

A Low Carbon Economy

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Priority Outcome: A Low Carbon Economy – To develop an exemplary low carbon economy in Gloucestershire (joint card with Environment Partnership)

Why is this a priority?

The South West has been declared the UK's first **Low Carbon Economic Area**; Gloucestershire has a key role to play in delivering this. Supporting and growing the environmental goods and services industry, in the County to deliver energy efficiency solutions and low carbon supply is a priority for both the economic and environmental partnerships. Energy efficiency and low carbon energy generation/supply/installation/construction techniques are likely to become increasingly significant aspects of economic efficiency and productivity, the current global market for environmental goods and services is worth more than £25bn and projections have suggested it will grow to £46bn by 2015 (*Source: Creating Green Jobs, Developing Low Carbon Economies: Local Government Association 2009*).

Where do we want to be in three years time? By March 2013 Gloucestershire needs to have:

- A better understanding of the Low Carbon Sector and have identified opportunities to support its development.
- A public sector that has taken the lead in developing low carbon and renewable energy solutions across the County
- Established a steady growth of commercial and community systems using wood fuel, water, wind or waste for energy production
- Improved the accessibility of information and advice in order to encourage a high percentage of businesses to actively implement Carbon Reduction/Management plans
- Established an effective Gloucestershire Low Carbon Partnership (LCP) based on the success of the Cheltenham LCP, focusing on targeted action by the larger energy users.
- Further explore the potential for low carbon energy production across the County both electricity, heat and liquid fuels.

What we will do this year

Improvement Activity	Planned Benefits	Key Resources	Dates	Lead	Partners
Environmental Management and Resource Efficiency Support – support the ongoing provision of business advice and facilitate a practitioner focused review of existing energy/low carbon support services/products available and consider the merits of a co-ordinated awareness raising campaign	Business take up of support A reduction in CO ₂ emissions from Gloucestershire businesses and a reduction in running costs for businesses	£97k ESF SWEA GFirst staff time Business Link (IYRE) Staff time Parklife	April 2010	SWEA Mike Brain through NI186 Business Task Group	IYRE Business Link, Carbon Trust, Target 2050 GFirst
Low Carbon Network – the development of a Low Carbon Network to develop closer working relationships with the top 100 'emitters'/energy users in the County (supply chain focus) This will help to enable companies with obligations under the Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) to meet their targets and support those below the CRC threshold to make similar CO ₂ emissions reductions. (N186 Delivery Priority)	Known and demonstrable year on year Carbon Reduction by Business in Gloucestershire. Development of a network/Low Carbon Partnership(s) based on pioneer work of Cheltenham LCP.	SWEA and GFirst (staff time)	Sept 2010	SWEA Mike Brain through NI186 Business Task Group	Chambers Commerce Business Link, UoG, GCC All LA's

<p>Gloucestershire Greening Business Sector – work with partners to map the sector in the County and understand needs/ business development opportunities.</p>	<p>Practical application of supplier/installer ‘map’ of the sector Targeted support for accreditation Link to Glos First activity in Recession Recovery Card Increased local supply of goods and services</p>	<p>GEP/GFirst staff time £15k – Recession Recovery card</p>	<p>Action plan by July 2010</p>	<p>GFirst Dan Judges</p>	<p>All partners</p>
<p>Support Development of Micro-generation Industry and the Deployment of Renewable Energy Technologies – continuation of programme of information (to include case studies, fact sheets and simple how to guides for all sectors) advice and financial incentives – promotion of opportunities offered by recently announced Feed in Tariff and Renewable Heat Incentive</p>	<p>Growth in communities using renewable energy (long term)</p>	<p>SWEA/GFirst staff time</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>SWEA Kierson Wise</p>	<p>GCC/ Districts</p>
<p>Renewable and Alternative Energy Mapping – map the assets and to develop the opportunities and understand needs/ business development/growth potential particularly as a result of the UK Renewable Energy Strategy (commercial focus)</p>	<p>Specific growth sector needing support – mapping suppliers will aid networking Develop on line resource SIDP – future commissioning activity (platform for in depth analysis) and activities of GCC in terms of a focus on their rural estate <i>Cf: energy supply/resilience issues in Resilient and Sustainable Card and sector development activity (Competitive)</i></p>	<p>GEP</p>	<p>Review Jan 2011</p>	<p>GCC Nigel Riglar</p>	<p>All partners</p>
<p>Review of Training Review current availability of training in the installation of sustainable/intelligent energy retrofit measures in construction sector and take action to improve Employment and Skills Plan linkages</p>	<p>Work towards ensuring that supply can grow at the appropriate rate to meet the growing demand for the installation of renewable energy systems <i>Cf: Resilient and Sustainable card</i></p>	<p>GFirst Staff time</p>	<p>September 2010</p>	<p>GFirst</p>	<p>Training Providers , SWEA</p>

Planning. Pilot opportunities with Local Authorities to help develop local planning directives that require new developments to source a proportion of their energy needs from on site/near site renewable energy technologies.	Development of an evidence base illustrating energy/ opportunities in the County All new major developments exploiting on or near site renewable energy generation opportunities New build will meet exacting standards for CO2 emissions and be less expensive to run Support LA's in meeting the Governments aim of achieving zero carbon in all new homes by 2016 and all new building by 2019	GFirst Staff time	Sept 2010	GFirst	GCC, LAs,
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How will we know what difference we have made?

Indicator	Baseline	Targets 2010/11	Lead	Links
Quantitative and qualitative performance measures, illustrating the strategic nature of the range of activity reflected on the card, are identified where available and especially where consistent with LAA targets. Beyond this, the central Performance Management System (link), which sits behind the Plan, provides understanding of the broader effects of Partnership effort in this area. Key management information about the Partnership's achievements will be regularly reported directly to the Board, CSEB and principal funding partners whilst the system will be refined over the year with additional measures identified, where appropriate, in due course.				
Collaboration with Environment Partnership – representation within Partnership				
NI 186 – Per capita reduction in CO ₂ emissions in the LA area	2005 – 4284kt CO ₂	7.8% reduction	N Riglar GCC	NI187 card
NI 185 – CO ₂ reduction from local authority operations	Gloucestershire County Council 62,700 tCO ₂ 2006/07 Glos LAs 84,500 tCO ₂ 2008/09	10% by 2012 (GCC) Target to be set by each LA	N Riglar GCC	
Individuals training in Environmental Management Systems	2009/10 – 150 individuals	200 individuals	GFirst	

Resources:

Gloucestershire First staff time to monitor and implement various projects/initiatives is underpinned by an annual operational budget from GCC totalling £1.4m. Other significant sources of funding supporting activity featured in this card include:
Detailed proposals for resourcing of NI186/187 Delivery Plans are given in NI 186/187 [Commissioning paper available on the GEP website](#)
GCC – £15k Recession Recovery

Note: funding streams may span more than one financial year

Key risks:

The Partnership's full risk register can be viewed at www.glosfirst.co.uk however headline issues, relating to the delivery of the range of Improvement Activity within this card, are considered to be as follows:

Not able to deliver the projects on time – all projects have been asked to develop a project initiation document, detailing activity, timings and staffing implications to contribute to efficient programme management

Unable to secure sufficient resource to deliver Partnership priorities – proposed activity moved to Partnership Gap Analysis and external funding strategy reviewed by Gloucestershire First Senior Management Team and Economic Strategy Advisory Panel

Related Documents and References

Local: Cheltenham Borough Council – working with Parklife on the Business Environmental project and [Severn Wye Energy Agency](#)
(Resource Efficiency) Low Carbon Partnership module as part of Community Strategic Partnerships practice (**Low Carbon Partnership**)
Regional/National: Department of Energy and Climate Change: Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme – [DECC Renewable Energy Strategy 2009](#) and [EU Renewable Energy Directive](#)