

HyBont Bridgend Green Hydrogen Project

About the project

Marubeni Europower is developing plans for a green hydrogen production and refuelling facility at Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, partially powered by a solar farm at Bryncethin.

It is anticipated that the green hydrogen facility will help support Bridgend County Borough Council's net zero strategy by providing low carbon fuel to be used locally, for its refuse collection vehicles and operators of local buses.

The Council is also exploring the potential for an Ynysawdre heat network, which would provide a low carbon and cost-effective way to heat local schools and community facilities.

Information event

The Information Event on 9 March 2023 is being held to provide an update on the plans and feedback on the key themes raised.

This leaflet provides an overview of the Pre-Application Consultation, a summary of the key themes raised and next steps.

More information on the key themes can be found in the corresponding factsheet.

All the information at the Information Event is available on the project website: www.hybont.co.uk.



Aerial site location plan


Pre-Application Consultation

The Pre-Application Consultation on the proposals took place in November/ December 2022, with local residents, businesses and stakeholders able to submit comments until 6 January 2023.

 **over 1,200**
letters/leaflets sent to residential and business addresses

 **over 700**
unique visitors to the project website

 **over 100**
people provided feedback

 **2** public exhibition drop in events attended by **over 130** people



PAC and public drop in event statistics for the period 18th November 2022 to 6th January 2023.

Key themes

Key themes raised during the Pre-Application Consultation were in relation to the green hydrogen facility – location and layout, hydrogen safety, environmental considerations, transport and social benefits.

A summary is provided below and more information can be found in the corresponding factsheet.

Green hydrogen facility: location and layout

Feedback: The main queries related to site selection, location and proximity to homes and businesses, particularly the hydrogen production and storage elements of the facility.

Response: Over 10 sites were considered, but the Brynmenyn and Bryncethin sites were selected as the only ones to meet a number of key criteria. This includes:

- close to potential local users of green hydrogen fuel.
- potential for a local district heat network for community buildings in Ynysawdre, which is currently being assessed by BCBC.

- proximity to a solar energy, with a direct connection.
- the site is also allocated in BCBC's Local Development Plan for industrial use.

The site layout has been carefully designed to optimise production and minimise hazards.

Safety

Feedback: Although hydrogen production is not a new concept, it is new to the area and the safety of green hydrogen production and storage, and proximity of the facility to residents and businesses was raised.

Response: Hydrogen, in line with hydrocarbons such as petrol and natural gas, is covered by international codes, regulations and standards to ensure its safe production, storage, transportation and use. It has been used within the UK for a range of industrial purposes for decades, and the UK has a strong track record in the safe distribution and storage of combustion gases.

Safety is of paramount importance, both in terms of the design and operation of the HyBont green hydrogen project. To prevent an explosion from

ever occurring, and to mitigate the effects of one in the unlikely event that it occurred, a range of measures have been incorporated into the safety-led design.

Environmental considerations

Feedback: A range of topics were raised including visual impact, environmental impact and loss of biodiversity, air quality, oxygen dispersion, noise and flood risk.

Response: The Environmental Statement, which will be submitted with the planning application, identifies potential impacts from the project and proposes mitigation measures where appropriate. This will be informed by the results of studies and surveys carried out on a range of environmental considerations, including those identified in the feedback.

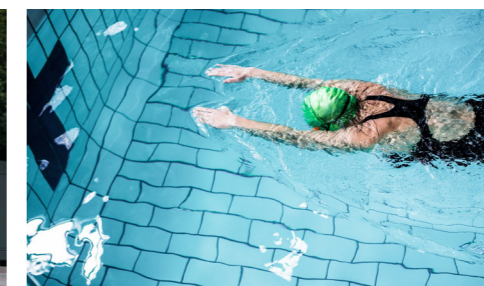
See fact sheet for more detailed response to landscape and visual impact - character, views, glare from the solar farm; ecology, including details of Phase 2 Habitat Surveys; air quality; oxygen dispersion; noise; and flood risk.

Transport

Feedback: Most of the comments about transport were in relation to the green hydrogen facility and potential impact on the Brynmenyn Industrial Estate as well as the local road network.

Response: During the 21-month construction period for the green hydrogen facility at Brynmenyn, access to the site will initially be via Chilcott Avenue, through a simple extension of the existing route, until the site access off Squire Drive is constructed. Once constructed, Squire Drive will be used to access the site.

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) and Construction Traffic Management Plan (CTMP) have been prepared for each site.



These sets out expected mitigation measures include phased deliveries, traffic marshalling and vehicle mud-wash facilities.

Once operational, access will be from Squire Drive. 56 large vehicle trips (28 inbound and 28 outbound) – comprising single decker buses, refuse collection vehicles and HGVs, including single chassis tube trailers - and 10 staff movements (5 inbound and 5 outbound) are anticipated each day. This is not considered significant as many of the large vehicles will already be using the Industrial Estate and local road network.

Onsite parking at the green hydrogen facility will be provided to meet the needs of staff and visitors. There are currently no proposals to amend the on-street parking available on Squire Drive.

Social benefits

Feedback: A range of comments were received about benefits from the proposals, in particular green energy production and local job opportunities.

Response: There are a range of benefits associated with the development, including helping to tackle the climate emergency and reduce carbon emissions by providing a low carbon fuel for transport and potential heat source for local community buildings.

Local businesses could also potentially use the hydrogen produced on site for their own purposes and specialist businesses that require hydrogen could 'spin-off' from the facility.

Approximately 130 people will be employed in the construction of the facility, with supply chain opportunities for local businesses. In addition to this, there will be 4/5 permanent specialist jobs to maintain and operate the facility.

Next steps

You can view all the fact sheets, background information and plans for the project online by visiting:

www.hybont.co.uk

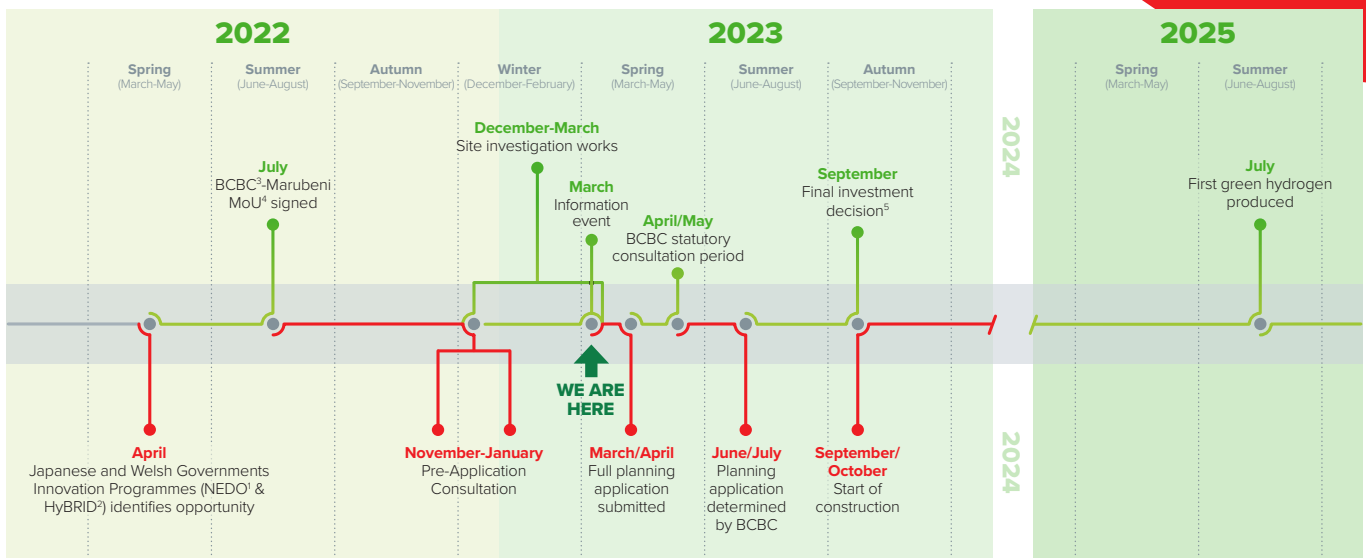


Next steps

The planning application is due to be submitted in March/April 2023.

There will then be an opportunity to comment on the final proposals during the statutory consultation, which is expected to be carried out by Bridgend County Borough Council in April/ May 2023.

Indicative Project Timeline



¹ New Energy and Industrial Technology Development Organization (NEDO) ⁴ Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
² Hydrogen Business Research & Innovation for Decarbonisation (HyBRID) ⁵ Subject to planning permission being granted
³ Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC)

Marubeni Europower is a leading investor in renewable energy, developing and operating power projects worldwide.

Operating in Europe for more than 50 years, we have invested more than £1.5bn in renewable energy projects and employ over 2,000 people in the UK.

Marubeni is committed to contributing to the transition towards a low-carbon society by delivering a mix of renewables projects, including hydrogen.

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