

Minutes

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Held at:	Remote meeting
Date	Wednesday, 7 September 2022
Present	Councillors Anthony Hills and Lesley Whybrow (Chair)
Apologies for Absence	Councillor Ian Meyers and Councillor David Wimble
Officers Present:	Martin Kerlake (Carbon Advisor), Robert Palmer (Interim Assistant Director of Corporate Services), Rob Robinson (Sustainable Business Project Manager), Charlotte Spendley (Director of Corporate Services) and Adrian Tofts (Strategy, Policy & Performance Lead Specialist)

Quorum of the meeting

It was noted that the meeting was not quorate, however those that were present agreed to continue with the meeting to hear the presentations from the officers. The presentation slides would be included with the minutes for the benefit of those unable to attend.

1. **Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest at the meeting.

2. **Minutes**

As the meeting was not quorate, the approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2022 would be considered at the next meeting.

Following from the previous meeting's minutes, Councillor Whybrow offered a statement regarding weed killing:

'We carry out weed control on behalf of Kent Highways, which is agreed under an annual memorandum of understanding with Kent County Council (KCC).

We are not contractually bound to weed spray as the means of control but it remains the most effective way of operating at scale. The council motion on

pesticides 20/11/19 did not include phasing out its use on footpaths/street cleansing.

The last spray was arranged in May in preparation for the summer. It was arranged with a separate company Languards who also completed the spray in Dover District Council. Veolia then follow up with digging out and removing. KCC will fund us £16K for each spray up to a total of two. The cost of the last spray was £22K. We have not yet committed to a second spray this year and it will depend on the waste budget and if it is needed.'

3. **Overview from Kent County Council's Sustainable Business Team**

Mr Robinson provided Members with a presentation that has been attached to the minutes. During consideration of the item it was noted that:

- The team encouraged businesses to look at what they could do to insulate themselves from energy price rises. This had become more of a priority for businesses who were worried about future energy costs.
- Many of the grants and funds required businesses to pay for work upfront, this could create cash flow difficulties for businesses. However, grants and funds often worked this way to ensure the funding was used appropriately.
- Mr Tofts would put Mr Robinson in touch with the Folkestone and Hythe District Council Economic Development team who could help publicise the support available to businesses.

4. **Overview of work on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund**

Mr Kerslake provided a presentation that offered an overview of the work on the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund. The presentation slides have been attached to the minutes. During consideration of the item it was noted that:

- The council had looked to target the lowest performing homes first. Experience from the initial pilot indicated that most homes would require four or five interventions to bring them up to an EPC rating of C.
- Publicity and public awareness were very important, particularly when moving to the second wave that would target 750 homes.

5. **Potential for bid to Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund**

Mr Kerslake provided Members with a presentation regarding a potential bid to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund. The slides have been attached to the minutes.

6. **Review of Carbon Action Plan**

Mr Tofts shared a presentation regarding a review of the Carbon Action Plan. The presentation slides have been attached to the minutes. In addition to the slides, it was noted that:

- Feedback from officers suggested that the document needed to include more practical measures and steps.
- Data gathering from across the whole of the council estate was difficult and time consuming.
- It was time to review the plan and plot a trajectory to net zero.

7. **Carbon Innovation Lab Update**

Mr Tofts provided Members with a an update regarding the Carbon Innovation Lab. The presentation slides have been attached to the minutes. In addition to the slides, it was noted that:

- The group was facilitated by the Council, but not led by the Council. It had been an interesting process to see the group set its own agenda.

8. **Update on LGA Behavioural Insights Project**

Mr Kerslake gave Members an update on the LGA Behavioural Insights Project. During the update it was noted that:

- The most recent workshop had taken place that day, 7 September 2022.
- In June 2022 Kent County Council led a bid with nine district councils for £65,000 of funding from the Local Government Association, to pay for a study to establish what stopped people from installing and incorporating energy saving measures in their homes.
- The final report would be complete in March 2023.
- So far 1903 residents had responded in Kent, 236 of which were from the Folkestone and Hythe area.
- All the responders were self-selected, computer competent and 75% of them owned their own home. These factors could lead to biased results; however the consultant had the ability to account for this bias.
- The top three responses to the question asking what people were currently doing to reduce their energy costs were:
 - Drying clothes on a radiator.
 - Wearing a thicker jumper.
 - Using water efficient shower heads.
- Barriers to adopting energy saving practices were:
 - A perceived reduction in comfort.
 - Unable to make changes because they lived in rented accommodation.
 - A lack of understanding on how to make changes, such as how to install a water efficient shower head.

In response to the update the following comments were noted during consideration of the item:

- The feeling that other people were not doing anything was a barrier and needed to be challenged. Once 25% of the population were on board, the rest would follow.
- Regular exposure to information would help. Schools could be used, as children could take the message home to their parents.
- Active travel was also important in reducing energy consumption.

Low Carbon Across the South & East (LoCASE)

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Mar 2022 V5

Minute Item 3

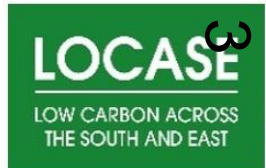
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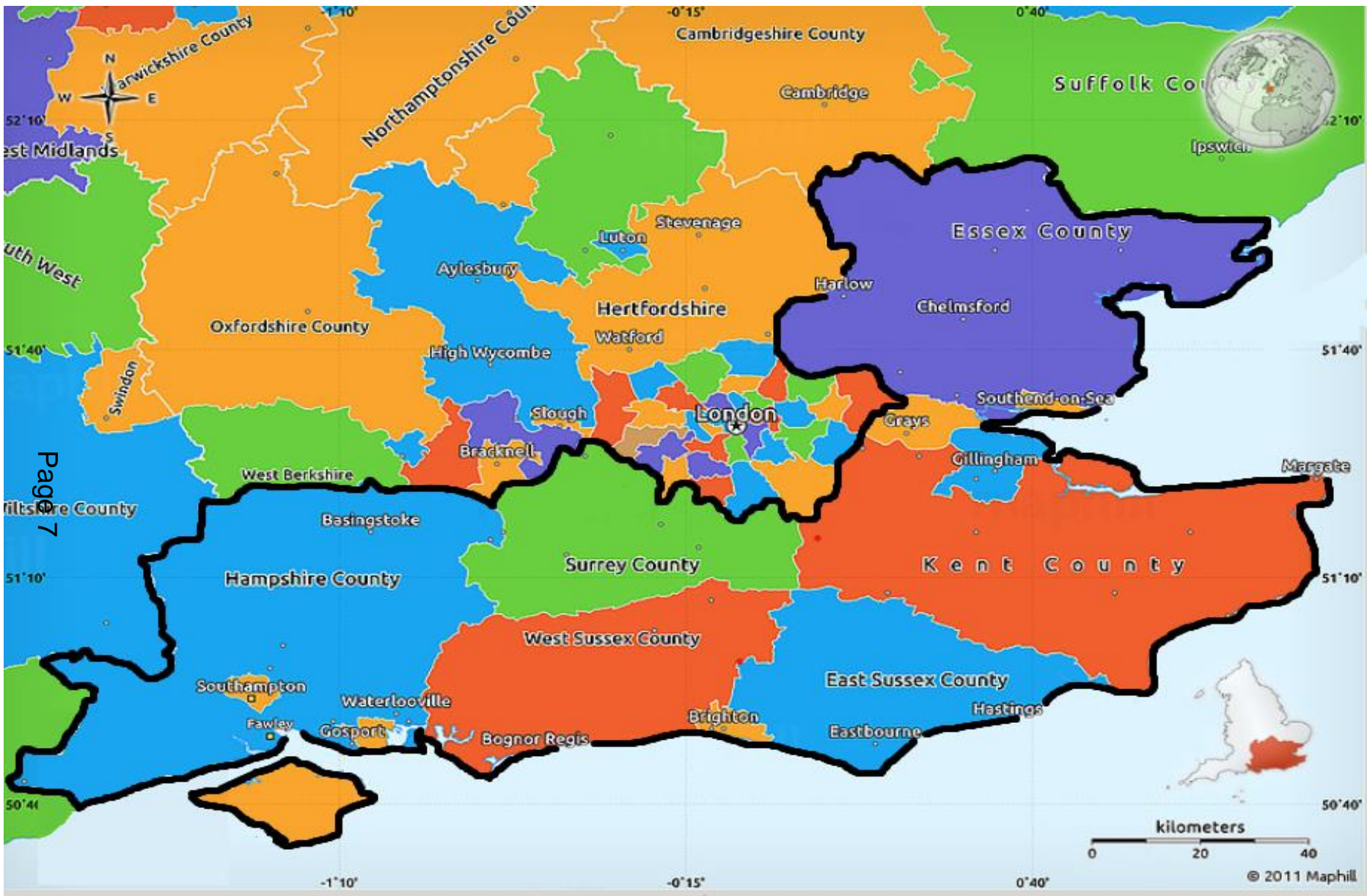


- * Invested over £10m for over 1,400 SELEP SMEs
- * **Further £1.2m of grants still available locally**
- * Like all EU projects, cannot run beyond Spring 2023!

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Growing the Low Carbon Economy
Across the South East (and beyond!)



What Can We Fund?

Does your business want to save money on overheads by installing energy efficiency measures? Grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 are available to be spent on both parts and installation costs for items including:

- LED lighting & controls
- Energy efficient motors, drives, air compressors & machinery
- Heat exchangers
- Building improvements
- Thermal Storage Systems

Does your business offer low carbon goods or services? If so, grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 are available to be spent on costs such as:

- Purchasing equipment & machinery
- Research & development costs
- Marketing & website development
- Business development consultancy
- Certification and accreditation
- IT hardware & software

Grant requests over £10K (max £20K) available for projects with a far wider impact

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Case Studies



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How does it work?

Register on our website

Needs Assessment call

Submit application Form & 2
quotes for works

Grants panel – approval = works
can start

Once complete, submit financial
details for your grant defrayal



Where to Start...



[Home](#) [About](#) [Eligibility Criteria](#) [Partners](#) [Case Studies](#) [News and Events](#) [Register](#)



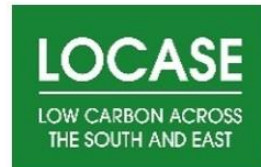
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Other Opportunities

Dovetail with other Low Carbon Kent/KCC initiatives

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- Kent REVS (up to 2 months free e-van trial)
- BLUEPRINT (repair, reuse and community projects)
- Upcycle Your Waste (resource matching support)
- Inn2POWER (wind/green hydrogen supply chain)
- C-Care (£1.5K voucher scheme)
- Growing Green (up to £6K revenue grants) – **FULLY SUBSCRIBED**
- South East New Energy (25% grant up to £30K)
- STEM (Steps To Environmental Management) free business support

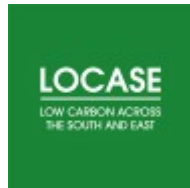
Use Our Networks!

Website: locase.co.uk

Tel: 03000 415111

E-mail: lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk

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<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/9158862/>



<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/3748803/>

Twitter: @LoCASE_Biz

Facebook: Low Carbon Across the South East

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Grants and Projects Brochure 2022

What is LoCASE?

- The Low Carbon Across the South and East (LoCASE) programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund to provide a free business support programme in the Southeast.
- The aim is to help your business to become more competitive and profitable while protecting the environment & encouraging low carbon solutions.
- To do this, LoCASE provides grants for businesses of up to **£20,000*** as well [STEM \(Steps to Environmental Management\)](#) training and fully funded events. Targeted business support is on offer for companies who offer "green" or low carbon goods and services.

What can I get help with?

- Energy efficiency and other environmental improvements (e.g. waste reduction projects)
- **Businesses in the 'low carbon' sectors can also buy:** Marketing and websites, Covid 19 Recovery, IT and software and systems, tools and equipment, plant or machinery, product design, development and consultancy or industry accreditation

LOCASE

LOW CARBON ACROSS THE SOUTH AND EAST

How much?

- Up to £20k (*typically capped at £5k for second hand electric vehicles & £10k for most projects)
- 40% of project expenditure so total project costs of £10k, you will receive a grant up to £4k

Who is eligible?

- SMEs (most sectors)
- Based in Kent, East Sussex or Essex
- Have a commitment to tackle climate change

Why?

Lower emissions
Reduce costs
Tackle climate change
Grow the Green
Economy

How do I apply?

1. Contact us via the LoCASE website and click on [register](#) to complete eligibility questionnaire
2. We'll help you complete the forms
3. Get quotes to ensure value for money
4. After approval, order and pay for items
5. Upon proof of purchase, we'll pay you the grant within 30 days, usually much sooner

<https://locase.co.uk/>



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What is the C-Care Green Recovery Voucher Scheme?

- The Green Recovery voucher scheme will help small companies take advantage of environmental advice and services.
- Businesses in Kent can apply for a voucher of up to £1,500 to implement an environmental project to help improve business sustainability, resilience, and support economic recovery.



Why?

Covid recovery
Lower emissions
Reduce costs
Tackle climate change
Spread best practice

C-Care

How much?

- Typically, up to £1,500 as 100% of project value

What can I get?

- Design, supply and installation of energy efficiency measures and biodiversity solutions
- Review, development and supply of waste reduction interventions
- Review, development and supply of sustainable transport solutions
- 'Net Zero' transition planning
- E-cargo bikes and other e-bike transport solutions

Who is eligible?

- SMEs must be based in Kent
- Have a commitment to tackle climate change
- Must have received less than €200,000 worth of publicly funded assistance over the last 3 financial years

<https://lowcarbonkent.com/c-care-green-recovery-voucher-scheme/>

How do I apply?

1. Contact us by emailing lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk to book an appointment or apply online by completing an [eligibility form](#)
2. We'll help you complete the forms
3. If your application is successful, you will be able to select a supplier from our approved list of service providers [PDF, 499.6 KB](#)
4. You can then contact your chosen supplier who will assist you going forward.



What is South East New Energy (SENE)?

The South East New Energy (SENE) is a £6.4 million project, led by the University of East London and part funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The project aims to help businesses decarbonise their operations and learn more about how we can remove the barriers to rapid decarbonisation across our communities. There are also some other excellent activities supporting community energy, retrofit and innovation solutions to these key barriers.



How much?

- Typically, up to £30,000
- 25% of project expenditure
e.g. if a project costs £100,000 total you will receive a grant up to £25,000

What can I get?

- 1) Free energy audits and surveys for renewable energy projects
- 2) Grants of up to £30,000 towards investment in energy projects

Who is eligible?

- Most SMEs based in Kent (also targeting the wider SELEP region)
- Have a commitment to tackle climate change
- Must have received less than €200,000 worth of publicly funded (state aid) assistance over the last 3 financial years

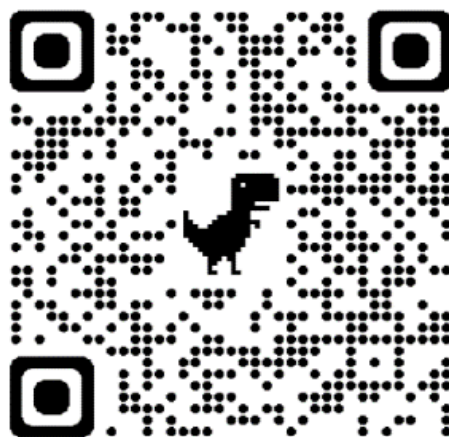
<https://lowcarbonkent.com/south-east-new-energy-sene/>

Why?

Lower emissions
Reduce costs
Tackle climate change

How do I apply?

1. Contact us via the [SENE website and click on Enquire Now](#) to submit interest
2. We'll help you complete the forms
3. Get quotes to ensure value for money
4. After approval, order and pay for items
5. Upon proof of purchase, we'll pay you the grant within 30 days, usually much sooner



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What is Upcycle your waste (UYW)?

- Upcycle Your Waste is a free program to support and train SMEs in the circular economy and upcycling of waste
- Support for SMEs in pilot areas for upcycling and sharing of waste and turning it into a valuable resource



What are the benefits?

- 1) Free program and training
- 2) Reduce costs directly and indirectly
- 3) Step-by-step approach and support
- 4) Widen tender opportunities by improving your CSR
- 5) Support local development
- 6) Enhance your business network

Why?

Minimise your waste and reduce pollution
Improve your waste management
Minimise costs

How do I get involved?

1. Access the free circular economy and upcycling training courses [here](#)
2. Register your interest in joining an upcycling network or participating in our pilots by emailing us at lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk



What does upcycling mean?

Upcycling is the process of reusing old materials and waste and transforming it into something more valuable or of a higher quality.

Examples of upcycling include using materials from plastic bottles to make new shoes or reclaimed wood to make quality furniture.

What are KCC doing?

- Creating upcycling networks and bringing businesses together to share waste
- Building platforms to tender for and find information about waste across Kent
- Running upcycling pilots across multiple towns
- Promoting the UYW training [Academy](#)

<https://lowcarbonkent.com/upcycle-your-waste/>



What is Blueprint?

- BLUEPRINT aims to initiate the new policies, strategies and approaches required by local authorities to unlock sustainable and inclusive growth opportunities through the transition to a circular economy.



What is the circular economy?

A change to the model in which resources are extracted, made into products, and then become waste. A circular economy reduces material use, redesigns materials to be less resource intensive, and recaptures “waste” as a resource to manufacture new materials and products.

What are KCC doing?

- A range of activities across Kent and Medway including Kent Coffee Cups recycling, Kent Clothes Swap, Swale Sisters (sustainable period/period poverty project), Flat Recycling Working Group, Swale Bike Project, Fox’s Waste Adventure and the Low Carbon Ambassadors Programme
- Collaborating with [partners](#) across the South and East Coasts of England and the North Coast of France
- Promoting the circular economy business directory and examples of good practise across Kent

What are the benefits?

- 1) A new [BLUEPRINT Model](#)
- 2) A local authority monitoring and evaluation framework [service](#)
- 3) A local authority [training programme and network](#)
- 4) A [training programme](#) to develop skills and employability
- 5) A [networking hub](#) for social innovation
- 6) A series of behaviour change [campaigns](#)
- 7) Support local development
- 8) Enhance your business network

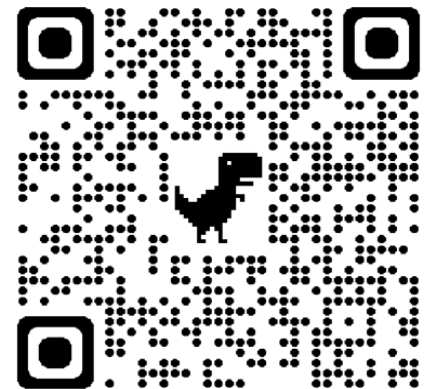
Why?

Reduce our dependence on raw materials
Help economic growth
Reduce emissions

How do I get involved?

Contact us at lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk to get involved in our projects or visit <https://projectblueprint.eu/>

<https://lowcarbonkent.com/blueprint/>



What is Inn2Power?

- Inn2POWER is an extended five-year Interreg project of partners from the leading offshore wind clusters in the North Sea Region – including United Kingdom, Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.
- The aim is to expand the capacity for innovation and to improve access to the offshore wind industry for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) by connecting offshore wind businesses in the North Sea Region.



Who is it for?

1. SMEs entering the wind or hydrogen supply chain/industry
2. SMEs facing innovation challenges in the wind and hydrogen supply chain
3. SMEs entering new markets

How do I get involved?

1. Contact us at lowcarbon@kent.gov.uk
2. Visit [Inn2POWER, Interreg VB North Sea Region Programme](#)

Interreg
North Sea Region
Inn2POWER



European Regional Development Fund

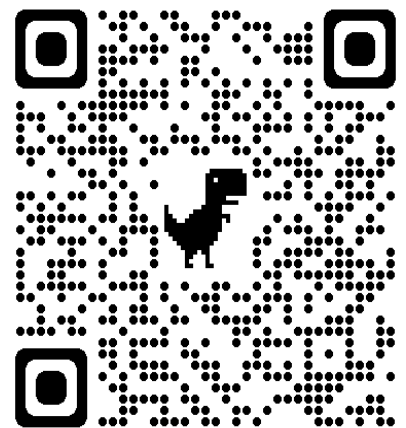
How can it help SMEs?

- Support growth in national and international markets
- Provides a [Company Directory](#), an online address book for the offshore wind and green hydrogen industry in Europe which could:
 - Showcase your own capabilities to a large international network
 - Help expand your network and get in contact with suppliers, partners and new clients across Europe
- [Improve knowledge, skills and availability](#) of qualified staff
- Provide easy access to [test and demonstration facilities](#)

Why?

Economic development in the North Sea Region (NSR)
Support and attract Kent SMEs into the fast-emerging wind and hydrogen supply chains just off our coastline

<https://lowcarbonkent.com/inn2power/>



Interreg
North Sea Region
European Regional Development Fund



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Decarbonising F&HDC Social Housing stock

Update on social housing decarbonisation fund

30 Aug 2022

Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund

Addresses the corporate service ambition of quality homes

- £2m grant from Dept of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) – social housing decarbonisation fund (SHDF); supported by
- £1m from F&HDC funds.
- 15% of capital to support admin and resources costs

FHDC Delivery targets

- 125 homes – to EPC Band C with fabric measures – ready for low carbon heating
- Programme period 1st July, 2022 – 31st March 2023
- New parallel, mandatory PAS2035 process tailoring works to individual homes
- Reduce: average energy use from c150kWh/m²/pa to 90kWh/m²/pa; remove condensation & damp
- Prepare for low carbon heating installation later



Estimated Saving on heating fuel use from more efficient 125 homes:

- 254 tonnes CO₂ per annum,
- 919,000 kWh heating energy per annum

Heating type by home

- 62 oil/lpg; & 53 inefficient electricity

Wave 1

- **Resources in place**

- Lead: Andy Blaszkowicz
- Internal Team: Roy Catling, Martin Kerslake, Sian Wise, Susan Thompson, Thomas Sebastien, Sam Brewerton
- Team Advisors: Nicola Murton, Ade Agboola, Mirko Rhados
- External: PAS2035 Assessor, Designer & Coordinator, Installer

- **Status**

- Procurement of 3 installers plus PAS2035 in progress, direct award through Fusion21; Current PAS assessments 'at risk' by Vinci
- Ross House as the demonstrator – final site planning visit
- Tenant engagement: pilot of 50 sites; 18 complete, 32 appointments made
- Tenant knowledge share: pack & RLO ready
- Preparing wider communications plan through media, website and CI-Lab



Key delivery risks identified

- Procurement and delivery by 31/3/23
- Delivery resource overload
- New contract terms for installers
- Materials and labour cost escalation

Delivery Oversight

- Installer contracts formation, delays
- Independent PAS Co-Ordinator procured
- Tenant engagement plan (100% acceptance)
- Ross House design completed

Wave 2 – Next steps 2022

Outline criteria issued by BEIS – detailed confirmation expected in 19th Sept 22 for 8 weeks

Some significant changes from wave 1

- 50% matched funding requirement
- Additional resources available for digitization
- Wider pool of homes (incl: sheltered, EPC Band D homes)
- 2-year project, scale is important
- Fabric-led, but low carbon heating may be included

F&HDC – next actions

- Initial targets c800 homes - refinement in progress
- Initial grant bid c£10.0m PLUS £ 10.0m matched funds
- Considering Multiple Installers (resilience)
- Engaged with BEIS bid support team

Preparing

- Sept 2022 Cabinet paper, led by Housing
- Considering potential 'at risk' PAS2035 Design, pre award



Bid Summary

- **c£20m bid value includes Administration at 15%**
- **Re-procure 3 installers and PAS network**
- **Encourage local contractors to obtain Trustmark**
- **Store materials locally**

Bid Strategy

- Use the new stock condition and EPC survey
- Use the resources & experience from wave 1
- Include renewable heating systems
- Recognise scale and mass-impact



Any Questions

Thank you

Decarbonising F&HDC Public Sector Buildings

Update on public sector decarbonisation funds

24th Aug 2022

Public Sector Decarbonisation

Positive Community Leadership

Council as a landlord clearly investing in decarbonising our large public buildings

- Creation of a decarbonisation plan
- Tailored to each major building
- Integrating technology spec., + carbon & value model
- Creation of the decarbonisation pathway including:
 - Heritage & Surroundings
 - Opportunities in the community
 - Cost & benefit; cashflow and operational modelling
 - Carbon budget and long-term value for money
 - Elective capital investment
 - Future-proof
- Will focus on zero-carbon heat with supporting measures



No regrets plan

Key delivery risks identified

- Support funding remains in place
- Occupiers & public engagement
- Heritage and consents achieved

Next Steps

The Plan

- Leadership team support a decarbonisation plan for FOLCA
- Procure an expert consultancy to deliver plan est£10-15k
- Explore zero-carbon options, recommend an integrated approach
- Fuel-focused pathway to net zero by 2030

Potential Support Funding - Decarbonisation

- BEIS: Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund support for selected measures
- Application windows in Oct 22 and Mar 23
- The plan is the evidence base for support funding
- Some matched funding required (complex calculation)

Aligned with the Levelling Up Fund Bid

- First stage refurbishment of the Folca building, to convert the art deco part of the building into a useable space ready for new uses.



Estimated Saving on heating fuel use

- FOLCA 2: 4,591.2m²
- CO₂e from gas heating estimated = 105 tonnes / year
- CO₂e from electricity estimated = 95 tonnes /year



Any Questions

Thank you

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Carbon Action Plan Update

Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group
7 September 2022

Carbon Action Plan (CAP) 2021

- Focus – emissions from council's estate and operations
- Emissions quantified by LASER Energy – 1,536 tCO₂e at 2018/19
- Includes scope 1, scope 2 and some scope 3 emissions
- Sets out 33 actions over short, medium and long term
- Focus on six key areas: energy; behaviour change; transport; water; contracts; and biodiversity/green space

Issues with Carbon Action Plan 2021

- Useful starting point for action
- High-level actions - aspirational but not quantifiable in terms of tonnes of carbon equivalent reductions
- Changes in estate and potential implications for operational boundary
- No interim targets or performance indicators

Review of Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP)

- Tendered for review of 2021 Carbon Action Plan and production of Carbon Reduction Plan
- Consultant appointed – Carbon Descent
- Similar studies undertaken e.g. Greater London and London Boroughs
- Inception meeting held – 6 September 2022

Proposed output with timeline

Output	Deliverables
Stage 1: Review of CAP 2021 Project inception to 3 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An assessment of progress to date• Changes in scope – estate and operations• Quantification of the likely carbon trajectory• Quantification of any likely under-performance• Identification of any limitations or uncertainties• Presentation of the key findings to the Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Group

Proposed output with timeline

Project Stage	Deliverables
<p data-bbox="78 718 123 861">Page 40</p> <p data-bbox="107 486 528 869">Stage 2: Production of Carbon Reduction Plan (CRP) 3 months to 6 months</p>	<ul data-bbox="568 486 2141 1348" style="list-style-type: none">• Detailed actions to accompany 2021 CAP, including estimated technology roll out and deployment times, with indicative capital spend profiles and monitoring metrics• Detailed action plans covering any additional actions or key technology opportunities, not already in the CAP• Analysis of the potential carbon reductions and calculation of likely carbon trajectory to 2030• Advice on offsetting residual emissions• Advice on measurement and verification actions• A list of non-technology actions (e.g. internal policy changes, operational procedures etc.) to achieve net zero targets• A presentation of the key findings to the Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group.

Questions?

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Carbon Innovation Lab Update

Climate & Ecological Emergency Working Group
7 September 2022

Carbon Innovation Lab

Climate emergency
declaration to: *“develop a
strategy for Folkestone &
Hythe District Council to
play a leadership role in
community, public and
business partnerships for
our Carbon Neutral 2030
commitment throughout
the district”*

- Proposal put forward to Cabinet on 23 March 2022
- Lab designed to be an informal and inclusive group of representatives from key groups from the community, business, education and other sectors
- Council facilitating, rather than leading or directing
- Following approach adopted by London Borough of Hounslow
- Three meetings held - June, July and September

Outputs from Hounslow Carbon Lab

Green Skills Academy

- Reskilling for the green economy
- Professionally recognised courses
- Green construction
- Heat pump installation
- Computer aided design

Circular economy neighbourhood

- Skills improvement and job creation
- Tackle environmental problems (e.g. fly-tipping)
- Initiatives to reduce consumption, reuse and repair
- Boosting local economy - attracting repair / re-use company

Other community initiatives

- Decarbonising community buildings
- Cleaning up waste land
- Planting wildflower meadow
- Local food market
- White goods / tool hire facility in community hall
- Digital classes

Folkestone & Hythe Lab – main themes

Meeting 1: 13 June 2022

- Improving council communications
- Exploring behavioural change
- Sustainable transport
- Improving people's participation

Meeting 2: 18 July 2022

- Green Business Grant scheme
- District/county transport roles and responsibilities
- Kent Local Transport Plan 5
- Behavioural change – key concepts and approaches
- Draft outline of District-wide Carbon Plan for comment

Meeting 3: 5 September 2022

- Update on Behavioural Insights project
 - Examples from Hounslow
- Discussion:
- Focus on significant areas for emissions
 - Set ambitions high
 - Crowd-source solutions

Carbon Innovation Lab – next steps

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To draft and consult on a District-wide Carbon Plan to set direction and provide framework for the delivery of projects

Original intention:

- Draft chapters and share with the Lab
- Take draft to Working Group and Cabinet for wider consultation
- Public consultation, including representative survey of district population (as with Corporate Plan)
- Revisions
- Revised plan to Working Group and Cabinet for adoption

Challenge from Lab:

- Set out broad principles early on
- Be less prescriptive
- ‘Crowd-source’ ideas at an early stage with wide audience
- Move away from traditional ‘council approach’

Questions?