

Fit for the Future?

Local Enterprise Partnerships' Climate Ready and Low Carbon Economy Good Practice

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Version 2 – Final

Date: May 2016

Report information

Title: Fit for the Future? Local Enterprise Partnerships' Climate Ready and Low Carbon Economy Good Practice

Version: 2 – Final

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This report is produced by Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) with the support of our umbrella body Climate UK, Climate Ready, and local partners Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands (IEWM) and the European Union Technical Assistance Programme.

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About Sustainability West Midlands

We are the sustainability adviser for the leaders of the West Midlands. We are also the regional sustainability champion body for the West Midlands, designated by government. We are a not-for-profit company that works with our members in the business, public and voluntary sectors. Our Board is private sector led and has cross-sector representation; they are supported by our team of staff and associates.

Our vision is that by 2020 businesses and communities are thriving in a West Midlands that is environmentally sustainable and socially just.

Our role is to act as a catalyst for change through our advice to leaders, to develop practical solutions with our members and share success through our communications.

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Executive Summary

This report is aimed at those working with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) at the local and national level to integrate climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy into the economic strategies and the billion pounds worth of investments over the next five years.

The research represents the first national review of all 39 LEPs' commitments to tackling climate change and embracing the low carbon economy, based on information from their recent key strategies. It was carried out by Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) with support from Climate UK, Climate Ready and Improvement Efficiency West Midlands, with additional funding from the European Union (EU) technical assistance programme.

The report contains good practice case studies, benchmarking tables, maps and recommendations to those working with LEPs.

Key findings include the following:

- Despite the lack of certainty, clear guidance and resources from national government on what is expected from LEPs in terms of climate change, there is a good range of local good practice emerging from LEPs on addressing climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy.
- Overall performance is very varied. Promoting the low carbon economy, because of its strong links to economic growth, productivity and the requirements of EU funding is the strongest in terms of integration within LEPs leadership, strategy and delivery structures. The weakest is climate adaptation, despite the impact on supply chains and infrastructure.
- The amount of funding received by each LEP does not necessarily relate to the capability and ambition of LEPs on climate change and low carbon issues. However, there appears to be a strong geographical correlation, with northern LEPs overall demonstrating stronger commitment than southern LEPs.

Key recommendations include the following:

- Embedding relevant elements of climate change and low carbon criteria into all programmes and projects will ultimately help achieve more resilient growth and productivity gains than relying only on a separate climate change and carbon programme.
- Cross-LEP working is not common on this agenda and by doing this more often would help to achieve potentially bigger results with less resource requirements. This is especially true with LEPs reshaping their boundaries to reflect the emerging combined local authority agenda.

- Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), Department of Energy & Climate Change (DECC) and Climate UK should support the national LEP network to help encourage poorer performing LEPs on climate change and the low carbon economy to engage with better performing LEPs to benefit from peer support.
- As part of the devolution agenda government should expand existing LEP good practice ‘pathfinder’ initiatives to grow and resource clusters of leading LEPs on key sustainability themes. This would help drive local delivery and innovation to inform national policy, devolution deals and drive up performance where local delivery is poor.
- Identifying a sustainability board champion and/or establishing a sustainability working group can help drive forward results on climate change and the low carbon economy and should be considered in all LEPs.
- The detailed benchmark for an individual LEP can help inform an annual work plan for the board champion and working group. For example, in the West Midlands these form part of an ongoing support programme by SWM, Climate UK and partners. In other areas, contact Climate UK initially to see what help is available nationally and locally.

The full findings and recommendations are in the main report.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) were formed by local authorities and business in 2011 across England to help advise and deliver local economic growth. They replaced the abolished Regional Development Agencies, but with a fraction of the staff and funding. Over time they have developed and taken on more responsibility from the delivery of local growth funds to advising on EU funding priorities. The LEP structures vary across the country, but all have a Board, strategies, and a range of local authorities, businesses and other partners working together in the local area to promote economic growth.

These LEPs and their partners play an important role in the delivery of local economic growth across England. Therefore LEPs have a key role in the implementation of relevant climate change action around preparing for extreme weather events, reducing carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases, and turning these risks into opportunities through the growth of the low carbon economy.

This report aims to promote the benefits of integrating climate change and low carbon economy issues into LEP working, how doing so can strengthen the economy as well as contribute towards environmental targets and share good practice showing how LEPs can embrace the agenda.

This research is the first to analyse each of the 39 LEP's commitment to addressing climate change and the low carbon economy, based on information from their Single Economic Strategies (SEP), European Structural Investment Fund Strategies (ESIF) annual reports, and websites.

The report quantifies progress based on evidence of commitments and projects in published documents that relate to:

- Climate adaptation (preparing for the impacts of extreme weather, including flood risk and green infrastructure provision).
- Mitigation (carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas reduction).
- The low carbon economy (support for the production and application of energy efficient products and services).

Using this analysis the report provides good practice examples where LEPs are performing well and recommendations on how they can improve.

1.2 Audience

This report is for:

- LEP Board members, champions and their supporting working groups that are tasked to specifically progress climate change or low carbon issues, as well as the broader LEP Boards.
- For local authority sustainability teams or those who manage external funding sources in local authorities on behalf of a LEP.
- The nominated environment and sustainability champion on the LEP area local European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) committees.
- For national bodies, such as Climate UK, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC), Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Department for Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS) that either provide national or local support to LEPs.

1.3 How to use the report

This report can be used in the following ways:

- To promote existing good practice through the identified case studies. These examples have also informed a national LEP and climate change good practice event on 8 March 2016 in Birmingham.
- To identify where your LEP requires improvement either through communicating existing good practice through published documents or by addressing gaps in activities on the ground. For example the individual LEP detailed assessments can be provided on request to help inform any locally led and agreed improvements.
- To provide a methodology and benchmark that can be repeated annually nationally to help identify further good practice and progress and provide a clearer national set of criteria for LEPs to work towards on this agenda.
- Recommendations on how government can further improve the support for LEPs in the delivery of this agenda.

2. Methodology

The main element of this research consisted of a desk-based exercise that ultimately aimed to build a solid evidence base showing each LEP's climate change and low carbon economy credentials. This process, along with subsequent information gathering processes, is described below.

2.1 Assessment criteria

In order to assess the extent to which each of the 39 LEPs is committed to addressing climate change and the low carbon economy, a set of criteria was developed by SWM that aimed to cover a range of parameters. This included the implementation of carbon targets, evidence of funding projects relating to climate change and the low carbon economy and methods to ensure these issues are being considered across all LEP activity.

This criteria to identify good practice was developed with support from three existing publications developed and tested by SWM and partners:

- 'The Local Enterprise Partnerships Resilient Growth Information Note.'¹
- 'How Green is your Local Enterprise Partnership? A guide for LEPs to deliver the low carbon economy.'²
- The UK's longest running sustainability benchmark for local authorities 'Local Authority Sustainability Benchmark 2014.'³

These publications had already developed and tested criteria to allow climate change champions to assess their LEP's or local council credentials around climate change and the low carbon economy and so these were utilised for the purposes of this exercise.

Other national research was also reviewed to identify any additional review criteria. This included:

- 'Building Economic Resilience 2014' by IPPR North. This reviewed all 39 SEPs for a range of issues including corporate social responsibility, natural resource use, and preparing for climate change⁴.
- 'Research to Survey Local Authority Action on Adaptation 2015' for the Committee on Climate Change. This included a sample review of 16 LEPs in high risk areas⁵.

¹ <http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/local-enterprise-partnerships-resilient-growth-information-note-december-2014/>

² <http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/how-green-is-your-local-enterprise-partnership-a-guide-for-leps-to-deliver-the-low-carbon-economy/>

³ <http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/local-authority-benchmark-report-2014/>

⁴ http://www.ippr.org/files/publications/pdf/Building-economic-resilience_May2014.pdf?noredirect=1

⁵ <https://d2kix2p8nxa8ft.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/Survey-of-LA-Action-CCA-Final-Report-260615.pdf>

A spreadsheet was developed containing the final criteria and assigned a letter to determine whether the criteria referred to climate adaptation (A), mitigation (M) or the low carbon economy (LCE). We wanted to cover these broad categories so that a wide spectrum of progress on several issues could be analysed, the exercise repeated to benchmark performance, and the questions were clear enough to indicate what action was required, and broadly consistent with previous specific assessments from the previous methodologies.

Overall, there were 29 criteria, 11 of which focused on adaptation, 11 on mitigation and 10 on the low carbon economy, with three criteria focused on both mitigation and the low carbon economy.

These were grouped around issues of leadership, strategy, and delivery, and sub-headings of local evidence; planning, infrastructure and design, projects and programmes, business and skills support, and accessing funding and resource.

[Annex 1](#) contains the full list of criteria used under these headings and sub-headings.

2.2 Documents analysed

The documents that were selected were based on those strategic documents required by Government, EU funding, or would provide an opportunity to present and report on overall strategic progress.

Therefore for each of the 29 criteria, three documents were analysed in order to determine a score. These were each LEP's:

- Strategic Economic Plan (SEP), published in 2014,
- European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF) strategy in 2014, and
- Annual Report for the last financial year, 2014-15.

The series of 26 City Deals were produced before the SEPs and ESIF strategies and therefore were reflected in these overarching strategic documents. The later Local Growth Deals for all 39 LEPs were produced after these strategic documents and therefore should have reflected these local priorities. However, when we conducted a review of Local Growth Deals they did not include additional detail relating to our criteria, apart from some further information on local sustainable transport schemes which were reflected in the SEPs.

We acknowledge that several LEPs are updating their ESIF strategies to reflect further EU and government requirements. However we used the most up-to-date, publically available, documents during our research between July and September 2015.

It is worth noting that of the 39 LEPs, there was evidence of only 15 that had published an Annual Report for 2014-15. For the other 24 LEPs, it was assumed no report had been

produced. On a few occasions, older Annual Reports were apparent, but these were not included.

In relation to ESIF strategies, particular attention was paid to whether the LEP has invested in the relevant Thematic Objectives (TO), in particular 4 (low carbon) and 5 (adaptation).⁶ However, it was recognised that other low carbon and climate change actions can and should be embedded into other thematic objectives. For example the adaptation response of green infrastructure and business resilience support often occurred under other themes. Therefore all themes in the ESIF strategy were reviewed.

Some additional information, particularly in relation to details regarding Board members and LEP working groups, was also gleaned from the LEP's website.

2.3 Scoring

The approach used to score each of the 29 criteria was taken from the existing SWM local authority benchmarking process,⁷ which uses a scoring system as shown in Figure 1:

Figure 1: Scoring system used for assessing progress against each criteria.

0 - No evidence	1 - Some evidence	2 - Good evidence	3 - Leading evidence
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This represented a useful approach that was utilised for consistency and because of its simplicity. It should be noted that if, for example, a score of '3' for a specific criteria was gleaned from the SEP but there was no evidence ('0') of fulfilling this criteria in the other documents, a '3' would still have been awarded overall. The approach taken was such that as long as the evidence, no matter how strong, appeared in one of the three documents, this was adequate.

Each criteria was given a score and from these an average score was determined:

- Overall for that LEP.
- Overall for Adaptation, Mitigation and the Low Carbon Economy per LEP.
- Overall for each of the categories of Leadership, Strategy and Delivery per LEP.

This score was then converted to a percentage score for the purposes of this report. This was done by taking the awarded score 0-3 (y) and the maximum possible score of 3 and using the following sum:

$$(y \div 3) \times 100$$

The scoring system, when converted to a percentage, is as follows:

⁶ See <http://www.estlat.eu/2014%20-%202020/thematic-objectives/> for full titles of TOs.

⁷ <http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/local-authority-benchmark-report-2014/>

Figure 2: Scoring system used for assessing progress against each criteria, when converted to %.

0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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This provided a useful overall comparison between each LEP on each of these key sub-sections and nationally. The scoring of the criteria was undertaken by SWM staff and then reviewed for consistency by the lead researcher.

2.4 Comments

Where a score other than '0' was awarded, for each criterion a brief commentary of evidence was provided in the adjacent column on the spreadsheet. This represented a summary of why the score had been given and the evidence to prove it, sometimes in the form of a direct quote taken from one of the documents or a page number for reference where necessary. On occasion, the evidence commentary included guidance on how the LEP could have scored higher, especially if the move from a '1' to a '2', for example, could have been achieved easily.

A final column included an opportunity to input a potential case study, where the review team deemed this to be leading practice or a unique approach to a specific criteria.

2.5 Testing against local knowledge

Following this desk based research exercise, the draft results were tested against a sample of local knowledge to test if our research approach had helped identify the key good local practice we were seeking.

To do this draft LEP assessments were broken into the nearest regional groupings and circulated to Climate UK's network of Climate Change Partnership (CCP) Directors.⁸

This gave them the opportunity to include their additional knowledge of LEP climate change and low carbon economic good practice activity that may not appear in the three documents analysed. The feedback revealed some minor additional information, but no significant missing good practice or improvements to change the 'banding' within which the LEP was ranked. This demonstrated the robustness of the approach taken to the document review.

2.6 Limitations and future improvements

There are a number of limitations to the research that may reduce the clarity and accuracy of the results:

- The scoring could be somewhat subjective based on the evidence interpreted by the review team.

⁸ <http://climateuk.net/network>

- There can still be a gap between stated intention and action on the ground. For example, we were surprised by the lack of recent annual reports.
- LEPs were set up to determine their own priorities for local growth and jobs. Therefore, in some areas the results may reflect what the locally agreed risk and opportunity is related to climate change and the low carbon economy.

Now a baseline is established we would suggest future annual exercises involve working with the identified LEP champion to update this, with an independent organisation checking the scores based on the evidence provided and further work assessing how this is translating into programme and project delivery. This approach has worked successfully in the West Midlands with the annual benchmarking and sharing of good practice with local authorities.

2.7 Second iteration

A second iteration of this report was published in May 2016. Some LEP representatives were keen to provide further written evidence showing work related to the climate change agenda that they have done that is not reflected in the documents originally analysed by SWM. We added this evidence to the spreadsheet detailed in this section and re-scored the LEP's progress using the same criteria.

3. Results

The following section provides an overview of the results of the research.

3.1 Climate Change and low carbon economy ranking

The following tables overleaf show how each LEP performed following the approach outlined in section two. These show an average score across all 29 criteria overall (Figure 3a) and then for each individual metric with a corresponding map.

The maps are a visual way of representing the key geographical patterns of the research findings and also allow LEP members to see at-a-glance how their LEP has performed against these criteria.

The maps are copyrighted as follows:

Contains National Statistics data © Crown copyright and database right 2015.

Contains OS data © Crown copyright and database right 2015

Also in relation to the maps overleaf, it should be noted that many of the LEPs have overlapping boundaries with each other.⁹ This is currently being reviewed as new combined LEP areas emerge with devolution. Therefore, to help illustrate the different current spatial patterns of LEP strategies on climate change, we have used the closest LEP boundaries to local authority unitary and county boundaries. We will review how we illustrate this information graphically in future annual reviews.

⁹ See here: <http://www.lepnetwork.net/about-leps/the-network-of-leps/>

0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 3a: LEP commitments to climate change, average score for adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy

	LEP	%
1	New Anglia LEP	74
2	Leeds City Region LEP	68
3	Greater Manchester LEP	68
4	D2N2 LEP	63
5	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP	60
6	Humber LEP	58
7	Leicester & Leicestershire LEP	56
8	Worcestershire LEP	53
9	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP	53
10	Cheshire & Warrington LEP	51
11	Marches LEP	51
12	South East Midlands LEP	50
13	Oxfordshire LEP	50
14	Black Country LEP	50
15	Greater Lincolnshire LEP	49
16	Tees Valley Unlimited LEP	49
17	Northamptonshire LEP	48
18	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	48
19	Cumbria LEP	47
20	Stoke and Staffordshire LEP	47
21	Hertfordshire LEP	46
22	London Enterprise Panel LEP	46
23	Solent LEP	45
24	Liverpool City Region LEP	44
25	Heart of the South West LEP	44
26	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP	44
27	Enterprise M3 LEP	44
28	Dorset LEP	44
29	North East LEP	43
30	Swindon & Wiltshire	43
31	West of England LEP	43
32	Sheffield City Region LEP	42
33	Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	42
34	Coast to Capital LEP	41
35	Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP	41
36	South East LEP	29
37	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	29
38	Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP	28
39	Lancashire LEP	27

Figure 3b: Map of LEP commitments to climate change, average score for adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy



0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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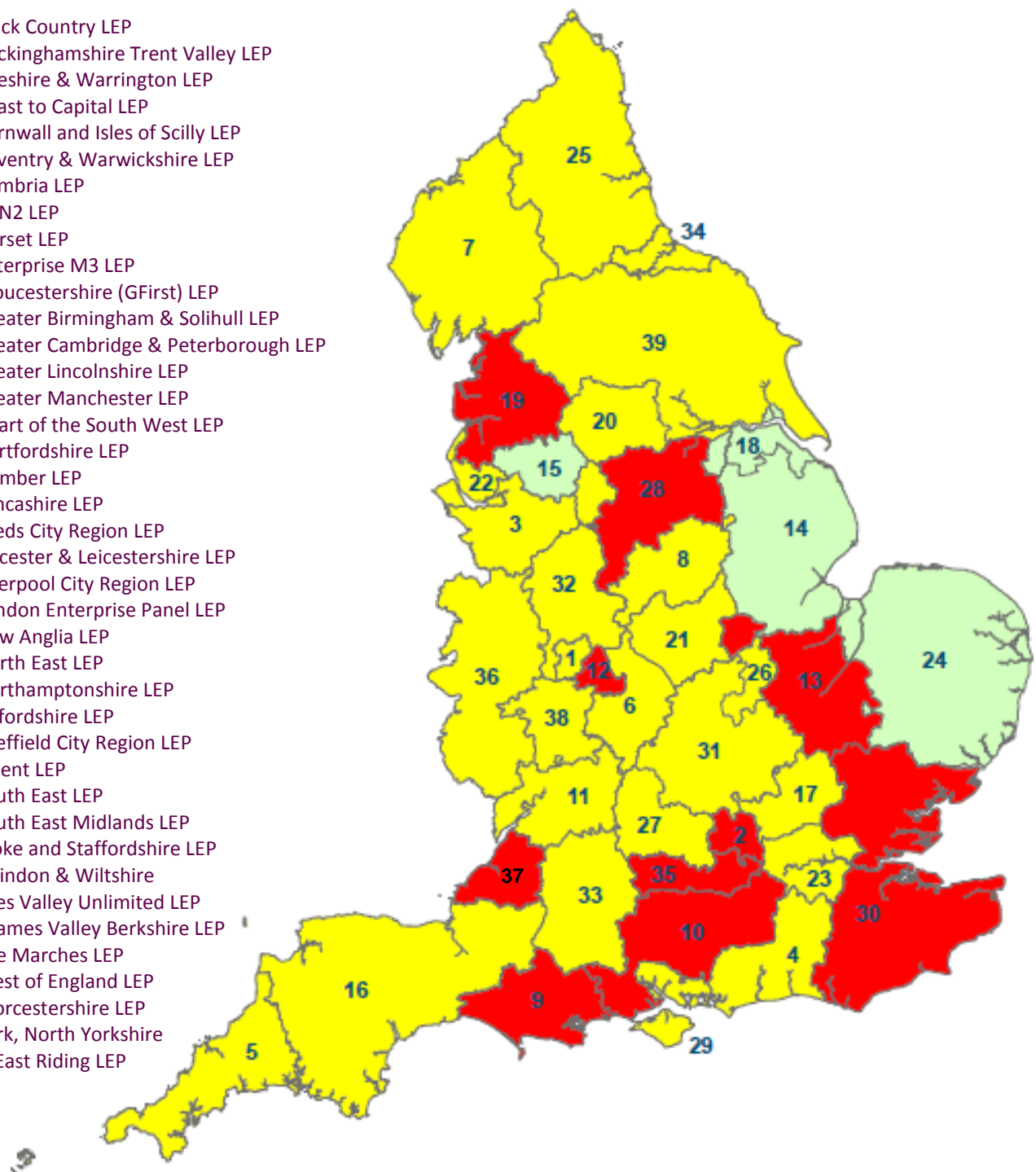
0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 3c: LEP commitments to climate adaptation (including flood risk and green infrastructure)

	LEP	%
1	New Anglia LEP	64
2	Greater Manchester LEP	55
3	Humber LEP	55
4	Greater Lincolnshire LEP	55
5	Leeds City Region LEP	48
6	D2N2 LEP	48
7	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP	45
8	Worcestershire LEP	45
9	Marches LEP	45
10	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP	42
11	Cumbria LEP	39
12	Tees Valley Unlimited LEP	36
13	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	36
14	Solent LEP	33
15	Oxfordshire LEP	30
16	Heart of the South West LEP	30
17	North East LEP	30
18	Northamptonshire LEP	27
19	Stoke and Staffordshire LEP	27
20	London Enterprise Panel LEP	27
21	Cheshire & Warrington LEP	24
22	South East Midlands LEP	24
23	Black Country LEP	24
24	Hertfordshire LEP	24
25	Swindon & Wiltshire	21
26	Coast to Capital LEP	21
27	Leicester & Leicestershire LEP	18
28	Liverpool City Region LEP	18
29	Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP	18
30	Enterprise M3 LEP	15
31	Dorset LEP	15
32	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	15
33	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP	12
34	West of England LEP	12
35	Sheffield City Region LEP	12
36	Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	9
37	South East LEP	9
38	Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP	9
39	Lancashire LEP	9

Figure 3d: Map of LEP commitments to climate adaptation

- 1 Black Country LEP
- 2 Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP
- 3 Cheshire & Warrington LEP
- 4 Coast to Capital LEP
- 5 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP
- 6 Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
- 7 Cumbria LEP
- 8 D2N2 LEP
- 9 Dorset LEP
- 10 Enterprise M3 LEP
- 11 Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP
- 12 Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
- 13 Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP
- 14 Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- 15 Greater Manchester LEP
- 16 Heart of the South West LEP
- 17 Hertfordshire LEP
- 18 Humber LEP
- 19 Lancashire LEP
- 20 Leeds City Region LEP
- 21 Leicester & Leicestershire LEP
- 22 Liverpool City Region LEP
- 23 London Enterprise Panel LEP
- 24 New Anglia LEP
- 25 North East LEP
- 26 Northamptonshire LEP
- 27 Oxfordshire LEP
- 28 Sheffield City Region LEP
- 29 Solent LEP
- 30 South East LEP
- 31 South East Midlands LEP
- 32 Stoke and Staffordshire LEP
- 33 Swindon & Wiltshire
- 34 Tees Valley Unlimited LEP
- 35 Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- 36 The Marches LEP
- 37 West of England LEP
- 38 Worcestershire LEP
- 39 York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP



0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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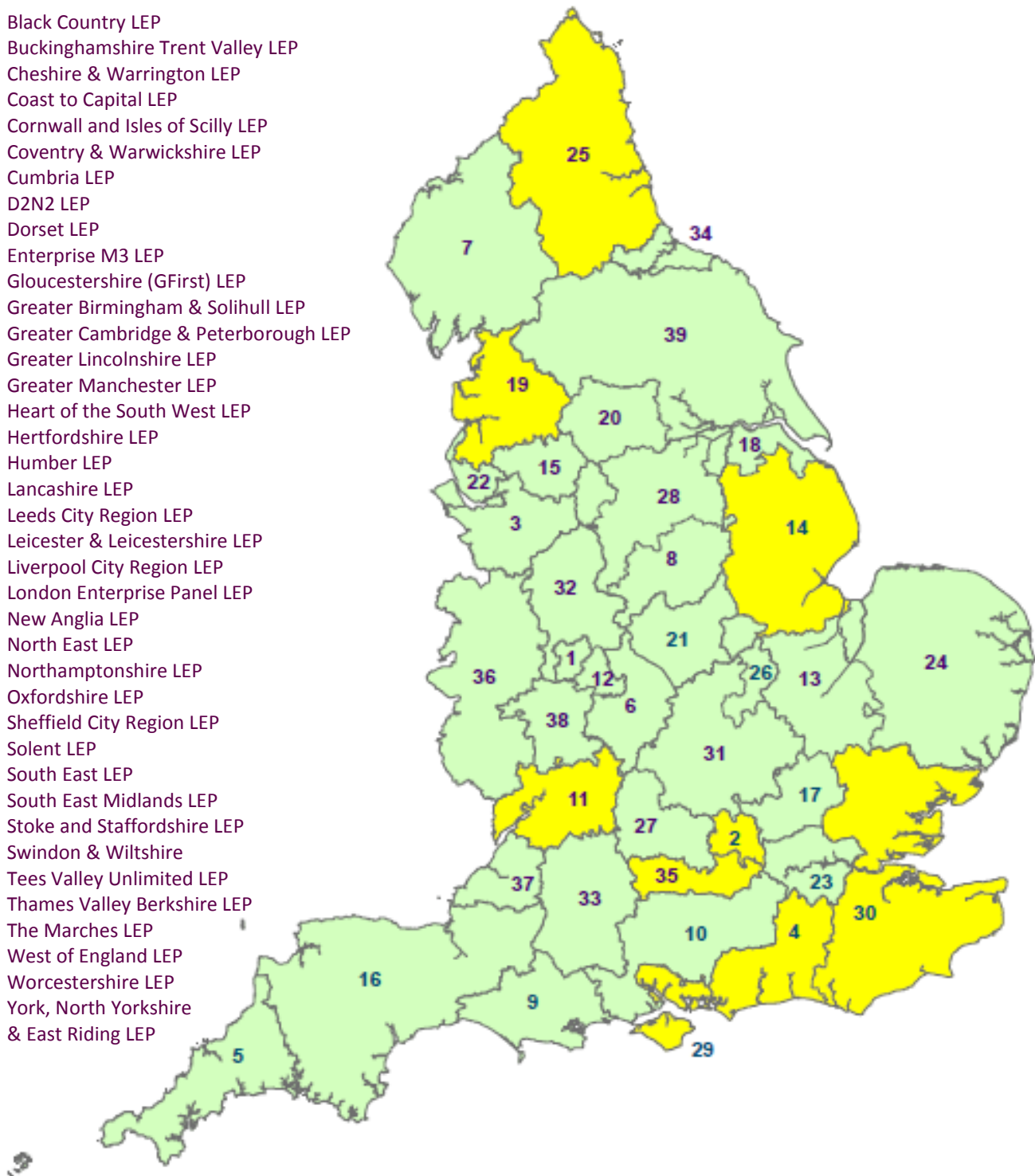
0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 3e: LEP commitments to climate mitigation

	LEP	%
1	Leeds City Region LEP	82
2	Leicester & Leicestershire LEP	82
3	New Anglia LEP	79
4	Greater Manchester LEP	73
5	D2N2 LEP	73
6	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP	70
7	Northamptonshire LEP	70
8	Black Country LEP	70
9	Cheshire & Warrington LEP	64
10	Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	64
11	Worcestershire LEP	61
12	Marches LEP	61
13	Cumbria LEP	61
14	Liverpool City Region LEP	61
15	West of England LEP	61
16	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP	58
17	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	58
18	Oxfordshire LEP	58
19	London Enterprise Panel LEP	58
20	South East Midlands LEP	58
21	Enterprise M3 LEP	58
22	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP	58
23	Sheffield City Region LEP	58
24	Humber LEP	55
25	Tees Valley Unlimited LEP	55
26	Heart of the South West LEP	55
27	Stoke and Staffordshire LEP	55
28	Hertfordshire LEP	55
29	Swindon & Wiltshire	55
30	Dorset LEP	52
31	Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP	48
32	Greater Lincolnshire LEP	45
33	Coast to Capital LEP	45
34	Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP	42
35	Solent LEP	39
36	North East LEP	36
37	South East LEP	36
38	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	30
39	Lancashire LEP	27

Figure 3f: Map of LEP commitments to climate mitigation

- 1 Black Country LEP
- 2 Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP
- 3 Cheshire & Warrington LEP
- 4 Coast to Capital LEP
- 5 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP
- 6 Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
- 7 Cumbria LEP
- 8 D2N2 LEP
- 9 Dorset LEP
- 10 Enterprise M3 LEP
- 11 Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP
- 12 Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
- 13 Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP
- 14 Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- 15 Greater Manchester LEP
- 16 Heart of the South West LEP
- 17 Hertfordshire LEP
- 18 Humber LEP
- 19 Lancashire LEP
- 20 Leeds City Region LEP
- 21 Leicester & Leicestershire LEP
- 22 Liverpool City Region LEP
- 23 London Enterprise Panel LEP
- 24 New Anglia LEP
- 25 North East LEP
- 26 Northamptonshire LEP
- 27 Oxfordshire LEP
- 28 Sheffield City Region LEP
- 29 Solent LEP
- 30 South East LEP
- 31 South East Midlands LEP
- 32 Stoke and Staffordshire LEP
- 33 Swindon & Wiltshire
- 34 Tees Valley Unlimited LEP
- 35 Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- 36 The Marches LEP
- 37 West of England LEP
- 38 Worcestershire LEP
- 39 York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP



0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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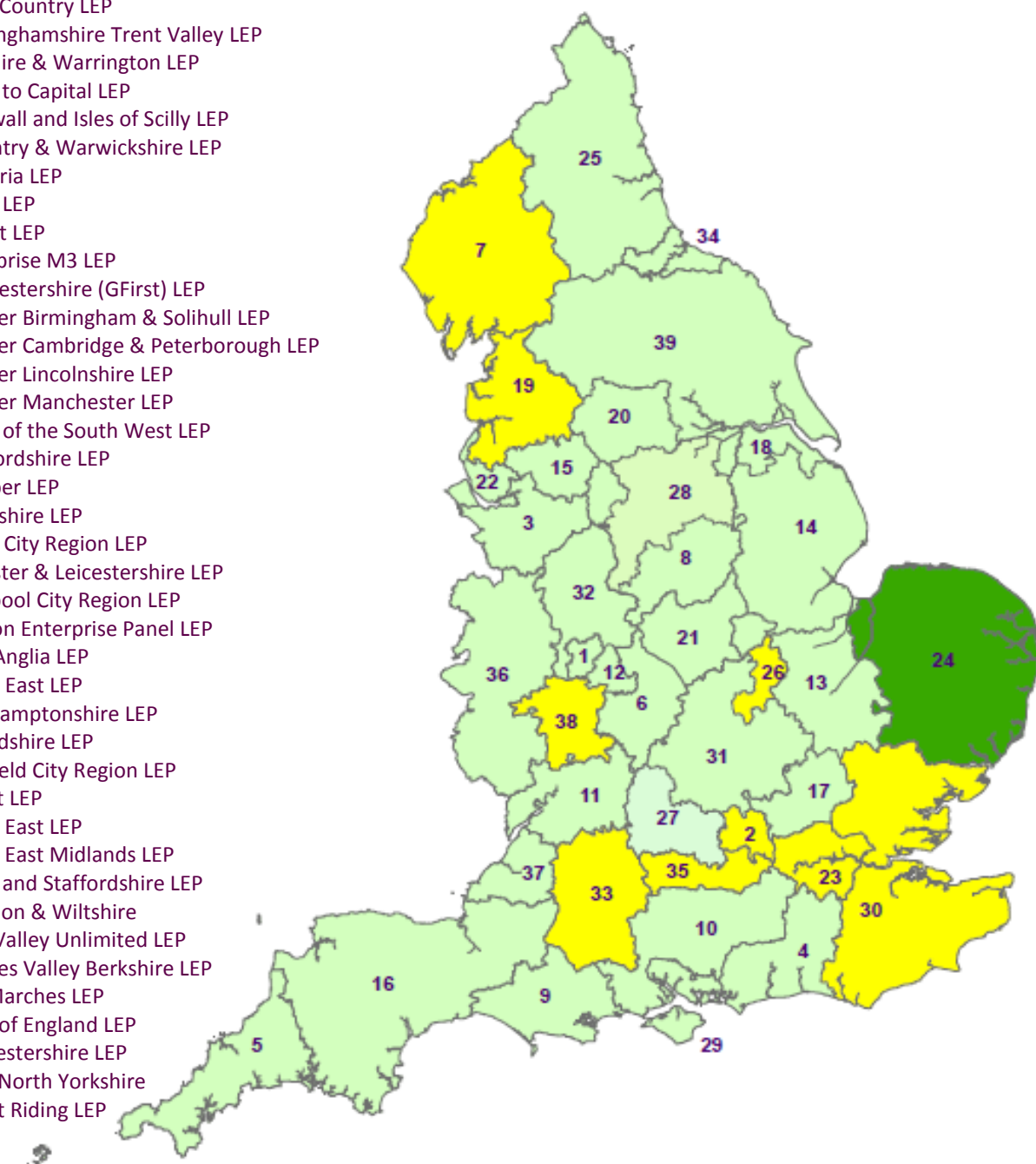
0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Figure 3g: LEP commitments to the low carbon economy

	LEP	%
1	New Anglia LEP	83
2	Leeds City Region LEP	80
3	D2N2 LEP	80
4	Leicester & Leicestershire LEP	77
5	Greater Manchester LEP	77
6	Cheshire & Warrington LEP	77
7	Liverpool City Region LEP	73
8	Black Country LEP	70
9	Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	67
10	South East Midlands LEP	67
11	Stoke and Staffordshire LEP	67
12	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP	63
13	Sheffield City Region LEP	63
14	Tees Valley Unlimited LEP	63
15	West of England LEP	60
16	Oxfordshire LEP	60
17	Dorset LEP	60
18	Marches LEP	57
19	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP	57
20	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP	57
21	Coast to Capital LEP	57
22	Enterprise M3 LEP	53
23	Humber LEP	53
24	Heart of the South West LEP	53
25	Hertfordshire LEP	53
26	Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP	53
27	Solent LEP	53
28	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	50
29	Greater Lincolnshire LEP	50
30	North East LEP	50
31	Northamptonshire LEP	47
32	Worcestershire LEP	47
33	Cumbria LEP	47
34	London Enterprise Panel LEP	43
35	Swindon & Wiltshire	43
36	South East LEP	43
37	Lancashire LEP	40
38	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	37
39	Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP	30

Figure 3h: Map of LEP commitments to the low carbon economy

- 1 Black Country LEP
- 2 Buckinghamshire Trent Valley LEP
- 3 Cheshire & Warrington LEP
- 4 Coast to Capital LEP
- 5 Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP
- 6 Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
- 7 Cumbria LEP
- 8 D2N2 LEP
- 9 Dorset LEP
- 10 Enterprise M3 LEP
- 11 Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP
- 12 Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
- 13 Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP
- 14 Greater Lincolnshire LEP
- 15 Greater Manchester LEP
- 16 Heart of the South West LEP
- 17 Hertfordshire LEP
- 18 Humber LEP
- 19 Lancashire LEP
- 20 Leeds City Region LEP
- 21 Leicester & Leicestershire LEP
- 22 Liverpool City Region LEP
- 23 London Enterprise Panel LEP
- 24 New Anglia LEP
- 25 North East LEP
- 26 Northamptonshire LEP
- 27 Oxfordshire LEP
- 28 Sheffield City Region LEP
- 29 Solent LEP
- 30 South East LEP
- 31 South East Midlands LEP
- 32 Stoke and Staffordshire LEP
- 33 Swindon & Wiltshire
- 34 Tees Valley Unlimited LEP
- 35 Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
- 36 The Marches LEP
- 37 West of England LEP
- 38 Worcestershire LEP
- 39 York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP



0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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3.2 Climate Adaptation, Mitigation and Low Carbon Economy Patterns

Along with the rankings, the figures also show that scores for climate adaptation are lower than those for mitigation and the low carbon economy. The average score for adaptation is 29%, whereas the average mitigation score is 57% and low carbon economy is 58%. This is largely due to the requirement of 20% spend of LEP EU money on low carbon related projects, whereas no LEP is asked to spend any money specifically on climate adaptation. It could also be due to less perceived tangible economic gains that can be made by investing in adaptation measures compared to investing in the low carbon economy. Adaptation, therefore, makes a significant difference to the overall score. Humber LEP, for example, was ranked joint second for adaptation but only 24th for mitigation and 23rd for the low carbon economy. Yet it ranked sixth overall.

Similarly, Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP ranked 36th for adaptation but ninth for low carbon economy and tenth for mitigation. However, overall this LEP was ranked 33rd, again emphasising the impact the adaptation score can have.

3.3 Geographical Patterns

There are geographical patterns that can be observed from analysing each LEP's ranking on climate change/low carbon economy. The LEPs were grouped for local Climate UK input into the closest regions based on the former Government Office boundaries and used currently by government and the Office for National Statistics. This is shown in Figure 4:

Figure 4: The geographical region in which each LEP sits.

East Midlands (5)	D2N2 LEP
	Greater Lincolnshire LEP
	Leicester & Leicestershire LEP
	Northamptonshire LEP
	South East Midlands LEP
East of England (3)	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP
	Hertfordshire LEP
	New Anglia LEP
London (1)	London Enterprise Panel LEP
North East (2)	North East LEP
	Tees Valley Unlimited LEP
North West (5)	Cheshire & Warrington LEP
	Cumbria LEP
	Greater Manchester LEP
	Lancashire LEP
	Liverpool City Region LEP
South East (7)	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP
	Coast to Capital LEP
	Enterprise M3 LEP
	Oxfordshire LEP
	Solent LEP
	South East LEP
	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP
South West (6)	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP
	Dorset LEP

	Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP
	Heart of the South West LEP
	Swindon & Wiltshire
	West of England LEP
West Midlands (6)	Black Country LEP
	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP
	Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP
	Marches LEP
	Stoke and Staffordshire LEP
	Worcestershire LEP
Yorkshire & Humber (4)	Humber LEP
	Leeds City Region LEP
	Sheffield City Region LEP
	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP

The rankings for each metric showed geographical patterns as detailed in Figures 5a – 5d below.

0% - 16.5% Minimal Evidence	16.5% - 49.9% Some evidence	50% - 83% Good evidence	83.1% - 100% Leading evidence
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Overall score

Figure 5a

Rank	Region (No. LEPs)	Av. Score %
1	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	55.2
2	East of England (3)	54.6
3	East Midlands (5)	53.3
4	West Midlands (6)	48.4
5	North West (5)	47.5
6	North East (2)	46.1
7	South West (6)	45.8
8	London (1)	45.7
9	South East (7)	37.8

Adaptation

Figure 5b

Rank	Region (No. LEPs)	Av. Score %
1	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	39.4
2	East Midlands (5)	34.5
3 =	East of England (3)	33.3
3 =	North East (2)	33.3
5	West Midlands (6)	31.3
6	North West (5)	29.1
7	London (1)	26.7
8	South West (6)	23.7
9	South East (7)	19.0

Mitigation

Figure 5c

Rank	Region (No. LEPs)	Av. Score %
1	East Midlands (5)	65.5
2	East of England (3)	63.6
3	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	62.9
4	West Midlands (6)	61.1
5	London (1)	57.6
6	North West (5)	57.0
7	South West (6)	56.6
8	North East (2)	45.5
9	South East (7)	44.2

Low Carbon Economy

Figure 5d

Rank	Region (No. LEPs)	Av. Score %
1	East of England (3)	64.4
2	East Midlands (5)	64.0
3	Yorkshire & Humber (4)	63.3
5	North West (5)	62.7
4	West Midlands (6)	59.4
6	North East (2)	56.7
7	South West (6)	55.6
8	South East (7)	47.6
9	London (1)	43.3

This analysis shows that the northern and eastern portion of England is performing better overall on climate change and low carbon at present. East of England, Yorkshire & Humber and East Midlands are consistently first, second or third place. The South East goes against

the trend in terms of more eastern regions performing well, as this is consistently the lowest regional performer.

The analysis also shows a general pattern of the more central and northerly regions performing better on climate change and the low carbon economy. This is shown in Figure 6, where regions have been split according to the latest government devolution agenda. The North West, North East and Yorkshire and Humber regions have been classed as the 'northern powerhouse;' West Midlands and East Midlands as the 'Midlands engine for growth;' and the rest of England for this purpose classed as 'Eastern and Southern,' including East of England, South West, South East and London. The average overall scores are shown in Figure 6:

Figure 6: Overall regional climate change and LCE scores

Rank	Region (No. LEPs)	Av. Score %
1	Midlands Engine (11)	50.6
2	Northern Powerhouse (11)	50.0
3	Eastern and Southern (17)	44.0

There are also five northern authorities in the top ten overall ranked LEPs for climate change and the LCE, with three central LEPs and only two eastern and southern LEPs. There are also seven southern LEPs ranked in the bottom ten, compared to only two northern LEPs and one central LEP.

3.4 Scores versus LEP funding allocations

It is clear that with the amount of EU money, specifically European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF), each LEP area can commit to spend on climate change/low carbon economy related projects varies depending on the overall national allocation.¹⁰ The following analysis factors this in by taking their rank for each climate change/low carbon economy metric and taking this from their rank in terms of total funding allocation.

What Figure 7 shows is how much higher or lower ranked each LEP area finds itself compared to what may be expected based on how much EU funding they have been allocated overall.

It would be expected that each LEP would score around zero, as this would show that climate change and the low carbon economy is given about the expected level of attention depending on the amount of EU funding it receives. However, the reality is that this is not the case and there are many LEPs that scored significantly less or more than would be expected, as Figure 7 shows.

¹⁰ Figures taken from https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307492/bis-14-772-uk-allocations-eu-structural-funds-2014-2020-letter.pdf, page 4.

Figure 7: Climate change commitment of each LEP area against the amount of ESF/ERDF money allocated (in 2014).

	LEP Area	Allocation €m	Allocation Rank /39	Overall Climate. Rank /39	Rank; Allocation vs Climate score
1	Oxfordshire LEP	19.3	38	13	+25
2	New Anglia LEP	94.1	23	1	+22
3	Worcestershire LEP	67.8	29	8	+21
4	Humber LEP	102.0	21	6	+15
5	Northamptonshire LEP	54.8	31	17	+14
6	York, North Yorkshire & East Riding LEP	97.1	22	9	+13
7	South East Midlands LEP	87.9	25	12	+13
8	Solent LEP	42.9	35	23	+12
9	Leicester & Leicestershire LEP	125.7	18	7	+11
10	Marches LEP	113.3	20	11	+9
11	Hertfordshire LEP	69.2	27	21	+6
12	Enterprise M3 LEP	45.5	33	27	+6
13	Cumbria LEP	91.0	24	19	+5
14	Cheshire & Warrington LEP	141.6	15	10	+5
15	Dorset LEP	47.1	32	28	+4
16	D2N2 LEP	244.0	8	4	+4
17	Swindon & Wiltshire	43.4	34	30	+4
18	Leeds City Region LEP	389.5	5	2	+3
19	Greater Lincolnshire LEP	133.0	17	15	+2
20	Gloucestershire (GFirst) LEP	38.1	36	34	+2
21	Buckinghamshire Thames Valley LEP	13.8	39	38	+1
22	Greater Manchester LEP	413.8	4	3	+1
23	Thames Valley Berkshire LEP	28.5	37	37	0
24	Greater Cambridge & Peterborough LEP	75.2	26	26	0
25	Black Country LEP	176.6	13	14	-1
26	Coventry & Warwickshire LEP	135.5	16	18	-2
27	Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP	590.4	2	5	-3
28	West of England LEP	68.3	28	31	-3
29	Coast to Capital LEP	67.0	30	34	-4
30	Tees Valley Unlimited LEP	201.7	11	16	-5
31	Stoke and Staffordshire LEP	160.9	14	20	-6
32	Heart of the South West LEP	117.8	19	25	-6
33	Liverpool City Region LEP	220.9	9	24	-15
34	London Enterprise Panel LEP	745.4	1	22	-21
35	Sheffield City Region LEP	207.2	10	32	-22
36	South East LEP	185.1	12	36	-24
37	Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP	254.8	7	33	-26
38	North East LEP	537.4	3	29	-26
39	Lancashire LEP	265.2	6	39	-33

Oxfordshire LEP received the second lowest amount of EU funding and yet was ranked 13th overall in terms of its climate change adaptation and mitigation commitment. This may have been due to them looking for other funding sources, for example, they were successful on Growth Deal support for flood alleviation work. However, this combination represents the biggest positive discrepancy in terms of a LEP that has been allocated less money than most but is still performing quite strongly on tackling climate change. This suggests that this

LEP appreciates the benefits of investing in this, as well as suggesting that it may have a greater need or opportunity to do so, in terms of local issues or assets.

Conversely, Lancashire LEP, which scored bottom of the climate change and low carbon economy score ranking, is also scoring bottom on this scale, as it was allocated the sixth highest amount of EU funding and therefore scores -33 overall. Thames Valley Berkshire LEP, which scores 37th out of 39 LEPs overall on climate change adaptation and mitigation, was also ranked 37th in terms of the amount of EU money it received from government. As such, it scores zero reflecting that its low commitment on tackling climate change is better understood because it is one of the least resourced LEPs from an EU funding perspective. In a sense, using this scale, it does not matter how much above zero each LEP scores; the greater significance is how much **below** zero a LEP scores, as this reflects how much it could improve on tackling climate change overall.

3.5 Summary of research findings

It is appreciated that each LEP has individual needs. For example, some LEPs do not suffer greatly from flooding and therefore will not need to spend as much on adaptation measures as others. Similarly, some LEPs will have significant or more urgent issues aside from climate change, such as unemployment, infrastructure pressures etc., that must take priority; to the extent in some cases the majority of LEP's money is spent on only a couple of issues.

However, using the methodology outlined in section 2 and focusing on the analysis outlined in section 3, the key results are as follows:

Strong performers

- New Anglia LEP is the strongest performer overall on climate adaptation, mitigation and the low carbon economy.
- Greater Manchester, Leeds City Region and D2N2 LEPs are highly commended as they appear in the top six in each climate change and low carbon economy metric commitment league table.
- Oxfordshire LEP is commended for obtaining a low allocation of EU funding but performing quite highly on climate change and low carbon issues regardless.
- North and East regions show the strongest commitment on tackling climate change and embracing the low carbon economy, with Yorkshire and Humber the strongest overall.

Opportunities for improvement

- Lancashire LEP is the weakest performer overall, including when factoring in their allocated amount of EU funding.

- Thames Valley Berkshire is ranked in the bottom five for three of the four climate change metrics, although it is recognised that it received the third lowest amount of EU funding.
- The Southern regions, especially the South East, are consistently the poorest performers regionally on tackling climate change.

4. Good practice examples

One of the aims of the research was to identify good practice from across the 39 LEPs that could inspire or be replicated elsewhere. Nine such examples, three from each metric, have been selected from the research and these are shown overleaf. Additional examples of good practice from other LEPs can also be gleaned from the research and the number of examples provided overleaf is by no means exhaustive; please contact the authors of this report to find out more.¹¹

The following case studies aim to showcase some best practice examples in terms of the types of projects and commitments LEPs can make to strengthen their climate change adaptation and mitigation performance and why they have decided to do so.

¹¹ Contact enquiries@swm.org.uk

ADAPTATION CASE STUDY 1



New Anglia LEP

New Anglia LEP is the strongest performer on adaptation in this analysis. This is partly because it is choosing to allocate £4.04m of EU funding to Thematic Objective (TO) 5, “promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management.” Few LEPs are allocating significant EU funding to adaptation projects and the importance of this issue to New Anglia LEP is reflected given that it received a below average amount of EU funding in total.

It’s commitments under this TO include the following:

- “Support to enterprises and communities in the preparation of resilience plans and provision of investment support.
- Identification of vulnerabilities related to climate change within SME supply chains to adapt and enhance business continuity plans.
- Capacity building for SMEs developing goods and services that increase resilience of homes/businesses and infrastructure.
- Equipping businesses with information/tools and funding to become resilient to extreme weather (in particular floods and drought) via the BERT project.¹²
- Identifying existing vulnerable infrastructure or potential sites where risks could be reduced in order to facilitate development for growth and developing investment opportunities to reduce the risks.
- Community capacity building to prepare for coastline changes due to increased flood risk.
- Supporting the development of new technologies/tools to improve resilience of homes/businesses and infrastructure.”¹³



The two most significant factors that makes this list of proposals impressive is that, firstly, the focus is not solely on flooding and there is a clear recognition by the LEP of the potential economic damage that **all** climatic risks could have on the area. Secondly, no other LEPs explicitly mention supporting communities “in the preparation of resilience plans,” emphasising that along with identifying business and economic risks, the LEP appreciates the heightened vulnerability climate impacts can have on local people.

All of this work is steered by New Anglia’s Green Economy Pathfinder board, which focuses on all areas of sustainability, including adaptation and water management, and shows a real commitment to the sustainability agenda as a whole.¹⁴

¹² Business Efficient Resilience Toolkit, see <http://www.getbusinessresilient.co.uk/>.

¹³ <http://bit.ly/1Wjhc30>, page 141.

¹⁴ <http://www.newanglia.co.uk/how-can-we-help-you/keep-informed-2/green-economy-pathfinder/>.

ADAPTATION CASE STUDY 2

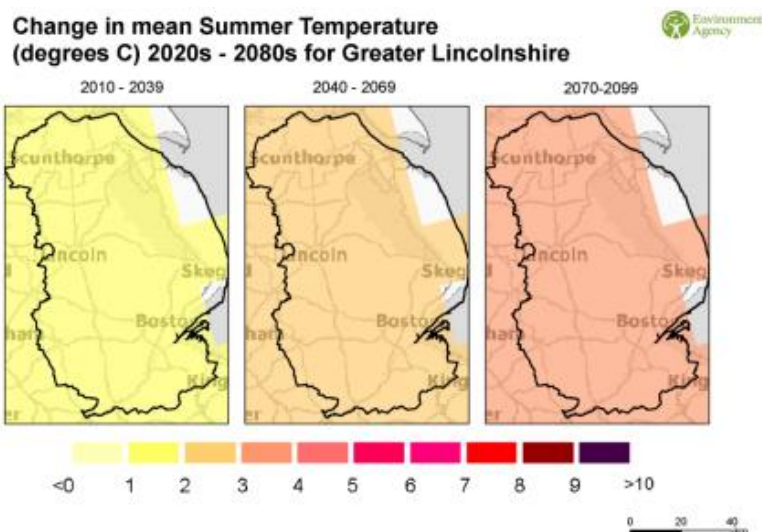
Greater Lincolnshire LEP



Greater Lincolnshire LEP demonstrates a strong understanding of the threats climate change poses to its local economy. It is almost the only LEP to show that it has clearly mapped where its key risks are and where efforts have already been made to tackle these. It is the only LEP to go into significant detail about why adaptation is important to all of the following: economic loss; impacts on the agri-food industry; flooding having an effect on planning permissions and residential housing; pollution; erosion and land degradation; biodiversity loss; tourism; and the impact on vulnerable communities.¹⁵

It's commitment to spend £6.5m under TO5 reflects the understanding of the subject and this money intends to be used to:

- “Better understand the potential impacts of flooding on the agri-food sector locally, as well the impacts on national food supply chains, to secure food production.
- To give an indication of the overall costs to business, one year on from some of the worst flooding that occurred in 2012.
- Support the unique water management issues within the LEP’s ‘rural economy’ area.
- Develop key growth sectors (agri-food, visitor, ports, and housing) currently enabled/constrained by investment in flood risk and water management infrastructure.
- Deliver opportunities to promote growth through delivering water security.
- Consolidate integrated water resource management that, in the longer term, will deliver water security at farm level and, more strategically, via water transfers at catchment level across the LEP area.”¹⁶



The LEP has also recently launched a board-led process to develop a 25 year, water-management plan in association with a range of partners, which includes a pipeline of potential projects to help manage flood risk and conserve water resources. The LEP also runs a series of water for growth workshops, which according to the LEP’s board member, Mark Tinsley, begins the process of “working with partners across Greater Lincolnshire to develop and implement an approach to water management that enables and promotes growth.”¹⁷

¹⁵ http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/downloads/1_GL_EUSIF.pdf, pages 118-136.

¹⁶ http://www.greaterlincolnshirelep.co.uk/assets/downloads/1_GL_EUSIF.pdf, page 137.

¹⁷ Source: Climate UK

ADAPTATION CASE STUDY 3

Humber LEP



The Humber LEP has experienced severe flooding over the last few years and this has led to an urgent need to take action. In East Riding, for example, “the floods resulted in an estimated loss or damage to private property and business well in excess of £200m.”¹⁸ There is a clear recognition of the economic, social and health impacts that flooding has had in the area and the LEP now wants to do something about it. Both its ESIF strategy and its SEP outline a series of priority actions to tackle the problem, including the following six-point plan:

1. “Support investment in flood defences to reduce the risk of flooding – the most significant environmental barrier to development, investor risk and growth in the Humber.
2. Support proposals put forward in the Humber Flood Risk Management Strategy to provide the required defences against tidal flood risk around the whole Estuary to ensure it can grow and prosper.
3. Support proposals put forward in the River Hull Integrated Catchment Strategy to provide the required defences against surface water and river flooding risk within the River Hull catchment, which includes all of the city of Hull.
4. Maximise the benefits of flood defence schemes by linking them with other development and growth proposals such as the Grimsby Docks Flood Defence Scheme.
5. Maximise the economic potential of the Humber LEP area’s unique natural assets through a concerted and partnership approach to sustainable development.
6. Support the development of housing with flood defence, adaptation to climate change and energy efficiency measures.”



Because of the significant impact that flooding has had on the locality, there is a detailed understanding of what the risks are, where the impacts are most likely to occur and what impact that could have. There is also a clear partnership approach to tackling flood risk, which brings about a greater strength to deliver projects on the ground. The River Hull Integrated Catchment Strategy is a good example, where the north bank Humber Flood Risk Management Authorities and other partners are investing over £700,000 in a large infrastructure study.

These partners wish to develop an empirical dataset to demonstrate the need for an estimated £100m of investment in flood risk infrastructure. The project represents a successful multi-agency approach and is sponsored by local, national and European elected representatives. The LEP is supporting this process by working with both lead local flood authorities and businesses within the catchment.¹⁹

¹⁸ <http://www.humberlep.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/Humber-ESIF-Strategy-January-2014.pdf>, page 68

¹⁹ <http://www.humberlep.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/StrategicEconomicPlan.pdf>, pages 86-90.

MITIGATION CASE STUDY 1

Leicester and Leicestershire LEP



The Leicester and Leicestershire LEP (LLEP) area by its own admission has “the highest mean household energy consumption of anywhere in the Country.”²⁰ This, along with a recognition of the benefits of embracing the low carbon agenda, has catalysed an impressive response to mitigating climate change. This is emphasised by appointing a low carbon LEP lead, Dr George Gillespie, who is identified as a low carbon champion in the new sector growth plan.²¹

The LEP has also taken the ambitious approach of implementing two carbon reduction targets; a 50% reduction by 2025 in Leicester city and a 34% reduction by 2020 across the whole county from a 1990 baseline.²² Such targets are commended as a way of monitoring and incentivising a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.



To achieve these targets, the EU ESIF strategy details a number of projects that the LEP will be investing in, including:

- A public sector housing retrofit scheme worth up to £30m, to address the high household energy consumption issue in up to 5,000 houses, including a behaviour change and training programme;
- A programme to support community scale renewable energy and energy efficiency projects;
- Development and support for a large district heating scheme in sustainable urban extensions;
- A co-ordinated programme of support to SMEs and micro businesses to improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon intensity through the LEP’s Low Carbon Business Support Programme;
- The utilisation of the Department for Transport’s Local Sustainable Transport Revenue Fund to deliver a programme of information and training so that individuals and businesses are incentivised to choose sustainable travel in and around the city.

There is also some uniqueness about the LEP’s National Forest Programme²³, which is to occur across LEP boundaries and aim to increase the economic, social and environmental value of the woodlands. It will also utilise the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) mechanism by increasing the extraction of wood fuel to supply low carbon energy.

Also to be admired is the way the LEP uses the sustainability cross-cutting theme, present in the majority of LEP ESIF strategies, as a mechanism to monitor their overall progress on sustainability. However, only a few LEPs attempt to explicitly set out how they will incorporate this into each project, with LLEP being one of them.²⁴

²⁰ http://www.llep.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/03/Final_ESIF_May_2014.pdf, page 46.

²¹ <http://www.llep.org.uk/strategies-and-plans/sector-growth-plans/low-carbon-sector/>

²² http://www.llep.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/03/Final_ESIF_May_2014.pdf, page 45.

²³ http://www.llep.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/03/Final_ESIF_May_2014.pdf, page 50.

²⁴ http://www.llep.org.uk/content/uploads/2015/03/Final_ESIF_May_2014.pdf, e.g. page 44.

MITIGATION CASE STUDY 2

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly LEP



Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CLOS) LEP is embracing renewable energy and this is reflected in it being one of the few LEP areas to have established a target in relation to renewable energy uptake; a 15% share of all UK renewables by 2020. There is also an implemented carbon reduction target of 34% by 2020 in line with the UK's short-term target. This is also clearly being monitored by the LEP to ensure that progress is being made.²⁵

There is also a commitment to ensure that sustainability is being embedded across the whole ESIF programme, via an attempt to estimate the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions likely for each relevant project. The geothermal deployment project, for example, estimates a reduction of 60,000 tonnes CO₂ reduction per annum.²⁶ Also impressive is the LEP's declaration that it has put together an independent sustainability review, "to identify the opportunities to embed sustainable development into the EIF Strategy and its delivery. This has informed an Action Plan, which identifies how we can address these opportunities and how sustainability will be embedded as a key principle within future delivery of the programme."²⁷



In addition, one of the LEP's key objectives is to "invest in activities with growth potential that develop CLOS as a 'green and marine' region."²⁸ The utilisation of the LEP's coastal assets is key to this and, as such, the LEP is one of the most ambitious when it comes to the proposed deployment of renewable energy technologies. It states that their "offshore renewable potential is significant with 34GW of potential in the wider South West. This provides a focus for future investment and we anticipate collaborating with our partners to deliver the vision of the South West Marine Energy Park and the Plymouth City Deal."²⁹ EU investment also includes £40m into marine renewables, £12.5m into geothermal deployment and the same amount invested into heat network developments.³⁰

The investment into marine renewables is particularly impressive as the fund aims to look at the whole lifecycle of renewable technologies, namely "infrastructure requirements of the sector; proof of concept; feasibility studies; consultancy; site investigation; achieving consents and licenses; fabrication; manufacturing; marine operations; and installation."²⁷ The suggestion from this is that CLOS LEP will monitor the success of these projects whilst creating an estimated 280 jobs in the sector. An existing key asset includes The Wave Hub (pictured),³¹ which acts as a test bed for marine renewables so that developers can move concepts to reality.

Other projects aimed at reducing emissions to be funded by the LEP include the establishment of a Low Carbon Fund for SMEs, as part of an overall £80m business support package, and a £12.5m project looking at developing the local energy market and promoting innovative energy storage.

²⁵ <http://bit.ly/1jTz17N>, page 3.

²⁶ <http://bit.ly/20clPeW>, page 66.

²⁷ <http://bit.ly/20clPeW>, page 61.

²⁸ <http://bit.ly/20clPeW>, page 24.

²⁹ <http://bit.ly/20clPeW>, page 11.

³⁰ <http://bit.ly/20clPeW>, page 66-67.

³¹ <http://www.wavehub.co.uk/> for more information.

MITIGATION CASE STUDY 3

Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP



There is an impressive array of low carbon projects to be funded by Greater Birmingham and Solihull (GBS) LEP's EU funding pot. By its own admission, the area is faced with a myriad of challenges relating to the environment, including being:

- One of the worst English regions in the UK for energy efficiency in its housing stock;
- One of the regions least likely to use more sustainable forms of transport;
- A very high net energy importer making it vulnerable to cost and supply shocks.³²

Existing and planned projects aim to address these issues, but it is not all about how much funding should be ploughed into resolutions. Critically, all of the projects aimed at reducing carbon emissions are steered by Birmingham City Council's led Green Commission, a partnership of individuals from a variety of organisations committed to rising to these challenges and achieving the ambitious target of reducing carbon emissions by 60% by 2027 from 1990 levels.³³



Existing, successful projects have already been implemented, such as the establishment of the Birmingham Energy Savers initiative, a partnership between public and private sector aimed at utilising the government's, now closed, Green Deal scheme to apply energy efficiency measures to hard-to-treat properties.³⁴

Using EU funding, GBS LEP now wants to address the remaining issues by focusing on:

- The scaling up of new technologies as part of existing schemes such as Energy Savers and support actions in non-domestic properties that directly achieve measureable carbon reductions, by interventions such as structural retrofit activities and ICT and smart technology rollout;
- Low carbon transport solutions, particularly the development of the cycling and walking infrastructure to connect people to work, along with promotion of and infrastructure for low carbon travel solutions, particularly relating to both plug-ins and hydrogen vehicles;
- ICT development and promotion of modal shift actions, for example, encouraging efforts to provide real-time information to public transport passengers;
- Establishing local low carbon energy supplies to encourage decarbonised local energy generation;
- Expanding the combined heat and power (CHP) and cooling network within the GB&S LEP area for both homes and businesses.³⁵

³² http://centrefenterprise.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GBSLEP_A4_070214_v8.pdf, page 23.

³³ <http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/greencommission>.

³⁴ <http://www.energysaverspartnerships.co.uk/birmingham.aspx>

³⁵ http://centrefenterprise.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/10/GBSLEP_A4_070214_v8.pdf, page 81-88.

LOW CARBON ECONOMY CASE STUDY 1



Leeds City Region LEP

The Leeds City Region (LCR) LEP offers one of the most impressive analyses of their Low Carbon Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector. Their strengths and potential in this area are detailed in the LCR ESIF strategy and there is a strong attempt to quantify the value of the low carbon sector. For example, “LCR estimated that there are 21,000 ‘primary’ green jobs in the area, plus a further 27,000 ‘secondary’ green jobs in companies partially involved in the green economy. The key green economy sectors were expected to double in size by 2020, with LCR particularly strong in energy management/efficiency, environmental consultancy and water supply and treatment.”³⁶

Ways to further develop this sector is overseen by the Green Economy Panel, containing an impressive range of individuals from both the public and private sector. Its aim is to “oversee projects that are helping to develop a cutting-edge energy infrastructure for the region that will drive innovation and contribute to business growth.”³⁷



The LCR LEP area is also home to a series of low carbon demonstration and expertise centres all of which help to stimulate the low carbon economy in different ways. These include:

- **The Centre for Low Carbon Futures**, a collaborative research centre that focuses on the demonstration of low carbon innovations.
- **The Ferrybridge Power Station**, home to the largest Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) pilot in the UK.
- Eight internationally recognised centres of **academic low carbon expertise**.³⁸
- **The Brunel Centre Green Energy Roof and Gas Safe Training Centre** at Kirklees College, a new establishment which will host a low carbon technologies installation training centre.³⁹
- Another project will include a dedicated area to house the **Bio renewables Development Centre**.⁴⁰

Another intervention to be funded by EU money comes in the form of the Resource Smart Supply Programme. This “will target primes that wish to improve the resource efficiency of their supply chain, ensuring more resilient products lines and services and improving both their environmental footprint and their corporate reputation.”⁴¹

³⁶ <http://www.the-lep.com/LEP/media/New/ESIF%20docs/Leeds-City-Region-ESIF-FINAL.pdf>, pages 36-39.

³⁷ <http://www.the-lep.com/about/governance-and-funding/panels-and-advisory-group/>

³⁸ <http://www.the-lep.com/LEP/media/New/ESIF%20docs/Leeds-City-Region-ESIF-FINAL.pdf>, pages 36-37.

³⁹ <http://www.the-lep.com/LEP/media/New/SEP%20documents/PART-B-Delivery-plan.pdf>, page 28.

⁴⁰ <http://www.the-lep.com/LEP/media/New/SEP%20documents/PART-B-Delivery-plan.pdf>, page 49.

⁴¹ <http://www.the-lep.com/LEP/media/New/ESIF%20docs/Leeds-City-Region-ESIF-FINAL.pdf>, page 122.

LOW CARBON ECONOMY CASE STUDY 2

D2N2 LEP



Opportunity mapping is not something that too many LEPs have attempted to do in relation to the low carbon sector, so the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) LEP must be commended for their efforts to summarise this within their EU funding strategy. Key sectors and opportunities have been recognised in power generation, low carbon buildings construction, carbon capture and storage, environmental services and low carbon vehicles and fuels. Critically, there is also an awareness of the factors that are currently holding back the growth of the LCEGS sector which is important so that future interventions can be targeted correctly.

As such, D2N2 LEP is committed to investment in:

- “Assisting the market to develop, design and manufacture materials, goods and services with embedded low carbon technologies.
- Deployment of localised carbon capture and utilisation, energy storage and waste to energy projects and infrastructure.
- Support business to engage in knowledge transfer with HEIs and FEIs to encourage commercialisation of low carbon technologies, including R&D, innovation and supply chain development for low carbon technologies and materials.
- Actions aligned to the government’s Waste Prevention Programme which drive low carbon innovation in relation to waste and re-use.
- Development of technology centres of excellence, manufacturing clusters and the development of appropriate test facilities and deployment infrastructure.”⁴²



D2N2 LEP also explicitly outlines how it will use other financial instruments to match fund projects; this includes the Green Investment Bank.

There is also an impressive range of low carbon centres of excellence either already developed or to be funded via EU streams. One such example is the Nottingham Cleantech Centre, which provides incubation space for entrepreneurs, start-ups and small companies that manufacture and work with low carbon technologies and products.⁴³ There is also a desire to fund the development of more technology centres of excellence, manufacturing clusters and appropriate test facilities.⁴⁴

D2N2 LEP should also be commended for including a section in their latest Annual Report that specifically outlines the LEP’s progress at developing LCEGS, once again emphasising how important it deems this sector to be.⁴⁵

⁴² http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Documents/D2N2_ESIF_Strategy_May_2014_web.pdf, pages 45-47.

⁴³ <http://cleantechcentre.co.uk/>

⁴⁴ http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Documents/D2N2_ESIF_Strategy_May_2014_web.pdf, page 47.

⁴⁵ http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Annual%20Conference/D2N2_-_201414_Annual_Review_Full.pdf, page 15.

LOW CARBON ECONOMY CASE STUDY 3

Cheshire and Warrington LEP



One of the biggest successes of the Cheshire and Warrington (C&W) LEP in relation to the low carbon economy is their attempt to work with other partners and integrate the theme into every aspect of their work. One of the ways it is doing this is by working across LEP boundaries, not something that many other LEPs have explicitly mentioned in relation to low carbon projects.

For example, C&W LEP is going to work with Liverpool and Manchester LEPs, by "exploring opportunities to develop and grow a low carbon economy that supports economic growth whilst minimising potential harmful impacts. This will include identifying niches for businesses across three LEPs to take a leading role nationally." C&W LEP is gaining a clear advantage by having the foresight to work alongside two neighbouring authorities with significant urbanised areas. The LEP has also demonstrated working with Stoke and Staffordshire LEP in utilising the Green Deal fund.⁴⁶

In addition to cross-LEP working, C&W LEP is maximising its allocation of EU funding to ensure that the low carbon economy is addressed throughout the ESIF programme. Sustainability is mentioned as being a cross-cutting theme in most LEP strategies, but C&W LEP is a little more specific, outlining that the LEP will:



- "Support eco-innovation and the wider development of the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector; and
- Develop the skills needed to support the growth of low carbon and environmental sectors and the application of sustainable development principles more widely."⁴⁷

In addition, the LEP is allocating funding under a specific Low Carbon Markets strategic activity. This includes "assisting the market to develop, design and manufacture materials, goods and services with embedded low carbon technologies" and "supporting business to engage in knowledge transfer with HEIs and FEIs to encourage commercialisation of low carbon technologies, including R&D, innovation and supply chain development for low carbon technologies and materials." In terms of the latter, it is one of only a handful of LEPs that is working specifically with higher/further education institutions and, as such, must be applauded for wanting to engage young people with the LCEGS sector early on in their development.⁴⁸

There is also an array of related centres of excellence aimed at stimulating the sector, both in existence and in the pipeline. Already operating is the Cheshire Science Corridor, within which is the SMART Grid Demonstrator. This is a shared facility to help meet growth needs of the energy sector, allowing businesses to test new technologies and model usage.⁴⁹ Then, via EU funds, the LEP wishes to invest in technology centres of excellence, manufacturing clusters and the development of appropriate test facilities and deployment infrastructure.

⁴⁶ <http://bit.ly/1VHGXPj>, pages 94-95

⁴⁷ <http://bit.ly/1VHGXPj>, page 71.

⁴⁸ <http://bit.ly/1VHGXPj>, page 49.

⁴⁹ <http://bit.ly/1MvgYKj>, page 41.

5. Recommendations

From the results of the research and good practice case studies, a series of recommendations are set out for the different audiences of this report.

National – For organisations such as Climate UK, the Environment Agency, Natural England, DECC, DCLG and Defra, along with those that either provide national or local support to LEPs such as the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP):

- This current benchmark and criteria provides a good starting point for government and LEPs to agree clear climate change criteria and expectations of LEPs and partners. This guidance should include how agreed criteria will be assessed and measured, the flexibility for local interpretation, resources to help, and the rewards and consequences of good and poor performance.
- All LEPs should be required to provide an annual report on their website. The annual report should include progress on climate ready and low carbon economy priorities. These actions should be consistently reflected in any future reiterations of LEP strategies such as SEPs, ESIF and Local Growth Deals. Key national metrics in annual reports could include productivity losses due to extreme weather events, overall greenhouse gas reduction, and growth of key low carbon business sectors.
- The DCLG EU funding assessment teams and local technical assistance partners should be jointly trained and supported on climate risk assessment, greenhouse gas reduction, and promotion of the low carbon economy at the programme and project level. This would help improve the quality and outcomes of the new EU funded projects the LEPs advise on locally.
- There should be an annual event with the national LEP network and partners to share the progress, challenges and new good practice identified through the climate ready and low carbon economy benchmarking process. Like other LEP network events this also provides a forum for LEPs to feedback support ideas to government. The 8 March 2016 event in Birmingham is intended as the first of these type of events.
- Next year the benchmark could be done by individual LEPs updating their own baseline assessment and then it being independently reviewed and collated by an organisation such as Climate UK. This review could also move from the strategies to focus on the programme and project implementation level.
- As part of the devolution agenda, government should resource clusters of leading LEPs on key sustainability themes to help drive local delivery and innovation to inform national policy, devolution deals and drive up performance where local delivery is poor. For example by extending the current national ‘pathfinder’ of New Anglian LEP to include another 3-4 LEPs across England able to provide good practice support.

- The evidence presented in this report shows where additional areas of support and intervention are required by government, both in terms of themes (e.g. adaptation) and geographical clustering (e.g. the South East). It is recommended that appropriate interventions are considered such as resources for pathfinder LEPs, Climate UK, the Environment Agency, and the national LEP network to help provide targeted help such as local workshops and peer support from leading LEPs.

Local – For LEP Board members, champions and their supporting working groups that are tasked to specifically progress climate change and low carbon issues, as well as the broader LEP Boards, local authority sustainability teams or those who manage external funding sources in local authorities on behalf of the LEP, nominated environment and sustainability champion on the LEP area local ESIF committees.

- Identifying a sustainability board champion and/or establishing a sustainability working group can help drive forward results and should be considered in all LEPs and published on the website.
- The detailed benchmark for the individual LEP produced for this research can help inform an annual work plan for the board champion and working group. For example the relevant LEP champion or partner responsible for this agenda locally should contact enquiries@swm.org.uk for a copy. Depending on your requirements and resources SWM as a member of Climate UK can then put you in touch with a relevant support organisation.
- Decide what you are going to report on and put this within your monitoring framework and publish this with your annual report.
- Manage stakeholders' expectations given limited resources and remit and identify practical areas where they can help improve the benchmarking scores. This could include help with sites, programmes, projects, leveraging in other national pilots and resources, or using their campaigning skills to influence the national framework within which LEPs have to operate.
- Embedding relevant elements of climate change and the low carbon criteria into all programmes and projects will ultimately help achieve more resilient growth and productivity gains, than relying only on a separate climate change and carbon programme.
- Cross-LEP working is not common on this agenda and by doing this more often this would help to achieve potentially bigger results with less resource requirements. This is especially true with LEPs reshaping their boundaries to reflect the emerging combined local authority agenda.

Annex 1: Criteria Used

Below shows the criteria used to assess the climate change and low carbon economic commitment of each LEP. Each of these criterion was scored 0-3 as per the methodology detailed in section 2.

A = Adaptation, M = Mitigation, LCE = Low Carbon Economy

A: LEADERSHIP

A1a	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate adaptation is important to the local economy?	A
A1b	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate change mitigation is important to the local economy?	M
A1c	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why stimulating the low carbon economy is important to the local area?	LCE
A2a	Is there evidence of a climate change adaptation lead or champion on the LEP Board?	A
A2b	Is there evidence of a carbon reduction or low carbon economy lead or champion on the LEP Board?	M LCE
A3a	Is there evidence of an established working group to lead on identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to develop adaptation actions?	A
A3b	Is there evidence of an established working group to lead on identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver low carbon actions and stimulate the low carbon economy?	M LCE
A4a	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint adaptation actions (e.g. developing cross-boundary flood alleviation programmes)?	A
A4b	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint low carbon actions (e.g. developing large scale housing retrofit schemes)?	M LCE

B: STRATEGY

B1	Is there evidence of understanding the climate risks affecting critical elements of your economy (e.g. large businesses; industrial parks; key clusters and sectors)?	A
B2a	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's strengths in producing adaptation goods and services, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	A
B2b	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's low carbon businesses and infrastructure, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	LCE
B3	Is there evidence of the LEP measuring its impact on the environment, in particular in relation to the implementation of carbon reduction targets?	M
B4	Is there evidence of a clear commitment to fund the development of renewable or low carbon technologies in the LEP area and are there any targets associated with renewable energy uptake?	M
B5a	Is there evidence of any local planning policies in place to adapt local infrastructure and developments to climate change (e.g. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) or green infrastructure)?	A
B5b	Is there evidence of any local planning policies in place to reduce carbon (e.g. standards for energy efficiency, use of renewable or decentralised energy in new developments)?	M

B6	Is there evidence of sufficient sites and premises in development for low carbon businesses to thrive (e.g. incubator sites, demonstrators, Enterprise Zones etc.)?	LCE
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C: DELIVERY

C1a	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver climate adaptation objectives?	A
C1b	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver carbon reduction objectives?	M
C1c	Is there evidence of a commitment to fund the development of specific projects that will help deliver objectives in relation to stimulating the low carbon economy?	LCE
C2a	At overall programme level, what systems are in place to monitor and appraise the overall impact of all funded projects on climate adaptation objectives (e.g. no. businesses exposed to extreme weather)?	A
C2b	At overall programme level, what systems are in place to monitor and appraise the overall impact of all funded projects on carbon reduction objectives (e.g. measurement of carbon emissions)?	M
C2c	At overall programme level, what systems are in place to monitor and appraise the overall impact of all funded projects on low carbon economic objectives (e.g. monitoring of business growth figures)?	LCE
C3a	Are actions underway to strengthen the resilience of local businesses and supply chains (e.g. signposting to guidance, advice or training)?	A
C3b	Are actions underway to strengthen local businesses and supply chains by reducing energy, carbon and waste costs (e.g. signposting to environmental networks or advice)?	M
C3c	Are actions underway to strengthen local businesses and supply chains for low carbon technologies and services (e.g. meet the buyer events, networking between suppliers, raising awareness of low carbon opportunities amongst businesses)?	LCE
C4a	Is there evidence that the LEP is ensuring that the local area is accessing and benefitting from various Government or other funding schemes relevant to climate adaptation (e.g. EA Flood Defence Scheme)?	A
C4b	Is there evidence that the LEP is ensuring that the local area is accessing and benefitting from various Government or other funding schemes relevant to climate change mitigation (e.g. Feed in Tariffs or Renewable Heat Incentive)?	M
C4c	Is there evidence that the LEP is ensuring that the local area is accessing and benefitting from various Government or other funding schemes to help stimulate the low carbon economy (e.g. Regional Grow Fund, Growth and Innovation Fund, apprenticeship schemes, Green Investment Bank etc.)?	LCE

The screenshot overleaf shows a snapshot of the spreadsheet that was used to collate the information and score each LEP based on the above criteria.

REGION
LEP

[Website](#)
[ESIF Strategy](#)
[SEP Strategy](#)
[Annual Report](#)

0 - No
evidence

1 - Some
evidence

2 - Good
evidence

3 - Leading
evidence

Criteria (A = Adaptation, M = Mitigation, LCE = Low Carbon Economy)			Origin of evidence			Overall Score	Comments and Evidence	Case study?
			SEP	ESIF	AR			
A. LEADERSHIP								
A1a	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate adaptation is important to the local economy?	A				0		
A1b	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why climate change mitigation is important to the local economy?	M				0		
A1c	Is there evidence of the LEP providing strong leadership and communicating messages on why stimulating the low carbon economy is important to the local area?	LCE				0		
A2a	Is there evidence of a climate change adaptation lead or champion on the LEP Board?	A				0		
A2b	Is there evidence of a carbon reduction or low carbon economy lead or champion on the LEP Board?	M / LCE				0		
A3a	Is there evidence of an established working group to lead on identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to develop adaptation actions?	A				0		
A3b	Is there evidence of an established working group to lead on identifying and developing actions with cross-sector partners to deliver low carbon actions and stimulate the low carbon economy?	M / LCE				0		
A4a	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint adaptation actions (e.g. developing cross-boundary flood alleviation programmes)?	A				0		
A4b	Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint low carbon actions (e.g. developing large scale housing retrofit schemes)?	M / LCE				0		
B. STRATEGY								
Local evidence								
B1	Is there evidence of understanding the climate risks affecting critical elements of your economy (e.g. large businesses; industrial parks; key clusters and sectors)?	A				0		
B2a	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's strengths in producing adaptation goods and services, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	A				0		
B2b	Is there any evidence of analysing your area's low carbon businesses and infrastructure, e.g. by mapping or developing a SWOT analysis?	LCE				0		
B3	Is there evidence of the LEP measuring its impact on the environment, in particular in relation to the implementation of carbon reduction targets?	M				0		
B4	Is there evidence of a clear commitment to fund the development of renewable or low carbon technologies in the LEP area and are there any targets associated with renewable energy uptake?	M				0		
Planning, infrastructure and design								
B5a	Is there evidence of any local planning policies in place to adapt local infrastructure and developments to climate change (e.g. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) or green infrastructure)?	A				0		
B5b	Is there evidence of any local planning policies in place to reduce carbon (e.g. standards for energy efficiency, use of renewable or decentralised energy in new developments)?	M				0		
B6	Is there evidence of sufficient sites and premises in development for low carbon businesses to thrive (e.g. incubator sites, demonstrators, Enterprise Zones etc)?	LCE				0		

Annex 2: Useful Sources of Help available

Detailed results for individual LEPs are available upon request by the relevant LEP champion or partner responsible for this agenda locally. Please contact enquiries@swm.org.uk

Depending on your requirements and resources SWM can then put you in touch with a relevant support organisation. Several examples are listed below.

Climate UK

Climate UK⁵⁰ is not-for-profit Community Interest Company. We represent the UK's leading national network of 10,000 local practitioners and partners. We carry out a variety of national and local projects that:

- Support local organisations to respond to the changing climate;
- Increase their awareness and build their capacity; and
- Provide them with tools and resources to take appropriate action now and in the future.

We can work with your designated LEP Board champion, EU funding committee environment representative, and local officer and stakeholder groups to develop a programme of support activity that will help meet you fulfil the latest requirements, but also demonstrate leadership in making this agenda work for your longer term agenda and plans.

Further information on the Offer

For information on how to take forward any aspect of this offer locally please contact info@climate.uk.net.

Sustainability West Midlands

We are the sustainability adviser for the leaders of the West Midlands.⁵¹ We are also the regional sustainability champion body for the West Midlands, designated by government. We are a not-for-profit company that works with our members in the business, public and voluntary sectors. We can help LEPs in a number of ways:

- In the West Midlands we deliver the Climate UK offer, and form part of Climate UK project teams to deliver nationally.

⁵⁰ See <http://climateuk.net/>

⁵¹ See <http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/>.

- Using our [West Midlands LEP low carbon leadership network](#) we have worked with a number of local LEPs to share good practice, develop joint projects, and [an investment prospectus](#).

Further information on the Offer

For information on how to take forward any aspect of this offer in the West Midlands please contact enquiries@swm.org.uk.

Defra Network

The Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission and the Marine Management Organisation – the Defra Network - can help support sustainable growth with climate change at its heart through our local and national service and our resources, networks and expertise.

We are easy to do business with

We will provide high quality advice quickly on planning, permit and licence applications and help business meet the requirements of environmental legislation.

We actively facilitate sustainable growth – to promote growth that is resilient to a changing climate.

We will work with businesses and communities to manage current and future flood risk and coastal erosion and encourage the sustainable management of water and land through investing government money in schemes, supporting long-term affordable approaches, advising on future flood, drought and advising on land management.

We will promote the value of Green Infrastructure to business, communities and the environment through encouraging inward investment by making places better to live and work in, strengthening environmental assets that underpin growth and promoting Green Infrastructure in the built environment that helps us deal with a changing climate, including reducing the urban heat island effect and providing more resilient habitats.

We will build the visitor economy and strengthening supply chains through strengthening farm and woodland-based business collaboration between owners and help ensure supply chains are resilient to a changing climate. For example, by encouraging the appropriate use of more British grown wood and link potential end users to woodland owners.

We will maximise skills and knowledge for businesses and the jobs market through building skills and capacity in the forestry, agri-environment and natural environment sectors to improve business management, resource efficiency and environmental improvement. Also use the natural environment to provide training and development opportunities to help get people into jobs and career development.

We use our evidence and knowledge to help business grow sustainably

We will share our evidence and knowledge in ways that are relevant and compelling for LEPs and work with them to help them understand and manage the relationship between the economy and the environment to bring a long term perspective to growth decisions. We will map environmental assets and issues to help businesses identify opportunities for economic growth and make available a toolkit that helps LEPs and their partners better understand the relationship between the economy and the environment in strategic economic planning.

Further information on the Offer

For information on how to take forward any aspect of this offer locally please contact:
defranetworkoffer@environment-agency.gov.uk.