

[Press release: Green initiatives from Britain's abandoned coal mines](#)

The Coal Authority outlined how this legacy is now playing its part in the drive for green energy, clean growth and sustainability.

A number of initiatives are now helping to save costs, generate income and support sustainable energy as part of the government's Clean Growth Strategy.

Lisa Pinney MBE, Chief Executive, Coal Authority, said:

We're delighted to support Green GB Week and committed to working with the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to promote the government's Clean Growth Strategy and Heat Networks Investment Project.

We're committed to changing our mind set from one focused on dealing with the problems of Britain's mining legacy to one that focuses on the opportunities of our mining heritage.

To fully realise these opportunities we're thinking differently, working with others and being bold in our approach.

Low carbon energy and water supply resilience

Work is already underway to make the most of these opportunities for the nation. In a surprising role reversal, abandoned coal mines are now being considered as a potential new low carbon heat source.

Exciting developments such as ground based solar installations and power efficiencies on former colliery sites are also saving the Coal Authority £0.7 million this year alone.

Water from mine water treatment schemes, and water stored in abandoned mines, could play an important role in balancing water supplies for consumption or the environment in future: mines themselves could play a role in storing water during flood conditions.

Innovations in mine water treatment

New uses for by-products from coal mine water treatment are also among the 'green' innovations developed by the Coal Authority.

Ochre used to be classed as waste but has been developed as a pigment for the fine arts market. It can also be used to remediate contaminated land.

Iron removed from mine water during the treatment process is also being used to remove phosphorus as part of the sewage treatment process. This helps to improve water quality and support river ecology.

Claire Perry, Minister for Energy and Clean Growth, said:

The UK has led the world in cutting emissions whilst growing our economy – with clean growth driving incredible innovation and creating hundreds of thousands of high quality jobs.

Ten years on from the Climate Change Act, the first ever Green GB week is a time to build on our successes and explain the huge opportunities for business and young people of a cleaner economy.

I'm delighted to see how many more businesses and organisations such as the Coal Authority are seizing this multi-billion pound opportunity to energize their communities to tackle the very serious threat of climate change.

Discover more

Coal mines may no longer be the feature of Britain's landscape that they once were, but their legacy is now revealing new opportunities for our generation to explore.

The Coal Authority will publish its latest Sustainability Report soon, which highlights its sustainability performance in 2017-18, during which time it:

- recycled over 3,700 tonnes of reedbed waste, reducing the environment impacts associated with landfill
- increased its portfolio of solar arrays, taking its renewable generating capacity to 712 kW
- reduced its carbon footprint, as part of its efficiencies programme
- won a prestigious edie Sustainability Leaders Award 2018, for its work in finding new ways to reuse waste products, and was shortlisted for Sustainable Business of the year

[Find out more about the Coal Authority](#)

[Speech: Sam Gyimah: Green GB Week](#)

Clean Energy Innovation Summit

Good afternoon everyone. It's great to see so many people, from so many different places, all gathered here today.

It may be strange to open a speech about the future by looking to the past. But I'd like to begin by asking you to cast your minds back in time to January 1882.

A time when horse-drawn Hackney Carriages clattered across cobbled streets, the tube was in its infancy, and lamplighters went around at dusk, illuminating the city streets with gas flames.

And now, imagine the excitement you'd feel when you heard the news: The world's first coal-fired power station was up and running in London.

The Edison Electric Light Station was named for its designer, Thomas Edison – one of the great innovators of the nineteenth century, who invented the phonograph, improved the telephone, and commercialised the incandescent bulb.

And while the Light Station lit fewer than 1000 bulbs, and closed a few short years later, it had changed the landscape, and in 1889 the first central power station was opened in Deptford.

While we may debate whether it was Edison, or Swan, or someone else who designed the lightbulb first I think we can all agree that this profound shift – over just seven years – was triggered by an innovator; a person with an idea, the means to test it, and the ambition to see it through.

Since then, we've become acutely conscious of the damage that has been done by inefficient and polluting products, whether they're old lightbulbs, coal-fired power stations, or the cars which replaced those horse-drawn carriages.

So now, as Edison did, we need to improve on what came before.

If we want to see another major shift like the one he brought about – but this time a shift towards the clean technologies of the future – then we need more innovators like Edison.

We need you.

And we need you to be able to do what Edison did: have an idea, create a product, and share it with the world. This is where government can come in – we can make sure that you're able to do these things.

Take the example of YASA Motors. This year they opened a new production factory in Oxfordshire, which is supporting 150 high-skilled jobs and aiming to produce 100,000 units by the year's end.

But the company started with just one man: Tim Woolmer, a graduate from the University of Oxford, one of our fantastic universities, if I may say,

represented in the room today.

In 2009, Tim's DPhil research gave him an idea for a new type of motor, capable of significant carbon emission reductions and, with the help of the university, YASA Motors was founded as a university spinout.

This sort of thing will only become more frequent, because back in January of this year we pledged more than 180 million pounds from the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council to fund science and engineering research.

Next, Tim needed to test out his ideas in the real world, and scale up, and Innovate UK – now part of UK Research and Innovation – were there to lend a hand, helping YASA to develop their Y750 motor.

Now YASA are an international company, and they're ready to innovate again, with an Advanced Propulsion Centre grant helping them to develop their next products alongside a host of others, including Hofer Powertrain UK and the Warwick Manufacturing Centre.

And they could benefit further still – for example, from the BEIS Energy Innovation Programme, committing more than 500 million pounds to help accelerate the commercialisation of innovative clean energy technologies and processes.

All part of our commitment to spending 2.4 percent of GDP on R&D in the next three years.

Of course, when I speak of international companies, it's with a keen awareness of the international nature of research too. Edison, after all, is one of America's greatest historical figures, but he chose to build his first power station in London.

The UK may be home to some of the brightest minds in the world, but it doesn't have a monopoly on great ideas. Nor is climate change a solely British concern. So we're working with friends around the world to ensure that innovative approaches can flourish in every corner of the globe.

Back at the start of the year, my colleague the Energy Minister, Claire Perry, launched the UK-South Korea Bilateral Collaboration on Smart Energy Innovation.

Central to this was a competition, where UK companies and teams would partner with companies and organisations in South Korea to develop and demonstrate innovative, low-carbon technologies and approaches, including demand-side response, vehicle-to-grid technologies, flexibility markets, system integration and energy storage systems.

My department committed up to three million pounds to the competition, and our counterparts in South Korea offered roughly the same to the South Korean groups involved, and today I am pleased to announce the winners of that funding:

- Doosan Babcock Ltd, who have developed a novel energy storage approach based on liquifying air;

- GridDuck, who are looking at smarter ways to charge and discharge electric vehicles; and Electron, for their work to develop a trading platform in South Korea to incentivize the flexible use of energy.

Not only will these developments help in the global fight against climate change, they'll also mean more business for the winners and, we hope, new trade and investment opportunities between our two nations.

The same is true in on the other side of the world, where we are embarking on a new collaboration.

Today, I'm pleased to launch the Power Forward Challenge, which we're taking on alongside the Canadian Government. We'll be bringing together innovators from both countries to demonstrate our shared ability to aggregate and manage distributed generation, energy storage and flexible loads in future energy systems so that we can learn to respond to greater demand, complexity and volatility that our future energy grid will face.

Soon you'll be hearing from Janice Charette, the Canadian High Commissioner to the UK, and, by video, from Amarjeet Sohi, the Canadian Minister of Natural Resources so I'll leave it to them to say more about this.

These two projects show the high demand that there is for our expertise all around the world. And with the stakes so high, and the potential rewards so big, we are keen to show that expertise.

Today, alongside the Department for International Trade, we're launching a [brochure](#) which highlights the impressive breadth and depth of the capability which British companies offer, allowing potential partners from around the world to see where they might be able to complement UK expertise and experience, bringing together the brightest and best from around the world to work in partnership with UK firms.

In all this collaboration, others nations are designing their own products and services to make the world that bit greener. This is great news. But, of course, I want to see the people of this country prospering – which means that I want us to stay ahead of the pack.

That's why we're continuing to invest in our fantastic entrepreneurs.

Today, we are publishing the winners of the latest phase of our Energy Entrepreneurs Fund. Our funding to date totals around 60 million pounds and has supported over 130 projects.

Lastly, with clarity and simplicity in mind, today we launch a data visualisation tool which will show the different clean energy projects funded by our innovation funding programmes.

It will also allow users to see which projects are in the same technology area, or which ones are based locally to them so that potential collaborators, investors and developers can easily identify opportunities to add value.

All of this work will support innovations in the clean tech of tomorrow, helping our world and helping our people.

When Thomas Edison set out his vision for a coal power station all those years ago, that was what he wanted to do. In many ways, he did.

Now it's your turn to take that vision forward. In this [Green GB Week](#), it's time to put pen to paper. It's your turn to take that idea you've always kept at the back of your head and start bringing it into the real world.

100 years from now, it could be your name that people associate with invention, and your innovations which shape the world.

Thank you.

Press release: City slickers rub shoulders with public sector as thousands of civil servants leave Whitehall

- Over 6,000 civil servants to move into Canary Wharf as part of an effort to save money and reduce Whitehall office buildings.
- Public-sector staff from eight departments are now operating from UK financial district including HMRC, OfGem and MoJ.

The UK Government officially opened its Canary Wharf Hub today as part of its long-term Civil Service transformation to reduce fragmented government office buildings from 800 to 200, by 2030.

Moving departments into the new Canary Wharf hub will result in £24 million of savings per year. Furthermore, the average cost per sq/m in the Canary Wharf building is £700, compared to £950 for Whitehall buildings.

The Government Property Agency is expected to deliver £3.6 billion worth of savings over 20 years. Of which, £2.5 billion will be delivered by the Hubs Programme. HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is the largest occupier of the Government Hub, with 2,000 of its people benefiting from the flexible, collaborative work environment.

Oliver Dowden, Minister for Implementation, said:

It's great to see public and private sector staff rubbing shoulders here in Canary Wharf. This hub is one of 14 across the country already announced which will use cutting-edge design and innovative technology to deliver smarter public services that reduce vacant space across the government estate.

The government has saved £300m per year in running costs, through the disposal of over a thousand properties since 2014. By the end of this Parliament, we will have established a network of around 20 multi-agency government hubs across the UK that utilise efficient smarter working practices and are accessible to the communities they serve.

The Canary Wharf building had previously been used by Barclays PLC and was selected as a Government Hub due to its excellent transport links, which will be further enhanced by the opening of Crossrail in the future.

Steven Boyd, HMRC's Estates Director, said:

I am pleased that HMRC is delivering Phase 1 of the Government Hubs Programme, including being commissioned to deliver the Canary Wharf Hub with Government Property Agency. More than 2,000 of our London-based people are already benefitting from the facilities the hub has to offer; including modern, flexible workspaces with great IT and excellent transport links. Bringing our teams from across London together in Canary Wharf is already showing the benefits of collaboration and modern ways of working.

Through smarter property management, and the uptake of modern, more efficient working practices, vacant space has been reduced across the government estate by 73% since 2014.

This forms part of the Government Estate Strategy, published earlier this year, which seeks to provide a government estate that works for everyone. It aims to drive growth and opportunity by moving government jobs to centres of excellence in areas across the UK with particular strengths and skills, to house the Civil Service in modern, flexible workspaces. This will open up the workplace to a more diverse Civil Service that better reflects the people it serves and the places where they live.

Note to editors

- For more information please contact the Cabinet Office Press Office on: 0207 276 7545.
- The hubs programme is part of the government's broader SmarterGov campaign, launched to drive innovation, savings and public service improvement across government and wider public sector.

[News story: Improving the services we offer for Welsh speakers](#)



New Welsh language numbers have been launched in Wales in line with the launch of Courts & Tribunals Service Centres opening in January.

For our English speakers, phone calls will go through to one of our new Courts and Tribunals Service Centres, the first two of which are due to [open in January 2019 in Stoke-on-Trent and Birmingham](#). These will handle the administrative processes of courts and tribunals and will be the first port of call for the public wanting information on their cases – enabling calls, emails and queries to be answered much more quickly and accurately. Welsh language speakers can continue to speak to our team in Welsh on the service lines below which are now open:

Welsh language service	Contact number
Social Security and Child Support Appeals	03003035170
Divorce	03003035171
Single Justice Service Centre (including DVLA and TV Licensing enquiries)	03003035172
Jury service	03003035173
Civil Money Claims	03003035174
Fines/Fixed Penalty	03003035175
Employment Tribunal Appeals	03003035176
Video Hearings	03003035177
Assisted Digital	03003035179
Probate	03003030654
Magistrates Court (all Welsh courts other than Caernarfon Magistrates' Court)	03003035178

You can find out more about our new services on our [projects and services page](#).

Calls to the new service line numbers will be answered by our teams at the Welsh Language Unit at Caernarfon Justice Centre. These new Welsh language service lines are part of the £1 billion that is being invested in transforming the courts and tribunals service, making the justice system simpler to access, convenient to use and more efficient to run; utilising technology to bring the processes of justice into the 21st century.

This new service has been set up in accordance with our [Welsh Language Scheme](#), which we published in May this year.

To find out more about our reform programme and other projects currently underway you can [read our reform programme page](#) on GOV.UK.

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[News story: Fall in moped crime as multi-agency taskforce produces results](#)

A government-led taskforce, aimed at cracking down on moped crime in London, is to be extended to tackle all theft of vehicles nationwide.

It comes after Metropolitan Police figures reveal that moped offences in London have more than halved as a result of targeted police operations, supported by a range of work driven forward by the taskforce.

There was a 32.6% fall in these crimes in the period from January to August this year compared with the same period in 2017, and compared to July 2017 when the crime was at its peak, the number of offences committed in August this year was 56% lower.

Work undertaken to tackle moped crime includes:

- operational activity led by the Metropolitan Police in hotspot areas
- a government consultation on police pursuits
- developing an industry standard for built-in theft deterrents
- a review of the range of offences, sentences and maximum penalties for these crimes

Chairing today's meeting of the moped taskforce, which brings together representatives from the Metropolitan Police, local government and industry, Policing Minister Nick Hurd said:

Today's figures are testament to the fantastic work achieved by the

Metropolitan Police and I'm pleased this crime has fallen by so much, so quickly.

Drawing together existing work by the police, industry and local government and agreeing additional measures has enabled all partners to provide the multi-agency approach tackling a complex issue like this requires.

The Met have done a superb job of targeting hotspot areas and deploying innovative and highly effective methods for stopping moped gangs in their tracks.

I'm excited to see what we can achieve by applying a similar response to vehicle theft.

Deputy Assistant Commissioner Graham McNulty, National Police Chiefs' Council Lead for Vehicle Crime said:

The reductions achieved in this crime type show the encouraging results that can be achieved when there is a strong focus on enforcement complemented with committed partnership working.

I am grateful to our partners in the public, private and third sectors who have all played their part alongside the steadfast and relentless operational teams who have delivered outstanding results.

These reductions are just a start and it is imperative that we continue to work together to ensure that we build on these solid foundations and further reduce harm to the people of London.

Tony Campbell, Chief Executive of the Motorcycle Industry Association (MCIA) said:

We are very pleased to see a significant reduction in the number of motorcycle and scooter thefts in London. The Home Office organised roundtable, which invited all stakeholders to coordinate efforts, has been extremely effective.

The MCIA, along with support from its manufacturer members, have played an active role in this effort and we will continue to do so over the coming months and years.

The MCIA secured initiative announced in June, will go further towards dealing with the problem of theft and enabled crime.

At today's meeting, Jan Hart from Islington Council shared their local strategy which contributed in moped crime falling 60%. The council introduced a range of measures including tactically placed street furniture to block

escape routes, new CCTV, and street lighting in key locations and improved security to moped bays.

Following the recent rise in thefts of vehicles, the same strategy will be introduced to tackle this emerging threat which, according to the latest crime statistics, increased 17% in the year ending March 2018.