



The Green Bridge Supply Chain

Programme is a competition based fund which will provide grant support for existing Small to Medium sized Enterprises (SMEs) within the West Midlands Region. The programme is funded by the Regional Growth Fund and runs from **June 2013** until **March 2015**.

Financial Assistance available:

A grant award of between £20,000 and £100,000* is available, to support SMEs which are:

- Operating within the green sector or seeking to diversify into the sector
- Demonstrating viability and financial capability to deliver the project
- Seeking to implement an investment plan which helps to develop and grow the business
- Creating sustainable new jobs and/or safeguarding existing jobs

**Applications over £100k may be considered, where the applicant demonstrates significant economic benefits to the West Midlands both in terms of the level of investment and new job creation.*

Type of Projects that can be considered:

- The purchase of capital equipment and improvements in systems or processes (grants up to 35% of eligible costs)
- Relocation and expansion into new premises (grants up to 35% of eligible costs)

- New market development (grants up to 50% of eligible costs)
- New product development (grants up to 50% of eligible costs)
- Development of management and staff capability to support the project (up to 25% grant of eligible costs specific to in company training and maximum 60% grant of eligible costs towards NVQ based qualifications)

Eligibility Criteria:

To qualify for consideration, businesses must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Be an existing SME (trading for 6 months or more)
- Employ less than 250 people
- Operate in the green economy or seeking to diversify into the sector
- Have an investment plan to develop and grow the business
- Have a viable project that qualifies for the minimum grant of £20,000
- Create new jobs and/or safeguard existing jobs as a direct result of the project implementation (sustainable for 3 years or more)
- Be based in the West Midlands Region (see map on back page)
- Be based in one of the eligible sectors (as identified on the next page)
- Be State Aid compliant
- Have a project which will be completed by **March 2015**

Eligible Sectors in the green economy:

- n Advanced engineering
- n Aerospace
- n Low carbon and renewable energy
- n Electronics
- n Other manufacturing
- n Building technologies
- n Transport and logistics

How to Apply:

This is a **competition** based programme, where the funding will only be available for a limited period.

Round 3 of the competition opens on **7th October 2013** and closes on **1st November 2013**. Application forms must be submitted before the closing date. Applications submitted after the closing date will not be taken into account in the assessment process.

The Competition Brief, Guidance for Applicants and Application Form are available on www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge, along with the 6 Local Enterprise Partnership and Birmingham Chamber Group websites.

Each application will be subject to a project and financial assessment against set criteria.

The assessment process will take place in **November 2013** and it is expected that decisions will be announced in **December 2013**.

Recommendations will be made to The Independent Board which will take the final decisions on those applications that will receive funding.

Project Partners:

Birmingham City Council and 6 Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) across the West Midlands are working together to deliver this important initiative. These are the Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, Staffordshire & Stoke, The Marches and Worcestershire LEPs together with the Birmingham Chamber Group.



The Eligible Area:

The West Midlands Region



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RNID TYPETALK **18001 0121 303 3150**

Further details of this programme can be obtained from:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge

GREEN BRIDGE

renewable energy • low carbon • building technologies

SUPPLY CHAIN PROGRAMME

manufacturing • transport • logistics

for SMEs

Grant Support of £20k – £100k

available to support
existing SME supply chain companies
to help grow and diversify
into the green sector

3rd Round

This programme is delivered in partnership with
6 Local Enterprise Partnerships across the West Midlands region

BIS | Department for Business
Innovation & Skills

 Regional Growth Fund

 **Birmingham City Council**

**Greater Birmingham
& Solihull**
Local Enterprise Partnership