

100-acre low carbon greenhouse enters planning permission that will re-shore 7.5% of current imports of tomatoes, creating 420 green jobs in North Essex and delivering increased food security to the UK.

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Rivenhall Greenhouse Limited is delighted to announce that planning documents for a 100-acre greenhouse and accompanying vertical farm have been submitted to Essex County Council on land reclaimed from quarry excavation. The Rivenhall greenhouse is being developed alongside the Indaver Integrated Waste Management Facility, with the latter providing heat, carbon dioxide and electricity to the greenhouses, to ensure that an optimum growing environment can be maintained for the year-round production of fresh produce.

- The total greenhouse growing space equates to 56 Wembley Stadium playing surfaces.
- Once fully operational, Rivenhall Greenhouse will be capable of producing 30,000 tonnes of tomatoes per year, equating to circa 7.5% of current imports, or circa 6% of domestic consumption.
- The site could also grow a combination of other vine crops including cucumbers, peppers, chillies or aubergines, which are all predominantly sourced from southern Spain and North Africa, areas increasingly on the frontline of climate change, extremes of weather and energy insecurity.
- An accompanying vertical farming facility of 21 grow towers, built inside the remaining RAF Rivenhall hanger, will produce an additional circa 375 tonnes of lettuce, or 54% of Essex's annual consumption.
- The collaboration between Indaver and Rivenhall Greenhouse Limited marks a new operating model for the UK horticultural industry, away from traditional hydrocarbon dependency to a model utilising sustainable heat, captured CO₂ and on-site generated electricity.
- Indaver have recently submitted planning permission for a Carbon Capture Usage and Storage facility to supply the greenhouses with circa 20,000 tonnes of recycled clean CO₂ per year.
- Approximately 420 full time roles will be created once the greenhouses are fully operational, with an expected 80 additional seasonal staff and over 300 indirect jobs within the wider supply chain.
- The development also includes a comprehensive bio-diversity net gain strategy that will deliver wetlands, flower meadows and tree planting, alongside additional footpaths and bridleways.
- Pending due planning process, financing and construction the site could be operational by 2027.

Ed Moorhouse, Project Director of Rivenhall Greenhouse Limited said: *"Today's submission marks a critical milestone in the development of Rivenhall as a leading UK and European fresh produce growing facility. Key to the project is the ongoing collaboration with Indaver and the development of a new low-carbon horticultural energy model. This will set a new benchmark for UK horticulture, delivering a blueprint for the accelerated reshoring of UK fresh produce production. We look forward to working with Essex County Council in the coming weeks and furthermore to delivering our plans to create local green jobs, whilst reinforcing UK food security and resilience in an increasingly uncertain world."*

Indaver's Commercial and Business Development Director Micheál Geary said: *"We are delighted to submit our planning application for this innovative project. We believe our project represents a forward-thinking approach to energy efficiency and sustainability and it represents a significant step in our commitment to reducing carbon emissions and supporting the transition to the circular economy."*

Rivenhall Greenhouse is a unique UK development. The project team is working on a number of similar collaborative energy off-taker greenhouse sites, with the aim of accelerating the re-shoring of UK horticulture production, whilst reinforcing food supply chain resilience. The full portfolio is planned to be operational in 5-10 years.

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