

Solihull Town Centre Low Carbon Energy Network

Exciting plans are being progressed to deliver affordable low carbon energy to the town centre.

The scheme will distribute low carbon heat and power from a single energy centre directly into town centre buildings. The energy centre will provide a range of renewable and low carbon energy solutions including Air Source Heat Pumps and gas Combined Heat and Power.

The proposed energy network will be able to provide heat and power to public and private sector customers, including Council owned buildings, education campuses and commercial offices.

The project aims to deliver carbon savings in support of Solihull Council's ambitious climate change commitments by reducing the borough's greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the amount of renewable and low carbon energy used to heat and power buildings.

In Solihull 57% of our greenhouse gas emissions come from the energy we use in our buildings. This scheme will significantly reduce building energy emissions and pave the way for additional building connections in the town centre, helping Solihull in its drive towards Net Zero Carbon emissions by 2041.

#NetZeroSolihull 

What is a district energy network?

A district energy network is a system for distributing low carbon heat and electricity.

Energy is generated from a centralised location and is distributed via underground pipes and wires.

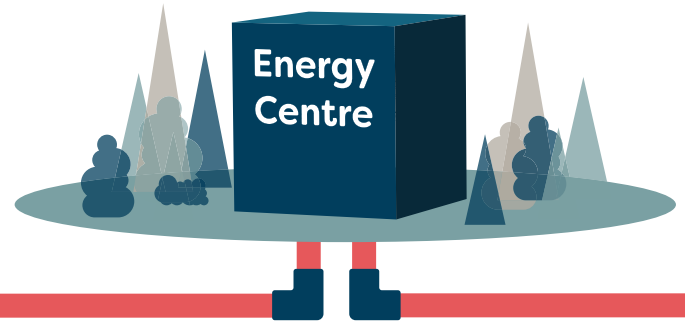
These schemes can deliver significant carbon savings and help to reduce fuel bills. See the following on YouTube for a video summary of district energy.



https://youtu.be/40nC_OB5s3E



Building our Energy Centre



Solihull town centre has been identified as suitable for a new Low Carbon Energy Network. First we need to design and build an Energy Centre as the beating heart of this exciting scheme.

Following extensive consideration of options, an Energy Centre located on land next to Tudor Grange Leisure Centre is being proposed.

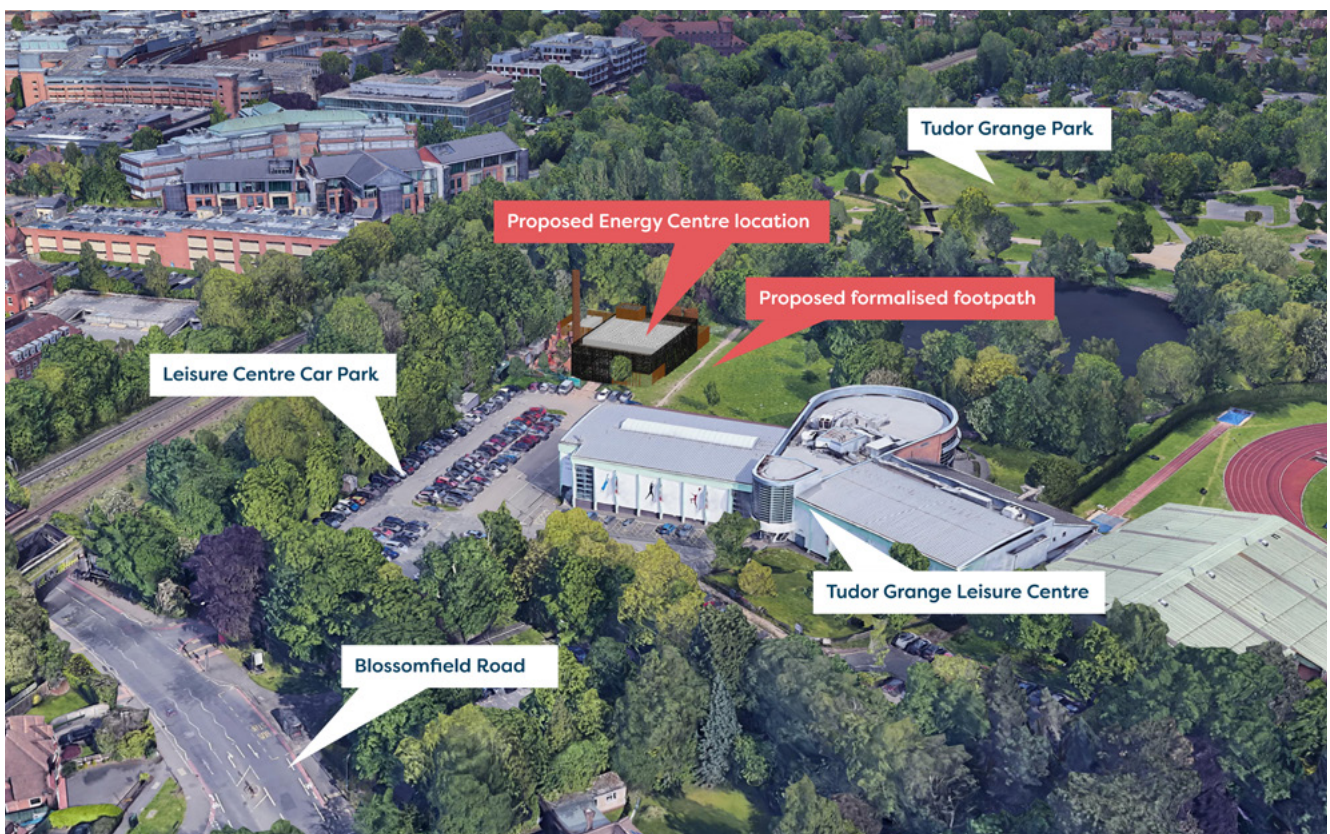
The Energy Centre will provide a unique opportunity to distribute low carbon and affordable heating across Solihull Town Centre, and educational opportunities for the local community. The Energy Centre also means Solihull has more flexibility to increase the use of renewable and low carbon energy, as energy generation technologies are centrally managed.

We have developed a building design and would like your views before we submit a planning application on its design and key features.

The design has been developed by the Council's Building Design Studio in consultation with Sustainable Energy Limited, the Council's technical advisors.

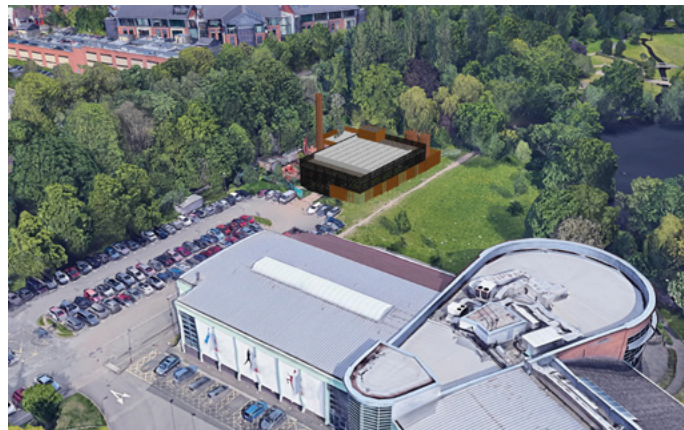
The location of the Energy Centre is critical to a successful energy network; it needs to be close to all potential network customers and able to access all necessary services, whilst also being on a large enough site to house all the equipment required.

In Solihull we are fortunate to have a site which meets the needs of the network on Council owned land next to the Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.



Design Concepts

- The proposal is for the Energy Centre to be nestled within the corner of the site amongst the mature tree line of the landscape and the railway embankment.
- The building is designed to respond to the landscape of Tudor Grange park. Careful material choices help the building sit well in its natural surroundings. The natural colour tones of the proposed materials demonstrate texture and warmth.
- Vertical elements of the timber mimic trees within the park, and gaps between them allow glimpses into parts of the Energy Centre just like the natural views seen when walking through the trees.
- Cladding is perforated to break up the architectural form and reflect natural tree foliage canopies within the landscape which also create dappled shadows at various times of the day.
- The building is equivalent to two storeys tall and will be lower than Tudor Grange Leisure Centre.



- The height of the perforated cladding is designed to screen off the rooftop plant when viewed from eye level.
- Formalising the existing path adjacent to the Energy Centre will allow passers-by to look into the building, enhances the existing landscape connectivity across the site and helps the proposal sit well within its context.

