



HEATH PARK

How the challenges of Climate Change can become the opportunities of the future



Heath Park Vision and the Goals

In March 2020 SOG Group unveiled its vision for turning The Heath Business and Technical Park in Runcorn, Cheshire into 'Heath Park', a 21st century version of Port Sunlight, the early Victorian example of social and environmental community created by Lever Brothers for workers of their soap manufacturing plant in the North-west.

John Lewis MBE, the owner of SOG, wants to create a sustainable, futuristic environment where people can live, work and play. Heath Park will become an internationally recognised place, designed to take a holistic approach to key issues facing society such as poverty, loneliness, life expectancy and sustainable employment. Environmental sustainability is key. SOG aim to create a Net Zero Plus Carbon environment ahead of regional/national targets.



A dedicated team of specialists and academics have been appointed to deliver the Heath Park vision which is now moving forward at pace. A Feasibility Study on the commercial viability of the many options has just been completed. The study has been carried out by EcoResponsive Environments. ERE, the UK Urban Design and Architectural specialists, won a global RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) competition, sponsored by SOG, on the 'Vision of Future Living', and were appointed to conduct the all-important validation process. Heath Park, which has been adopted as a 'Beacon Project' by Liverpool City Region, will be promoted to the global ethical investment community over the next few months.

Revolutionary Vertical Farming system is central to Heath Park ethos

The RIBA competition attracted over 50 entries from architects, forward thinkers and designers from around the world. It generated incredible ideas on the vision of future living with a raft of fascinating propositions on future trends in employment, housing, leisure, community, energy consumption and much more. Sustainable food supplies, to feed our population in years to come, are critical. The competition identified local food production and Vertical Farming as vitally important elements for Heath Park.

Vertical Farming has huge potential to supply fresh healthy food with short robust supply chains avoiding climate, economic and political instability. However, existing systems require high energy resources.

Renowned Vertical Farming expert Dr Paul Myers has joined SOG's team and, with the University of Liverpool, has spearheaded a world-leading pilot study using hydrogen fuel cell technology to power a Vertical Farm on site at The Heath. Initial findings indicate this pilot has been a success. Lettuces harvested from this experiment had a yield target of 60 grams per lettuce. The yield achieved far exceeded this target with an average weight of 108.4 grams while the largest weighed 195.6 grams. The success of this pilot study is a key step towards realising our goal of Net Zero Carbon Vertical Farms.

Testing is currently underway to determine the carbon content of the harvest, and this should be known within two weeks. Current indications are that the overall pilot result will be a success once we have this final data. A research paper will be developed over the coming weeks with plans for Dr Myers to reveal the findings during COP26. SOG sees its model becoming the 'next generation' of vertical farms and being introduced across the world – totally transforming the way in which we grow our fresh, healthy, sustainable food at scale in the future.



Says Dr Myers: "Our Vertical Farm Pilot will demonstrate how this state-of-the-art method of operation can be commercially viable while making a massive contribution to tackling climate change. Our Pilot will demonstrate that the resulting UK developed systems can be replicated worldwide, offering significant investment opportunities. Within the next few years, it is likely that many large-scale Vertical Farming facilities, designed and constructed in this fashion, will make a colossal contribution to reducing CO2 emissions worldwide, and all originating in the UK. This should be a key message for COP26." Here is a link to a brief film of a presentation on Heath Park given to Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram in May 2021: <https://vimeo.com/cdandpmedia/review/551403830/a9a7e3c3fe>

Clean energy is at the heart of everything

World environmental targets and the futuristic design of Heath Park demand the use of clean energies. Heath Park is adaptable to utilise all clean energy resources, including Hydrogen. The Heath is located on the doorstep of HyNet, a Hydrogen production initiative, which means it will have direct access to this green power supply. SOG has formed a collaboration with HyNet North-West to explore how the hydrogen and carbon capture initiative can help to power Heath Park. ***SOG has also been selected to host a 'Green Energy' conference for the North-West on November 4th, 2021, from The Heath in Runcorn which will be linked to the COP26 event in Glasgow.***

Heath Park selected for UK's Global Investment Summit

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Global Investment Summit (GIS), hosted by The Queen at Windsor Castle on Wednesday, October 13th, aims to galvanise foreign investment into the UK's green industries. Heath Park has been selected by the Department of International Trade as one of the major UK projects to showcase to over 200 of the world's most powerful executives and heads of major institutions who will be in attendance. Heath Park's application to be part of GIS received support from local and regional government leaders including Liverpool City Region Mayor Steve Rotheram and Greater Manchester Metro Mayor Andy Burnham. GIS is a phenomenal opportunity for Heath Park and the North-West to attract massive inward investment to the region for a world-leading programme that will meet, and indeed exceed, the Government's net zero carbon emission targets. SOG has supplied a film to the DIT on 'The SOG Story' which underpins the company's success over the past two decades as a leading regeneration specialist and its impeccable credentials to deliver the Heath Park vision. The story is told through the words of high-profile Government Ministers, regional politicians and business leaders as an independent endorsement of SOG's unique expertise. You can view at: <https://vimeo.com/cdandpmedia/review/591205620/c50fa2d33b>

The GIS Summit is a UK Government initiative. As COP26 is a United Nations event, the DIT says it has no influence on getting projects that are showcased at GIS promoted at COP26. The advice is for businesses to work with regional governments who will be at COP26. Liverpool City Region, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Chester authorities have combined for a 'North-West' representation at COP26 and are currently sifting through case studies to showcase at COP26. Therefore, with the extensive local and regional government support for Heath Park and our selection to be showcased at the GIS Summit, it would surely be appropriate that Heath Park is adopted as one of the North-West projects for COP26.

SOG's regeneration track record

SOG recently helped to attract over £2.6billion of investment to the former Sanofi pharmaceutical plant in Dagenham, east London which will be creating 3,000 new jobs.

Link to Heath Park's latest promotional film:

<https://vimeo.com/cdandpmedia/review/574922624/39114badac>

For more information on Heath Park, please go to: www.heathpark-uk.com

September 2, 2021