,000 new cars being sold in the UK in 2019 which are too big to fit in a

standard parking space

- The trend towards ever larger, more fuel hungry vehicles is being driven by the corporate marketing strategies of big car brands

In response the 'Badvertising' campaign is calling for an immediate end to advertising for the 'dirtiest third' of new cars being sold.

New research has revealed that over 150,000 new cars sold in the UK last year are too big to fit in a standard parking space.

The report, by thinktank the New Weather Institute and climate charity Possible, found that the global trend of rapidly increasing sales of bigger and more

polluting SUVs is jeopardising climate goals.

In response to this threat, the team behind the report propose that advertising for the 'dirtiest third' of new cars being sold – primarily SUVs – should be immediately legislated against, and have launched a new campaign to help achieve this.

The analysis of recently released European Environment Agency figures on the size and CO2 emissions of new cars found that the average emissions of a new car sold in the UK increased again in 2019 for the fourth year in a row – with rising sales of SUVs primarily to blame. The authors highlight that the big car brands appear to be disproportionately promoting larger, more polluting SUVs due to higher profit margins on these vehicles. As a result,



"SUVs now make up more than 4 in 10 new cars sold in the UK and globally – while fully electric vehicles account for fewer than two in a hundred in the UK. The trend is pushing Britain further and further off track to meet its net zero target, with similar problems emerging in car markets around the world."

SUVs now make up more than 4 in 10 new cars sold in the UK and globally – while fully electric vehicles account for fewer than two in a hundred in the UK. The trend is pushing Britain further and further off track to meet its net zero target, with similar problems emerging in car markets around the world.

The report also comes amidst emergency efforts by local authorities to create wider pavements and new 'pop up' cycle lanes to allow commuters to safely social distance whilst cycling and walking during the pandemic.

The researchers argue that the promotion of over-sized vehicles in crowded towns and cities is undermining efforts to reallocate public space away from cars for pedestrians, as well as conflicting with widespread 'climate emergency' declarations by local authorities. The authors draw on parallels with the ban on tobacco advertising and promotion in

the UK, which was written into law in 2002 in recognition of the serious harm these products cause to public health.

The campaign calls for new legislation to outlaw advertising for the 'dirtiest third' of new cars sold in the UK, as well as advertising for any cars which are too large for a standard UK parking space. Alongside a petition, the campaign has produced an online toolkit for campaigners and policymakers wanting to take action against advertising for SUVs and other high carbon products at a local council level.

Andrew Simms, co-director of the New Weather Institute, said: "We ended tobacco advertising when we understood the threat from smoking to public health. Now that we know the human health and climate damage done by car pollution, it's time to stop adverts making the problem worse. In a pandemic-prone world people need clean air and more space on town and city streets."

"There are adverts, and then there are badverts, promoting the biggest, worst emitting SUVs is like upselling pollution, and we need to stop. In a climate emergency when we need to make the places where we live more people friendly, SUVs are in the way of progress."

Robbie Gillett, Campaigner at Possible, said: "Whilst millions of us are trying to reduce our carbon footprints to tackle the climate crisis, we have a multi-billion pound car and advertising industry aggressively marketing highly polluting vehicles – many of which are literally too big for UK streets."

"Their misleading ads promise us freedom and escape – but the reality of urban road conditions is grinding traffic jams, toxic air pollution and spiralling carbon emissions from road transport that will trash our climate goals. Let's create space to breathe and space to think – free from the advertising pressures of big polluters."

# World's largest rooftop solar panel installation the size of 18 football pitches gets underway at Falken tyre manufacturing facility

The world's largest rooftop solar panel installation<sup>1</sup> on a single facility and measuring 100,000 square metres, the size of over 18 football pitches, is under construction for Falken at parent company, Sumitomo Rubber Industries (SRI) factory in Thailand. Comprising 40,000 solar panels with a total output of 22MW, the new installation will generate enough solar power to support manufacture a range of Falken tyres destined for Europe once completed in January 2025. The investment in the new solar panel installation along with gas co-generation system and abiomass electric power system energy initiatives at the Rayong Province facility will enable it to ultimately use 100 percent renewable energy.

As well as adopting solar power, a new gas co-generation system, comprising two 6.6MW boilers, powered by renewable energy sources will replace energy supplied by local utility companies. Biomass, derived from the surplus branches and trunks after rubber trees are harvested, as part of SRI's Sustainable Natural Rubber<sup>4</sup> programme will provide additional electrical power.

In total, the new initiatives will reduce total annual CO2 emissions by 38,000 tonnes.<sup>2</sup> Driven by SRI's long-term sustainability policy, 'Driving Our Future Challenge 2050'<sup>5</sup> the latest initiatives will help accelerate its carbon neutral goals. This aims to reduce annual Scope 1 and 2 CO2 emissions by 50 percent (compared to 2017 emissions) with its 2030 target now set to be achievable one year ahead of schedule.

As of February 1, 2023, this will be the largest world's rooftop solar panel array installed at a single facility. (According

to Internal KEPCO Research). This program supports projects that take advantage of advanced decarbonisation technologies, etc. to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and elsewhere while promoting the practice of MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification). In addition to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and beyond, this program also aims to contribute to the achievement of greenhouse gas emission reduction targets set by Japan and other partner countries through JCM (Joint Crediting Mechanism). The program subsidises up to 50% of the initial investment cost of introducing advanced decarbonisation technologies, etc. The project described above is being

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"The investment in the new solar panel installation along with gas co-generation system and abiomass electric power system energy initiatives at the Rayong Province facility will enable it to ultimately use 100 percent renewable energy."





## North Hertfordshire College And ElectrAssure Supercharge Local Skills Development

**N**orth Hertfordshire College (NHC) is pleased to launch a new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging point installation training academy later this month in collaboration with local EV charging solutions provider ElectrAssure. The ElectrAssure Training Academy, based at NHC's Engineering and Construction Campus in Stevenage, provides skills training for electrical apprentices and electricians already working in industry to broaden their skillset in the sustainable technology field. The Training Academy is the result of conversations between North Hertfordshire College, ElectrAssure, and other local employers about the current and future skills gaps within the industry and how to meet these through

new training provision. ElectrAssure has worked closely with NHC to develop the content of this training, applying their nine years of experience in delivering bespoke EV charging solutions to design practical learning opportunities ensuring learners build a broad understanding of EV charging technology. ElectrAssure has also sponsored the installation of charge points at the campus to enable training delivery, providing local people with the opportunity to gain valuable skills for a sustainable future. Kit Davies, Principal and CEO of North Hertfordshire College, said: "This is a great example of how the College is working closely with employers and industry specialists to identify and meet the skills gaps locally and prepare students at the



College with the skills required both now and in the future." Alun Davies, Operations Director of ElectrAssure, said: "We are really pleased to be working with the College on this training academy to provide skills delivery identified and required within the



"The ElectrAssure Training Academy, based at NHC's Engineering and Construction Campus in Stevenage, provides skills training for electrical apprentices and electricians already working in industry to broaden their skillset in the sustainable technology field."

industry. The creation of the ElectrAssure Training Academy enables electricians to access this training locally and supports the development of sustainable technologies and skills required to deliver and support the growing requirement for electrical vehicle charge points locally, regionally, and nationally."

For more information about the ElectrAssure Training Academy and courses available, please contact Julie King at [JKing@nhc.ac.uk](mailto:JKing@nhc.ac.uk)



# WE'VE GONE ELECTRIC, HAVE YOU?

Futureproof your skills with a level 3 electric vehicle charging installation qualification at NHC.

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**NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE**



## Social value in the spotlight at ConneXions meeting

There was plenty to discuss and digest as biz4Biz held the latest ConneXions event at Knebworth House Barns in May centred on social value. The event also offered the chance to network, make new contacts, enjoy a delicious buffet lunch. Starting with tea, coffee and networking, the day then saw the subject put into the spotlight with four key speakers, Nathan Goode, Sarah Wren, Lloyd Davies and Simon Littlewood.

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“The meeting was hosted by Adrian Hawkins OBE, chairman of Herts LEP who promised that the issue of social value would be a vital driver in the county. biz4Biz ConneXions is a business network for senior managers, directors and CEOs of Hertfordshire-based businesses.”



Nathan, CSO at the Social Value Portal, began by making it clear that we can all benefit from social value but that we do need to ask what benefit is it really creating and actually determine if we are making a real difference to the debate. He went on to discuss the social value portal which proposes a standard method of measuring social value. Sarah, who is chief executive at Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS) made it clear that all businesses can be social in their outlook and that they shouldn't necessarily leave it to the third sector to make the first approach to make a difference in their area or community.



NATHAN GOODE ON THE TOPIC OF "DELIVERING REAL SOCIAL VALUE"

It was then the turn of Loyd, from ElectrAssure, to underline the fact that transport will play a key role in the future as it is the biggest source of CO2 emissions that we have in the UK. There were some sobering stats on what we currently have with the EV charging infrastructure as it is now which is lagging behind sales of electric vehicles, and of course where we need to be as legislation is closing in.

And finally Simon, chief executive of Estu stained the audience with the fact that population will hit 10bn by 2050 and then went on to show just how very close that date really is. Change will need to happen now and it will need to be quick as we all grapple with its implications.

The meeting was hosted by Adrian Hawkins OBE, chairman of Herts LEP who promised that the issue of social value would be a vital driver in the county. biz4Biz Connexions is a business network for senior managers, directors and CEOs of Hertfordshire-based businesses. At each meeting you will be able to:

- Network and make new business contacts
- Discuss issues of interest with like-minded business people
- Listen to informative speakers on



topics of interest to Hertfordshire-based business leaders

- Get advice from a variety of experts to help you grow your business.

For future events Knebworth House Barns are accessed directly from the Junction 7 roundabout of the A1(M) motorway at Stevenage South. Drive along the access road past the Novotel until you reach the entrance to the Knebworth Estate. If you use a sat nav please use the following postcode SG1 2AX.

“There Hertfordshire Independent Living Service (HILS) made it clear that all businesses can be social in their outlook and that they shouldn’t necessarily leave it to the third sector to make the first approach to make a difference in their area or community.”



SARAH WREN OBE ON THE TOPIC OF "SOCIAL VALUE IN PRACTICE"



**LOYD DAVIES ON THE TOPIC OF "ENCOURAGING SUSTAINABLE AND ACTIVE TRAVEL"**



**SIMON LITTLEWOOD ON THE TOPIC OF "BE PROACTIVE AND INCLUDE YOUR TEAM"**



# Social Value Conference 2023

**T**he 6th annual Social Value Conference was held at Church House, Westminster, recently, to a sold out audience.

The leading not-for-profit social value event, brought together experts and practitioners from the public, private and third sectors. The conference aimed to share best practices and innovative ideas for social value and helped the discussion on how organisations across sectors can do 'good business'.

Held over two days, the conference offered a packed agenda including high-profile keynote speakers, expert plenary panel discussions and breakout sessions on focus topics. Both days ran virtually with day one also live at Church House. The theme this year was how we can work towards a social value economy and through social engagement to seek to deliver community-based outcomes, through the value to look to tackle the challenges around measurement and proof, and through the macro lens of

the economy, look to where we take the movement next.

There were a variety of carefully curated sessions across the two days, covering a range of topics aimed to address some of the most pressing issues for today's society. From delivering climate justice, to engaging with communities most affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Like-minded social value individuals helped to break down the boundaries between sectors and connected with hundreds of social value colleagues and decision-makers from the public, private and third sectors in the UK. They also took part in dedicated networking meet and greet sessions. Among a host of sessions on various subjects was the masterclass Business as a force for good. Featuring Liz Barclay, Kerry Stares, Adrian Hawkins OBE, Rachel Skinner CBE and Angela Walker, the panel described how simplicity was key in getting the message across and that for business social value is not a nice to do but a must do.

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**“Delivering transactional Social Value on a project is proving successful but it became evident as the conference progressed that there is a need for organisations to embed Social Value into their overall strategy, focussing on leaving a positive lasting legacy and solving wider societal problems.”**

Delegates were able to value best practice from the experts - expand their knowledge, learn, and improve, and get insights into the latest trends and hear from some of the most respected names in social value, and inspiring stories from smaller organisations that are often overlooked.

Guy Battle, CEO, Social Value Portal, commented on this year's Social Value Conference, saying:

"This is the sixth annual Social Value Conference and we took an in-depth look at the Social Value Economy and what that looks like.

"It is widely understood that Social Value has made great strides since the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, which the public sector has fully embraced and spearheaded.

"What was clearly evident this year, is the growing interest and enthusiasm from the private sector. In order to continue the momentum, we now need this hugely influential sector to shoulder the responsibility and carry the Social Value movement forwards.

"Procurement has been a critical area where Social Value has, and continues to, thrive. It's undoubtedly a good place to start but what is evident now is that organisations need to embrace opportunities to deliver Social Value beyond procurement such as how a business manages its own employment strategy, or building a corporate strategy that delivers for the Social Value Economy in all aspects of the business including marketing, production, sales, people and culture as well as supply chain management.



"Delivering transactional Social Value on a project is proving successful but it became evident as the conference progressed that there is a need for organisations to embed Social Value into their overall strategy, focussing on leaving a positive lasting legacy and solving wider societal problems.

"Accountability is undoubtedly under the spotlight - and rightfully so. Measuring, evaluating and reporting performance is key to our success and the numbers do matter. However, we must remember that behind every number, there is a life; a person, a family and a community. .

"I talk often about 'radical collaboration' and indeed, we had several breakout

sessions that explored how we can collaborate on topics such as; mission net zero, taking a place-based approach, sustainable procurement and rebel ideas. These sessions provided a great deal of food for thought and it is clear that radical collaboration is what will make our goals a reality.

"What was really encouraging to see was the enthusiasm, passion and drive from the younger professionals as they engage with the new movement we've spawned.

It's now absolutely imperative that we are inclusive, clearing the way and helping them to fly!"





greener  herts

Hertfordshire  
Local Enterprise  
Partnership



## The £100m+ race to retrofit Hertfordshire's housing stock unlocks unprecedented opportunity for local tradespeople & SMEs

Hertfordshire's social housing stock is set to undergo a remarkable transformation, with over £100m secured locally to make homes greener and more energy efficient by 2025. This investment will unlock new opportunities for local tradespeople and the SME supply chain network, marking a pivotal moment in the county's journey towards Net Zero 2050.

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) collaborated with Greener Herts - a partnership between sustainability focused housing associations Watford Community Housing, B3Living and settle - to host its first Retrofit Opportunities workshop, bringing together fellow industry leaders, skills providers and

policy influencers. With access to talent being one of the major challenges associated with retrofit delivery, the workshop linked industry with education to identify existing skills gaps, set out the long term economic opportunity and lay the foundations for Hertfordshire's burgeoning retrofit industry.

**Steve Woodcock, Hertfordshire LEP Board member and CEO of B3Living, said:**

"Government has ramped up its drive to provide greener homes, pledging a significant pipeline of investment, which makes this an opportune moment to kick-start vital work to develop Hertfordshire's retrofit capabilities."

"Training providers have a key role to play in upskilling our existing workforce and training new talent to fulfil emerging jobs roles and embrace new technologies. Working together we can ensure that as many families as possible are lifted out of fuel poverty in Hertfordshire, while providing exciting new prospects for our residents and businesses."

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**"Working together we can ensure that as many families as possible are lifted out of fuel poverty in Hertfordshire, while providing exciting new prospects for our residents and businesses."**



**“The sustainability agenda runs through everything we do at Hertfordshire County Council. We are seeing the Eastern region getting drying and hotter at a faster rate than anywhere else in the country, and although the political landscape in Hertfordshire is changing, incoming leaders will continue to deal with all the same issues we are facing now.”**

#### FIVE KEY WORKSHOP TAKEAWAYS

**Richard Roberts, Leader of Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire LEP Board member, on the county’s ongoing commitment to sustainability:**

“The sustainability agenda runs through everything we do at Hertfordshire County Council. We are seeing the Eastern region getting drying and hotter at a faster rate than anywhere else in the country, and although the political landscape in Hertfordshire is changing, incoming leaders will continue to deal with all the same issues we are facing now. The substantial funding that has been leveraged locally has the potential to make a big difference, but to succeed it is vital that all stakeholders work together.”

**Gavin Cansfield, Chief Executive of settle, on Government’s long-term commitment:**

“The Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1 is a two year programme with an £800m allocation, but this is just one small part of a wider £1.3bn commitment by Government over the next 10 years. Stakeholders can rest assured that the retrofit agenda is only set to grow, and it brings with it the chance to provide an enormous amount of social value to local communities.”

**Maxine Narburgh, Regional Head of the Greater South East Net Zero Hub (GSENZH), on the scale of the opportunity:**

“The UK has some of the oldest and most inefficient housing stock in Europe, and across the country there are 25 million homes to decarbonise by 2050. To meet this goal we would need to retrofit

8 homes per minute, with 523,000 jobs expected to be created in the Greater South East region alone. The opportunity is huge and if done right, could bring about a significant uplift to local businesses and those residents most struggling with fuel poverty.”

**John Swinney, Sustainability Lead at Greener Herts, on the need for collaboration:**

“This is the first time work is taking place on this scale in Hertfordshire, and this presents a chance to introduce brand new models of working. Every single area in Hertfordshire has secured funding, making this is a genuine, county-wide opportunity. This is also not a one-off initiative – future waves of Government funding will be needed to take us from where we are now to Net Zero. Collaborating will mean reducing waste, avoiding duplication and getting things done cheaper and quicker. There is also a massive opportunity to showcase exemplar projects that can tell the story of what we are achieving here in Hertfordshire.”

**Norman Jennings, Operations Director at Hertfordshire LEP, on the county’s labour market landscape:**

“Hertfordshire has a low unemployment rate and low NEET rate (young people not in education, employment or training), however we have seen around 18,000 people leave the jobs market over the past year, partly due to COVID-19. This makes it all the more important that we build a strong future talent pipeline and raise awareness among young people, our current workforce and training providers of the growing career prospects relating to retrofit.”

#### ABOUT THE FUNDING

The £100m+ investment secured in Hertfordshire comprises Government and match funding from the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund Wave 2.1, which aims to improve the energy performance of social homes in England. Other funding opportunities and retrofit activities enhancing Hertfordshire homes include:

**Home Upgrade Grant 2** - a two year grant providing energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating to low income off grid households.

**Solar Together** - group discounted procurement scheme for households to buy solar panels, batteries and/or connected EV charging infrastructure.

**Eco 4 - Energy Company Obligation** - a four year Government scheme from 2022, supporting lowest income residents with free boiler upgrades and central heating.

**Green Heat Network** - capital grant support for the development of new and existing low and zero-carbon heat networks.

*Hertfordshire LEP is planning future workshops for autumn 2023 to further develop the sector and support the SME supply chain to access the retrofit opportunity. To register your interest, email [info@hertfordshirelep.co.uk](mailto:info@hertfordshirelep.co.uk).*

**Learn more about us:**  
[www.hertfordshirelep.com](http://www.hertfordshirelep.com)





## Green Space Dark Skies sustainability findings released in new report

**G**reen Space Dark Skies (GSDS) was an ambitious cross-sector collaborative project commissioned by UNBOXED: Creativity in the UK in 2022.

The project put environmental sustainability at its heart, achieving some major sustainability successes and impressive carbon savings. They are now releasing the report to share this best practice with organisations delivering outdoor events.

To meet the challenge of the climate emergency, Green Space Dark Skies employed a collective and collaborative approach. The open sharing of knowledge and experience was vital to establishing a new working culture where sustainability was as central to the event production as health and safety.

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**"Green Space Dark Skies as a large-scale national project provided the resources and partners to embed sustainability from the planning, delivery and measurement stages towards achieving ambitious targets across both the social and environmental aspects of the project."**

Green Space Dark Skies as a large-scale national project provided the resources and partners to embed sustainability from the planning, delivery and measurement stages towards achieving ambitious targets across both the social and environmental aspects of the project. The scope of data collection was vast including energy, transport, materials, food and beverage, waste, accessibility, diversity, and digital. The aims were to leave no trace and be climate positive, ultimately removing more carbon from the atmosphere than it produces.

The report contains the carbon data for the entire project, shares learnings and innovations gathered on the way and does not shy away from some of the challenges faced.

The greatest carbon savings were from Lumenators (participants) or staff and crew using coaches instead of individual car journeys (47.23 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), vegetarian meals instead of meat (approx 25-30 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) and choosing hotels with green energy tariffs (16.3 tCO<sub>2</sub>e).

- 50/50 split of vegetarian and meat meals overall
- 71% of suppliers came from within 50 miles
- 13/19 events used over 80% renewable energy
- 81% of Lumenators shared transport
- 26% of accommodation had a green energy tariff
- Followed the waste hierarchy and diverted >99% of our waste from landfill
- Accurately measured impact across all areas for all stakeholders for scope 1, 2 and

Taken action to ensure the long-term impact of the activity is climate positive through mitigating ten times the carbon footprint through the planting of 15,154 trees with the Woodland Trust\*

Nathan Jackson, Head of Production, Green Space Dark Skies Walk the Plank said: "We did not take a 'business as usual' approach to this work and our aim was for Green Space Dark Skies Lumenators to become caretakers of nature for the future. Our landscapes are places worth protecting, for everyone, forever. Our aim was for Green Space Dark Skies to be an example of best practice in sustainable event production, thinking about all aspects of our operational delivery. From the outset, we wanted to be transparent about successes and challenges for the collective benefit of everyone working in event production."

Download the Green Space Dark Skies Sustainability Impact Report [here](#).

IMPACT REPORT

"We did not take a 'business as usual' approach to this work and our aim was for Green Space Dark Skies Lumenators to become caretakers of nature for the future. Our landscapes are places worth protecting, for everyone, forever."







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The new multi-storey car park in Stevenage on the site of the former Railway North car park is now open.

Further information is available via [www.stevenage.gov.uk](http://www.stevenage.gov.uk)

 <p><b>622</b> PARKING SPACES</p>	 <p><b>30</b> BLUE BADGE SPACES</p>	 <p><b>30</b> EV SPACES WITH FUTURE CAPACITY TO INCREASE</p>	 <p><b>80</b> BIKE SPACES IN A SECURE STORAGE FACILITY</p>
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## Purple plaque unveiled to acknowledge #womenininnovation

**P**urple plaques have been unveiled in schools across the UK to recognise the achievements of Women in Innovation Award winners to inspire more girls into STEM. And the latest was at Knights Templar School in Baldock, Herts. The purple plaques are being affixed to the walls of the schools that award winners attended. Women in Innovation Award winners

receive a cash injection and bespoke mentoring to scale up and bring to market their pioneering business ideas. These winners form a network that is developing pioneering innovations to tackle pressing societal, environmental, and economic challenges. From delivering precision medicine to under-represented populations, to offering eco-friendly materials for the

*"Innovate UK hopes the purple plaques will inspire more girls to get into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and follow in the award winners' footsteps." already working in industry*

aerospace industry and creating cutting-edge digital educational tools.

### Innovative products

There are thousands of blue plaques across the UK, 900 in London alone, celebrating the achievements of influential and pioneering figures. Yet, women feature on fewer than one in seven of them.

This highlights a national issue of the under-representation of women in the media and in leadership roles, whether in the workplace or in the education system. This results in a lack of relatable role models for children and young people.

Innovate UK hopes the purple plaques will inspire more girls to get into science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects and follow in the award winners' footsteps.

### Women in innovation

Commenting on the ceremony, Adrian Hawkins OBE said: "It is my belief that you have to "inspire to aspire" and I was delighted to support Innovate UK and Howard Partridge celebrate the placement of a Purple Plaque at The Knights Templar School in Baldock to acknowledge #womenininnovation."

"It was a further honour to be invited to witness and support Dr. Natasha Boulding receive this recognition for her work, as encouragement for more ladies to become entrepreneurs in the future. We will see more from Dr. Natasha Boulding and her company Low Carbon Materials (LCM) in the future as she develops her sustainable concrete for construction."

Louisa Simons, Innovate UK's Chief Operating Officer said: "Research shows that 78% of female entrepreneurs did not have business role-models of the same gender as them. Though they can, of course, find inspiration in their male counterparts the lack of relatable role models is likely having a huge, but hidden, impact on UK innovation. "Again, this lack of female representation results in a lack of inspiration for the next generation. This is exactly why we unleashed our purple plaque's initiative, to end the cycle of low-visibility by commemorating today's trailblazing women in innovation."

**"It is my belief that you have to "inspire to aspire" and I was delighted to support Innovate UK and Howard Partridge celebrate the placement of a Purple Plaque at The Knights Templar School in Baldock to acknowledge #womenininnovation."**





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