HUMBER ENERGY BOARD

Rt Hon Ed Miliband MP
Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero
Department for Energy Security and Net Zero
55 Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HP

13 January 2026

Dear Secretary of State,

We are writing to introduce our campaign to **'Re-energise the Humber'** in 2026, calling for a series of positive and proactive low carbon energy policy decisions from Government which could transform the economic prosperity of our region.

This letter, which is supported by 30 leading businesses and organisations, is a first step in that campaign, calling for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) to select the Humber's proposals for the UK's first hydrogen network, which is detailed further below.

2026 can be a pivotal year for the Humber. Supporting our regional hydrogen transport and storage proposals, as well as further progressing the Humber's carbon capture, utilisation and storage (CCUS) projects and networks, would rightly position the region at the vanguard of the energy transition, securing investment, enhancing energy security, safeguarding and creating jobs, stimulating supply chain opportunities and in turn reinvigorating communities.

The role of Hydrogen

The Humber is the ideal location for the Government's allocated £500m to support the UK's first regional hydrogen transport and storage network, connecting hydrogen producers with vital end users, proven storage capacity, power stations and industry.

The Humber Hydrogen Pipeline (HHP) is expected to bid into the Hydrogen Transport Allocation Round. It is a 50 km pipeline proposed by highly experienced partners – Equinor, Centrica Energy Storage+ and SSE Thermal, with National Gas expected to formally join soon. It will transport hydrogen between proposed hydrogen production and usage at Saltend Chemicals Park and Easington Terminal, and a proposed underground storage facility at Aldbrough. The pipeline will also pass under the Humber Estuary to the Immingham area, with the objective of connecting hydrogen producers and customers in northern Lincolnshire and beyond providing the means to decarbonisation heavy industry and complementing plans for CCUS deployment on both banks of the Humber estuary.

The Humber benefits from a range of proposed hydrogen production plants, including electrolytic 'green' hydrogen at Saltend, Easington, Aldbrough and Immingham. Several of these have been shortlisted in the Hydrogen Allocation Round 2 (HAR2) or are expected to enter HAR3. There are also CCUS-enabled blue hydrogen production proposals at Saltend, Easington and Immingham, helping to provide scaled production to meet increased demand from local industry and hydrogen-to-power.

Across the region there is an unparalleled diversity of hydrogen off-takers that could connect to this network, supporting DESNZ's highest value use-cases. This includes Triton Power's Saltend Power Station which seeks to transition from natural gas to hydrogen; SSE and Equinor's Keadby Next Generation Power Station which would be 100% hydrogen-ready; Yara's ammonia plant at Saltend Chemicals Park; Centrica's Easington gas terminal and Rough Gas Storage which can be retrofitted to store hydrogen; and new developing industries such as Sustainable Aviation Fuels production to meet the Government's SAF mandate.

There is also potential to connect to Project Union and the East Coast Hydrogen project, linking clusters and broadening the hydrogen economy beyond the initial network, enabling multi-regional decarbonisation including other industrial locations such as Teesside. The world class port and terminal infrastructure in the Humber also facilitates the export of low carbon hydrogen and its related products such as ammonia.

The Aldbrough Hydrogen Storage (AHS) project, proposed by experienced partners Equinor and SSE Thermal, is expected to bid into the Hydrogen Storage Allocation Round. The world class geological salt caverns at Aldbrough have played a vital role in the UK's energy system, safeguarding storage of natural gas since 2011 and the site is well equipped to support the transition to hydrogen. It would be a national energy security strategic asset, delivering security of supply and providing a buffer for the variable nature of a renewables-led energy system by creating up to nine new salt caverns with an expected capacity of up to 420 million cubic metres of low-carbon hydrogen.

HHP and AHS have collaborated closely to collectively offer the essential infrastructure required to initiate, connect and support a regional hydrogen value chain. This offers the vital first building blocks to roll out a hydrogen economy in the Humber.

We ask the Government to select these proposals to help re-energise the Humber. It would provide huge confidence to the region and catalyse investment, jobs, skills and supply chain opportunities whilst also reducing emissions and kick-starting a low carbon hydrogen economy across multiple sectors.

Why this matters

At present the Humber is the most carbon intensive of all the UK's industrial clusters. Yet the region's position provides a unique opportunity to demonstrate the role that decarbonisation can help in spearheading economic prosperity by securing

unprecedented private sector capital investment to transform the economy into a world leading net zero industrial economy and a national hub for global trade and investment.

The proposals for a hydrogen pipeline network and projects in the region sit alongside our long-standing plans for CCUS and our continued efforts to deploy offshore wind in the Humber. Taken together and by working in partnership with Government we can transform the region's economy, deliver our carbon targets and continue to provide energy security for the UK.

Decarbonisation of the Humber's asset base is critical if Britain is to meet net zero targets, keep the country powered and fuelled and avoid deindustrialisation and the risks of inaction are clear. The region is already experiencing the consequences of slow decision making and policy progress - 2025 saw several major energy businesses in the Humber closing, projects cancelled or delayed, plants mothballed and redundancies announced. Without positive decision making and clear Government action, there is a very real risk of de-industrialisation, job losses, and a decline in international investment.

We urge you to support these crucial low-carbon projects and infrastructure in 2026 and in doing so supporting our plans to re-energise the Humber. We would welcome the opportunity to show you these locations and introduce you to the individuals leading the transition to bring our story to life. I look forward to hearing from your office on the next steps.

Yours sincerely

Richard Gwilliam

Chair of the Humber Energy Board

Cc: Michael Shanks MP, Minister for Energy
Stef Murphy, Director of Hydrogen, DESNZ
Will Lochhead, Deputy Director for Hydrogen Production & Storage Business Models & Allocation, DESNZ
Alex Bradley, Deputy Director for Hydrogen Delivery, DESNZ
Matthew Taylor, Director for CCUS Strategy and Policy, DESNZ

Co-signatories

centrica energy storage+

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national gas

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Northern Endurance Partnership

MITSUBISHI POWER

YARA

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TRITON POWER

humber freeport

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