



**LEP – Sub Committee**

**LEP - Business Support Management Board**

**Private and Confidential: No**

**Date:** Friday, 19 October 2018

**The Clean Growth / Low Carbon Business Support offer in Lancashire**  
(Appendices 'A' – 'E' refer)

**Report Author: Miranda Barker, Chief Executive, East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce**

**LEP lead: Andy Walker, Tel: 01772 535629, Head of Service Business Growth, [andy.walker@lancashire.gov.uk](mailto:andy.walker@lancashire.gov.uk)**

**Executive Summary**

Supporting the development of the Low Carbon or Clean Growth economy is now central to the government's Industrial Strategy. This report draws together the local energy / low carbon strategic aims for Lancashire, developed in the draft Energy Strategy and the activity which has been commissioned utilising European Structural Funds.

The report also details how the East Lancashire Chamber of Commerce are acting to draw together the low carbon and carbon reduction offer to businesses, to ensure these projects operate in a co-ordinated way and are well understood and easy to navigate for businesses themselves.

**Recommendation**

The Business Support Management Board is asked to note this report.

**1. Background and Advice**

1.1 The current and future planned provision to be funded through Priority 4 mirrors the local energy / low carbon strategic aims for Lancashire –

- supporting the development of new low carbon technologies within Lancashire.
- publicising existing and innovative technologies out to our broad SME base and driving their take up.



- Working with the student base and R & D innovation support to embed low carbon expertise within businesses to see low carbon/sustainability initiatives implemented.
  - working on our domestic housing stock to improve its energy efficiency / energy generation potential.
- 1.2 Current provision is delivered by UCLAN, Lancaster University and East Lancashire and North & Western Lancashire Chambers of Commerce, all in partnership with BOOST as the Local Growth Hub, with potential future provision also through Together Housing.
- 1.3 All current projects are FREE of charge, for Lancashire based SMEs – i.e. 250 or less employees, with a turnover below 50 Million Euros and balance sheet below 43 Million Euros (with less than 25% of their capital owned by any non-SME or group of non-SMEs).
- 1.4 Collectively the 3 current SME focused programs are there to work with 880 SMEs across all sectors, working with them to see energy consumption reduced, on site generation increased, new low carbon technologies embedded, low carbon products / systems of working developed, and new low carbon technologies commercialised, ultimately reducing the greenhouse gas emission across Lancashire whilst stimulating the low carbon technologies sector across the county.

Potential SME customers are those who –

- Want to reduce their energy bills.
- Want to reduce their water use, waste produced or raw material wastage.
- Want to install lower energy consumption equipment.
- Want electric vehicle charging points.
- Want to create on site energy generation capacity for their firm.
- Want solar panels, LEDs etc.
- Or just advice, training and support to be more environmentally sound or energy efficient.
- Across two projects there is grant support available for the capital costs of the low carbon equipment - 50% of up to £8,000 of kit or 30% of up to £25,000 of kit.

At the in-depth end –

- Those who want to develop more brand-new low carbon technologies or systems or ways of working in their business and would like a student based with them to drive that low carbon initiative.
- Those who have new low carbon technology in prototype form but need support to commercialise it - manufacture it and find demonstrator customers/first adopters.



All the projects are free for SMEs to access, and we hope will be running for the next 3 to 5 years European structure funding permitting

Specifically –

- Lancaster University project LOCAL-I is there to work with 180 companies and help embed students to support SMEs with Research and Development to develop in depth low carbon innovations within their businesses.
- MACAW (UCLAN) is there to work with 200 SMEs to support SMEs in improving their energy efficiency, resource efficiency and install new low carbon solutions with grant support.
- Chamber Low Carbon – is there to work with 500 SMEs to work on site with them to develop energy efficiency and resource efficiency solutions and drive the installation of low carbon technologies with grant support, and to work with 100 low carbon technology innovators to drive the commercialisation, demonstration and manufacture of those products.

Currently all 3 programs are working with 340 Lancashire SMEs delivering audits, workshops and implementation support.

### List of Background Papers

| Paper  | Date  | Contact/Tel   |
|--|-------|---|
| Lancaster University LOCAL-I overview and case studies | 10/18 | Andy Pickard<br><a href="mailto:a.pickard@lancaster.ac.uk">a.pickard@lancaster.ac.uk</a>      |
| MACAW (UCLAN) – overview                               | 10/18 | Joshua Balmer<br><a href="mailto:JBalmer4@uclan.ac.uk">JBalmer4@uclan.ac.uk</a>               |
| Chamber Low Carbon – overview and SME examples         | 10/18 | Stephen Sykes<br><a href="mailto:s.sykes@chamberelancs.co.uk">s.sykes@chamberelancs.co.uk</a> |

All will be more than happy to provide you with publicity material for your SME contacts, welcome them to workshops or to come and deliver promotional sessions across Lancashire.

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A