

# Regional Sustainability Advisers 2012-13

## Collaborative project report for the East Midlands Region: Skills for the Green Economy



<b>Project leader</b>	Roy Morgan-Wood, LSIS Regional Sustainability Adviser for the East Midlands	
<b>Organisation</b>	Leicester College	
<b>Contact details</b>	Email: <a href="mailto:rmorgan-wood@lec.ac.uk">rmorgan-wood@lec.ac.uk</a>	Phone: 0116 224 2240 ext 4128
<b>1. Aims of the project</b>	<p>The Green economy is one of the main growth areas of the economy and it is anticipated that this part of the economy will continue to grow in the future.</p> <p>One of the most fundamental driving forces of change is the effective, efficient and rapid deployment of appropriate skills. Sharing common skills including engineering, technical, management and leadership skills, the provision of skills for the green economy will need to be flexible, responsive and delivered innovatively to empower learners and employees.</p> <p>The aim of the project is to identify the types of skills required in the Green economy and to find ways of delivering these skills in the sector.</p> <p>The Government has identified Eight great technologies for investment one of which is energy. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/investing-in-research-development-and-innovation">https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/investing-in-research-development-and-innovation</a></p> <p>HM Government produced a report in 2011 Enabling the Transition to a Green Economy: Government and Business Working Together. A key element of the report is the transition to a green economy which will generate investment, innovation and skills. “These opportunities for growth are not only from conventional ‘green’ sectors such as low-carbon energy generation and environmental products and services, but in other sectors such as the automotive industry, retail and construction”.</p> <p>The Green Investment Bank has been funded with £3 billion of Government money to make a ‘significant contribution to the development of a green economy.’ The Green Investment Bank will place the ‘green economy at the heart of our recovery.’ <a href="http://news.bis.gov.uk/Press-Releases/Green-bank-opens-for-business-6841d.aspx">http://news.bis.gov.uk/Press-Releases/Green-bank-opens-for-business-6841d.aspx</a></p> <p>The CBI has produced a report: The Colour of Growth, Maximising the</p>	

	<p>potential of green business. The report states ‘that moving to a low-carbon economy can drive significant business investment and create many new jobs.’</p> <p><a href="http://www.cbi.org.uk/media/1552876/energy_climatechangerpt_web.pdf">www.cbi.org.uk/media/1552876/energy_climatechangerpt_web.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>2. Situation: Identify the situation or issue that faced you</b></p>	<p>The Green economy is increasing in importance. In the learning and skills sector we are delivering skills to increase the employability opportunities for our learners. The issue is how do we identify the skills we need to be delivering and how do we ensure our staff have the ability and confidence to be able to deliver the skills required?</p> <p>The sector places a lot of emphasis on Continuing Professional Development (CPD). The project will help staff in the sector to identify and deliver the required skills.</p> <p>There is a need at a local and regional level to deliver green skills and to develop courses that meet future needs.</p> <p>The Leicester &amp; Leicestershire Enterprise Partnership Economic Growth Plan 2012 – 2020 identifies Environmental Technologies as a priority sector to achieve economic growth.</p> <p><a href="http://www.llep.org.uk/index/downloads/filename/img_1343645215_1755.pdf/catid/22/filetitle/economic-growth-plan.pdf">http://www.llep.org.uk/index/downloads/filename/img_1343645215_1755.pdf/catid/22/filetitle/economic-growth-plan.pdf</a></p> <p>The Leicester Economic Action Plan 2012 – 2020 is committed to ‘Delivering high quality, low carbon development.’</p> <p><a href="http://citymayor.leicester.gov.uk/welcome/leicesters-economic-action-plan/our-priorities-until-2020/">http://citymayor.leicester.gov.uk/welcome/leicesters-economic-action-plan/our-priorities-until-2020/</a></p>
<p><b>3. Task: Define the outcomes you needed to achieve</b></p>	<p>The overall goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• engage with organisations working in the green economy</li> <li>• deliver CPD sessions for staff in the sector</li> <li>• share information/resources</li> <li>• identify opportunities to develop input into the curriculum – assignments, projects etc.</li> </ul>

**4. Actions that you took in order to achieve your plan, and your approach**

The starting point was to identify organisations that are engaged in the Green Economy. Ideally I wanted to talk to organisations that are visible and in different sectors.

**Farmer & Carlisle Toyota:** A local dealership situated next to our Freeman's Park campus in Leicester. Farmer & Carlisle are a family business that has been representing Toyota in Leicestershire for 35 years. They were running an advertising campaign for the new Yaris Hybrid on a large billboard on the roadside. I walked in to find out who to contact. I was given the contact details of Colin Noronha the Group Service Manager. I talked to Colin via telephone and email and he agreed to run a CPD event at their premises.

**Interserve Construction Limited:** Interserve is an international support services and construction company, operating in the public and private sectors. They offer advice, design, construction, equipment and facilities management services. I was informed by a colleague about Interserve's New East Midlands Regional Office – the first carbon neutral passivhaus commercial office in England. I obtained the contact number from the internet and contacted Interserve. I spoke to John Walkerdine, Senior Business Development Manager. John invited me to visit the regional Office at Syston in Leicester. John agreed to run a CPD event at their Passivhaus Office.

**Cofely District Energy:** District energy systems produce low/zero carbon energy from a central energy centre. The hot water is distributed via insulated pipework to individual buildings. Buildings served by a district energy system do not require their own boilers or chillers. Cofely, a GDF SUEZ company has signed a 25 year contract with Leicester City Council to link and extend four existing heating schemes across the city. The project is optimising the performance of existing district heating schemes and will broaden the use of low carbon heating within Leicester. The contact for Cofely is Ian Forsyth, Business Development Manager. Ian agreed to run a CPD session.

<p><b>5. Results that you obtained</b></p>	<p>Three CPD events were open to all providers in the region.</p> <p>The events were well supported and attracted delegates from a variety of curriculum areas as well as academics from local HE institutions.</p> <p>Resources were made available for distribution to the sector.</p> <p>There were a wide variety of learning opportunities presented and the currency of the information is invaluable in terms of staff development and curriculum development.</p> <p>It has engaged staff in analysing current provision.</p> <p>It has allowed the sector to establish ongoing relationships with the organisations</p> <p>Feedback from the event at the Interserve Passivhaus Office Development was typical. All delegates ticked the excellent box.</p> <p>Jas Sandhu, Key Account Manager, Leicester College said “The event at Interserve was really interesting with the chance to have a first-hand look at Passivhaus design. We will certainly be taking up the opportunity for our students to visit in the future”.</p>
<p><b>6. What made the project a success? What were the key ingredients?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clearly identify target organisations in the green economy – visibility, scale, technology, profile</li> <li>• Create a relationship – what can we offer the organisation in return</li> <li>• Communicate clearly what we are trying to achieve</li> <li>• Give recognition for their time and effort</li> <li>• Plan events carefully</li> <li>• Enlist the help of relevant people in organising the events</li> </ul>
<p><b>7. What were some of the challenges and obstacles you faced in planning and implementing your project? How did you anticipate or respond to these challenges?</b></p>	<p>The main challenge was the organisation of the events. I was able to enlist administrative support within the college. This was essential in ensuring the logistics were organised properly.</p> <p>The events were advertised across the region but there is always the difficulty of targeting the relevant people.</p>
<p><b>8. What would you say were the most important things you learned from this project, which you will take forward as an individual or as an</b></p>	<p>The main lessons have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisations are very willing to work with providers.</li> <li>• Their expertise is invaluable.</li> <li>• The information obtained is relevant to far more areas within the college that anticipated.</li> <li>• It has focussed our attention to what we are teaching not just how</li> </ul>

**organisation in your sustainability journey?**

we are teaching.



**Funded by LSIS through the  
Regional Sustainability Adviser  
programme**

