

## **Viridor commits to fight against climate crisis by becoming first UK net negative emissions waste company**

20 May 2021

### **Highlights**

- **Ahead of COP26 in November, commitment to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, 10 years ahead of the Government's legal target of 2050**
- **New target will see the removal of at least 1.6MT of CO2 per year by 2040, equivalent to removing 783,846 cars from UK roads**
- **Ambition to be the first net negative emissions waste and recycling company in the UK by 2045, allowing Viridor to support the rest of the economy to reach net zero by 2050**
- **Five-step action plan to support the country to recycle 70% of our waste by 2030 and unlock billions of pounds of investment in new green technologies like carbon capture**
- **Landmark partnership agreed to develop carbon capture technology at Viridor's largest site as part of the ground-breaking HyNet North West industrial cluster**

The waste sector can become a key tool in decarbonising the rest of the economy under new plans announced by Viridor, one of the UK's leading resources and waste management companies.

Viridor has set out plans to become a net zero emissions company by 2040, a target that is in line with the Paris Agreement and the Science-Based Targets initiative. Ahead of COP26 in November, Viridor is also announcing the far-reaching aim to become the first UK net negative emissions waste and recycling company by 2045, allowing it to support the country's commitment to reach net zero by 2050.

To support this target, Viridor has today announced an ambitious five-step roadmap that will deliver dramatic reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions across its operations by 2040. By 2045, Viridor will aim to remove more human related GHG emissions than its operations produce, helping the UK as a whole hit its net zero goals.

The majority of Viridor's GHG emissions come from its energy from waste facilities – a process that deals with waste that cannot currently be recycled and avoids it going to landfill.

In addition to boosting recycling rates to cut the amount of waste going to these facilities, a key part of Viridor's strategy is to invest in ground-breaking green technology to capture any emissions produced – known as Carbon Capture, Utilisation and Storage (CCUS). Viridor is already working closely with the Government as it develops a framework to accelerate CCUS investment to deliver on the Prime Minister's ambitious 10-point plan for a green industrial revolution.

Viridor has also today announced a landmark partnership as it joins the HyNet North West Consortium, working in partnership with Progressive Energy, which has been developing CCUS schemes in the UK for more than 20 years.

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Joining this consortium will bring negative emissions to the HyNet project and facilitate a critical next step for Viridor on its journey to net negative, targeting CCS operations at Viridor's site at Runcorn by 2026 – the first project of its kind in the UK.

CCUS forms a major part of Viridor's wider five-step roadmap to deliver on its commitment to being a leader on tackling climate change, which include:

1. Reducing direct emissions from all core operations – by driving more efficient processes that lower GHG emissions, including for landfill
2. Maximising the amount of waste that is recycled and reused – by investing at scale in new reprocessing facilities and reducing the amount of waste going into energy from waste facilities
3. Capturing and storing carbon emissions from strategic sites – by 2040 installing CCUS infrastructure to capture at least 1.6MTCO<sub>2</sub> every year
4. Generating negative emissions by expanding carbon capture across Viridor's national network – by investing in new technologies and exploring products that can be created from CO<sub>2</sub>
5. Supplying more homes and businesses with clean heat – by seeking to use all recovered heat from its energy from waste facilities to drive wider decarbonisation

Viridor's decarbonisation roadmap sets out in more detail how the company will approach the challenge and invest at scale, reducing the environmental footprint of what the country throws away. For more information, please see 'Decarbonising our Waste: Viridor's Roadmap to Net Zero and Net Negative Emissions'.

**Kevin Bradshaw, Chief Executive Officer of Viridor commented:** *"Tackling the climate crisis requires bold action, and this pledge underlines Viridor's ambition to drive the UK waste sector on its path to decarbonisation. We are committed to doing everything in our power to achieve net zero and net negative emissions, recognising the critical role of carbon capture and storage in the process. We know we cannot do this alone, and are committed to working with the Government and industry to drive the policy changes needed to make this technology a reality. If we get this right the benefits for our industry, society and economy will be immense, and I am confident that the waste sector can play a vital role in tackling the UK's carbon emissions."*

*"A meaningful example of Viridor's determination to advance this ambition into real project commitments is our joining the HyNet consortium to take advantage of the strategic opportunities presented by Viridor's Runcorn Energy Recovery Facility – our biggest ERF – as part of the HyNet North West Net Zero Cluster."*

**Business & Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng said:** *"It is great to see that Viridor has joined our efforts to tackle climate change."*

*"We want to position the UK at the forefront of carbon capture, which is why we are investing £1 billion in these technologies. This alongside Viridor's plans to invest in carbon capture will help ensure we're a world-leader in this area, while its ambitions to reduce emissions are significant in helping support our climate commitments and encouraging more people to recycle as we transition to a green economy."*

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*David Parkin, Director at Progressive Energy and HyNet North West Project Director said: “HyNet North West is a well-advanced, fully-integrated decarbonisation project utilising CCUS and hydrogen infrastructure to tackle CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from a range of sectors and industries across the region. From 2025, HyNet will unlock a low carbon economy across North West England and North Wales, helping the UK to meet net zero emissions by 2050 and protecting and creating jobs.*

*“Viridor is great fit with the existing HyNet project consortium and we are extremely pleased to be supporting the organisation as they strive to become the UK’s first net negative emissions waste company.*

*“HyNet’s plans are technically advanced and, whilst ambitious, they are deliverable and low cost. Our partnership will open up new routes for industrial decarbonisation, bring further benefits to the North West region and put the UK at the forefront of energy innovation.”*

-Ends-

## **About HyNet – case study**

# **HyNet North West**

## **Viridor and HyNet North West to jointly pioneer decarbonisation of the waste industry.**

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**HyNet North West is a low carbon energy project at the forefront of the UK’s journey to a net zero future.**

Project Director, David Parkin, explains:

*“From 2025, HyNet will be ready to capture and store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from industry who find it difficult to remove carbon from their industrial processes such as waste. In addition, the HyNet will produce, store and distribute hydrogen to provide an alternative low carbon fuel to natural gas, a fossil fuel, to industry, transport and to heat our homes.*

*“HyNet will use state-of-the-art infrastructure to capture 10 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year from industry across the North West and North Wales. Gas pipelines, both new and re-purposed, will transport the CO<sub>2</sub> to depleted oil and gas reservoirs under the seabed in Liverpool Bay for permanent*

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storage. This reduction in carbon emissions is the equivalent of taking four million cars off the road, every year.

*“HyNet offers Viridor a viable route to become the UK’s first net negative emissions waste company. In addition to the waste sector, HyNet will decarbonise 30 major manufacturing sites across multiple sectors including chemicals, glass, cement, oil refining, FMCG’s, food and drink.*

*“Within North West of England and North Wales, HyNet will create and safeguard thousands of local jobs, as well as enable long-term sustainability for businesses and financial security for communities across the region. It will give the North West industrial heartland a route to prosperity in the future low carbon economy, ensuring the region remains an attractive location for investment and for companies to grow.*

*“We are very excited to be working with Viridor as they strive towards their ambition to be a net zero emissions company by 2040. Their forward-looking, ambitious approach complements the HyNet consortium, and we are looking forward to all that we can achieve together.”*

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