



# How Green is your Local Enterprise Partnership?

## A guide for LEPs to deliver the low carbon economy.

Prepared for Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands  
By Sustainability West Midlands

April 2012

## Foreword

Our research has shown that to create a competitive low carbon place some of the criteria are to have a clear leadership, structures and strategy to influence a range of partners. The West Midlands produced the UK's first regional low carbon economic strategy building on the existing strong progress of many partners. The challenge now is to continue this momentum through the new structures of the six Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) that cover the West Midlands and to build alliances between these LEPs and surrounding areas.

A good start is to understand what a low carbon economy is and how it can be delivered and supported through a LEP. Then you can identify the improvements you need to make as a LEP and how to measure progress. This self-awareness then helps when developing alliances with others.

Sustainability West Midlands (SWM) was commissioned by Improvement and Efficiency West Midlands (IEWM) to deliver the Green Jobs strand of the *West Midlands Local Authority Low Carbon Economy Programme* as part of the extension of our business programme funded by Advantage West Midlands and Defra. This included developing this guidance for LEPs.

Thanks to our associate Steve Owen who helped to pull together the evidence and views from our business, local authorities, and voluntary sector members, and the feedback from the West Midlands low carbon leadership summit for LEPs in July 2011, the first such summit held in the UK.

We are using this guide to help assess LEPs in the West Midlands and advise on priorities for improvement. To date this has involved providing briefings, speakers, and support for all West Midlands LEPs in some form. We have also coordinated and supported Green Business Clubs and networks and summarised the existing regional low carbon evidence base for LEPs to draw on.

The next stage is developing a low carbon cross-LEP leadership programme that will deliver joint projects and value for an alliance of West Midlands LEPs wanting to raise their profile and delivery of the low carbon economy on a competitive national and international stage.

We look forward to sharing your practice and helping you as you use the opportunity of the low carbon economy to shape your LEP and a positive future for your businesses and communities.

Dr Simon Slater

Executive Director, Sustainability West Midlands

April 2012

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## Report information

### **Title: How Green is your Local Enterprise Partnership?**

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**Client:** West Midlands Businesses, Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Authorities seeking to help their LEP deliver a low carbon economy.

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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. By 2012 our leaders are clear on what this looks like, have set milestones, and their organisations are making strong progress.

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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# 1 Introduction

The Local Growth White Paper (October 2010) states that Local Enterprise Partnerships will provide the clear vision and strategic leadership to drive sustainable private sector-led growth and job creation in their area. The White Paper outlines potential roles of LEPs and specifically highlights the important role that they can play in helping to develop the low carbon economy to contribute to local economic growth and job creation.

The low carbon economy has been identified as a priority by many of the LEPs around the country (1), but to date, far fewer LEPs have actually identified specific actions that they will implement in order to develop the low carbon economy (2).

This guide sets out:

- What does the low carbon economy look like?
- How can LEP functions, structures and funding deliver a low carbon economy?
- LEP checklist to assess your progress and areas for improvement
- Other sources of help and support

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(1) 86% of LEP submissions in September 2010 identified the low carbon economy as a priority area – based on research by SQW “Local Enterprise Partnerships – A new era begins?”, 2010.

(2) Is Localism delivering for climate change, Green Alliance 2011

## 2 What does the low carbon economy look like?

### 2.1 Developing a sustainable or low carbon economy?

There is an ongoing debate about what a more sustainable economy would look like that would contribute to broader social and environmental goals.

The concept of a low carbon economy provides enough of a focus on productivity and carbon reduction to begin this journey in creating a better future for us all, while allowing the debate to continue about what the final destination will look like.

For example the development of the low carbon economy contributes to the integrated economic, social and environmental objectives of sustainable development and helps to generate employment, business opportunities, skills and modern infrastructure, at the same time as reducing energy and waste costs for businesses, carbon emissions, fuel poverty and impacts on the environment.

However wider economic, social and environmental issues such as inclusion, demographic change, globalisation, security of supply of future resources, and an increase of extreme weather events will also need to be considered when developing broader sustainable economic strategies for the future.

This can be helped by sustainability appraisals, but what is more important is that a strategy for an area has a clear vision and plan to get there. A focus on the low carbon economy is a vital starting point.

### 2.2 Definition of a low carbon economy

The low carbon economy can be defined as:

“An economy that produces goods and services of increasing value whilst reducing associated greenhouse gas emissions to meet UK climate change targets of reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 80% by 2050 based on 1990 levels”<sup>(3)</sup>.

This requires a whole economy approach to improve productivity while reducing carbon.

### 2.3 Improving productivity and creating jobs

This can be achieved through either the more efficient production, use, and disposal of existing products and services or the diversification into developing specific products and solutions required to help reduce carbon and resource use while producing goods and services of value. Some sectors lend themselves more to efficiency others to diversification and innovation. In terms of employment and skills there will be a broad spectrum required, but the existing barriers to economic inclusion still need to be addressed if the opportunities for more people to benefit from economic growth are to be realised.

Growth in the low carbon economy is generating major business opportunities and research commissioned by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) estimated that the global market value of the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector was around £3.2 trillion in 2008/9. The market in the UK was worth £112 billion and employed almost 910,000 people – and the West Midlands’ share of the UK market is

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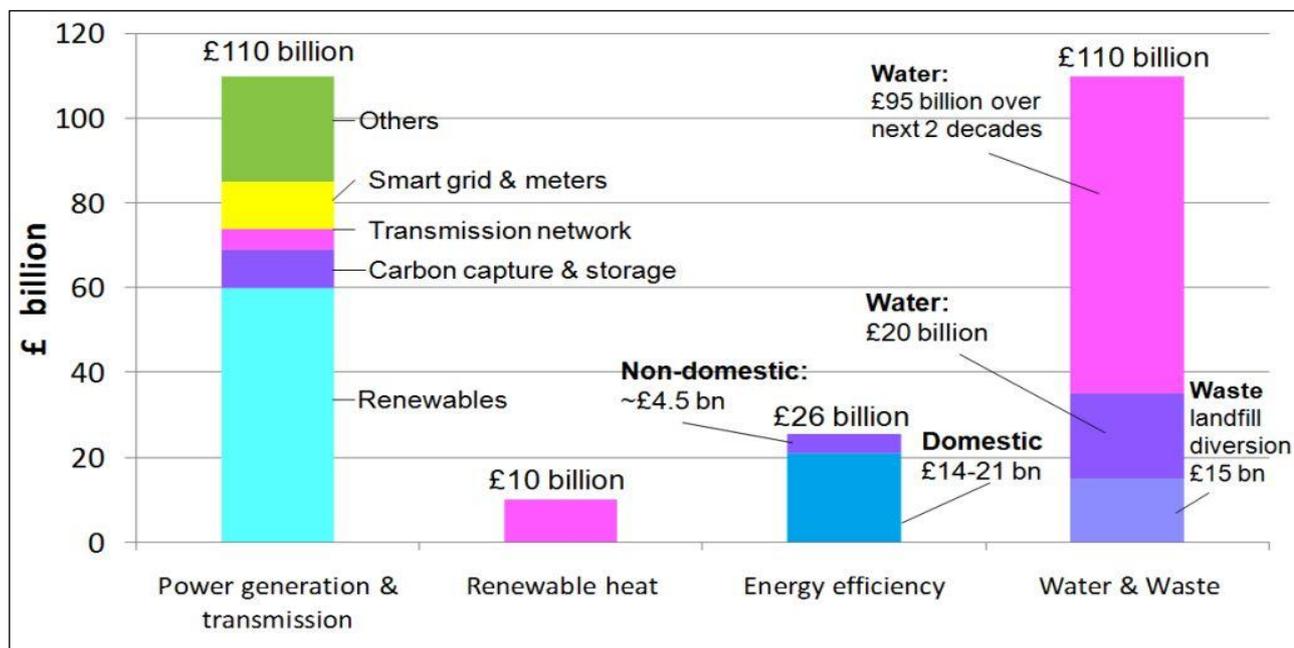
<sup>(3)</sup> Definition based on the definition contained in West Midlands Economic Strategy Connecting to Success, page 89

approximately £9 billion. The UK's low carbon and environmental goods and services sectors are projected to grow to almost £165 billion by 2015. These potential new markets are growing all the time.

In the UK major investments are needed to achieve the shift to the low carbon economy and Figure 1 shows Government estimates for low carbon investment needed in the UK between 2010-2020 to meet CO2 reduction targets, renewable energy, waste and water quality targets. Examples include:

- **Power generation and transmission:** at least £110 billion over the period of 2010–20, including £50–60 billion in renewables; £9 billion in carbon capture and storage; £4.7 billion in transmission network; and £11 billion in smart grid and smart meters.
- **Renewable Heat:** £10 billion of investment by 2020.
- **Energy efficiency:** non-domestic energy efficiency in industry and commercial buildings could require ~£4.5 billion investment; and domestic energy efficiency could potentially involve 16 million separate new installations by 2020, costing £14 billion to £21 billion.
- **Transport:** major investments in rail rolling stock and electrification, low carbon vehicle charging networks.
- **Water and waste:** £15 billion of investment to divert waste from landfill. £20 billion investment over the next five years to maintain and improve the public water supply and an estimated £95 billion in water and wastewater over the next two decades.

**Figure 1: Government estimates of UK investment needed between 2010 and 2020 to meet targets for CO2 emissions, renewable energy, waste and water**



Source: BIS, Green Investment Bank update, May 2011

Government initiatives such as the Green Deal, Feed in Tariffs, the Renewable Heat Incentive, the Code for Sustainable Homes and the establishment of the Green Investment Bank will help to deliver some of these investments. For example, the Green Deal, which represents “the biggest home improvement programme since Second World War”, with up to £10,000 invested in energy efficiency improvements per home, which could drive £7 billion expenditure annually over next 20 years and support approximately 250,000 jobs in home energy efficiency improvements.

Also private sector and institutional investors are interested in opportunities, especially in large scale infrastructure projects where a certain degree of risk is underwritten by the public sector, or it is a joint venture.

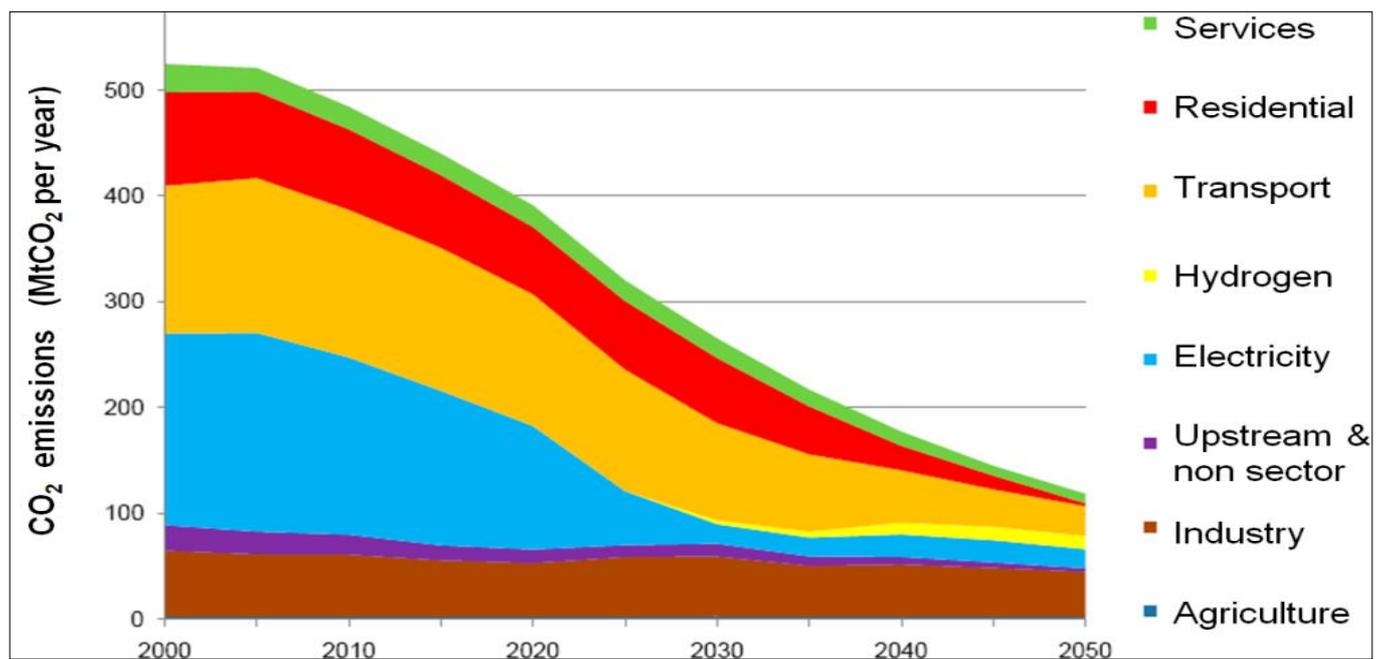
There are also clear economic drivers for growth in the low carbon economy, based on long term increases in energy costs and the need to increase national energy security – as highlighted in documents such as the Stern Review. With global population growth and economic development in countries such as China, India and South America, global energy demand is forecast to increase by 36% from 2010 to 2035, and with this, energy costs are forecast to continue to increase over the long term, as well as being prone to greater short term price ‘spikes’ and fluctuations.

## 2.4 Reducing carbon emissions and use of resources

To achieve the 2050 reduction target, each unit of UK economic output will need to be produced with just one tenth of the associated CO2 emissions, and the linkage between economic growth and increased energy and resource use will need to be broken.

As shown in Figure 2, virtually every sector of the economy will need to achieve major emission reductions, requiring significant change in energy generation, manufacturing processes, transport, service delivery, building design, resource use and energy use in businesses, the public sector and households.

Figure 2: UK sectoral CO2 emissions to 2050 on an 80% emissions reduction path



Source: Committee on Climate Change (December 2008)

## 2.5 What would a low carbon economy look like?

Low carbon economy opportunities relate both to businesses supplying low carbon goods and services (the 'supply side' e.g. production of energy efficient light bulbs) and businesses making use of these goods and services (the 'demand side' e.g. offices reducing lighting energy costs). In this way, the low carbon economy is generating opportunities throughout the UK economy, not just for suppliers of low carbon and environmental goods and services, but also for businesses who can diversify into supplying these goods and services and businesses which can improve their energy efficiency or energy performance of their products and services.

For example, major opportunities exist in sectors such as:

- **construction** - in delivering low carbon buildings;
- **automotives** - in designing highly fuel efficient vehicles;
- **health and other public sectors** – in improving energy efficiency of buildings;
- **engineering** – in developing renewable and low carbon technologies and components;
- **agriculture** – in providing biofuels, organic waste and water efficient crops;
- **retail** – in providing products and distribution with lower carbon footprints;

It is also important to recognise that the voluntary and community sector also has an important role to play in the low carbon economy, through stimulating local initiatives and via social enterprise activity involved in recycling and sustainable energy (e.g. community ownership of renewable energy installations, bulky goods re-use, organic waste composting, installation of insulation and energy efficiency measures in low income homes).

Therefore the elements within a low carbon economy will vary, but most economies would include the components set out in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Components of the low carbon economy**

**Low carbon energy generation and transmission** , including:

- Renewable energy generation, such as hydro, wave, tidal, biomass, anaerobic digestion, wind, geothermal, solar thermal, solar photovoltaic.
- Low carbon energy generation, such as: Combined Heat and Power, Carbon Capture and Storage, new nuclear.
- Efficient energy transmission, for example energy is transmitted via efficient distribution networks, with reduced transmission losses and incorporating 'smart grid' and metering technologies to allow for decentralised energy generation in homes and businesses, sometimes drawing from the energy grid and sometimes contributing to it.

**Low carbon buildings and construction**, including:

- Low carbon building design.
- Energy efficiency in retrofit of existing homes and buildings.
- Materials: recycled content, insulation etc.
- Technologies: micro-generation renewables, energy metering, efficient boilers, micro Combined Heat and Power (CHP) boilers.
- Services: construction, electrical, heating, plumbing, energy management and behaviour change.

**Low carbon transport**, including:

- Vehicles: highly fuel efficient vehicles, electric cars, use of alternative fuels vehicles, plug-in hybrids, rise in bikes and electric scooters.
- Infrastructure: recharging and fuel infrastructure, local shared office space for flexible working.
- Behaviour change: sustainable travel planning to increase use of public transport and smart use of other modes.

**Waste / resource use efficiency** , including:

- Waste is minimised, in line with the waste hierarchy of reduction/reuse/recycling, products incorporate high levels of recycled materials and energy is generated from residual waste.
- Technologies and services to reduce, collect, process, reuse and recycle materials.

**Environmental management and pollution control**, including:

- Environmental consultancy, environmental monitoring; marine pollution control; air pollution control, noise and vibration.
- Contaminated land remediation.
- Waste management, water supply and waste-water treatment.
- Environmental infrastructure of green and blue space, for recreation, food, health, and climate resilience.

**Low carbon manufacturing, products and services** including:

- Low carbon workplaces - low carbon buildings, equipment, travel, use of resources and ICT.
- Low carbon and resource efficient manufacturing processes, product design and use from 'cradle to grave'.
- Applied to all sectors to minimise use of energy and resources, eg. in automotives, construction, health services, retail and distribution.

Source: Sustainability West Midlands, July 2011

### 3 How can LEP functions, structures, and funding deliver a low carbon economy?

#### 3.1 Delivering the low carbon economy through LEP functions

The Government is not being prescriptive over the exact roles of LEPs and the Local Growth White Paper sets out potential roles and functions, including in:

- Setting local economic priorities.
- Planning and infrastructure.
- Business advice and support, including access to finance.
- Skills
- Innovation
- Inward investment and international trade.
- Local transport priorities.
- Low carbon economic growth.
- Cooperation between LEPs.

In delivering these roles, there is considerable scope for LEPs to support development and help to create the conditions for a thriving low carbon economy – as outlined in Table 1 below.

**Table 1 Delivering the low carbon economy through LEP functions**

LEP FUNCTIONS:	POTENTIAL LEP LOW CARBON ECONOMY ACTIONS:
<p><b>Setting local economic and investment priorities</b></p>	<p>Identify local priorities for developing the low carbon economy – based upon understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• impacts of rising energy and resource costs on local businesses and other organisations;</li> <li>• opportunities for businesses – both for accessing markets for low carbon goods and services, and for reducing their energy, resources and waste costs;</li> <li>• local strengths in the low carbon economy, based on existing businesses, centres of ‘know how’ and R&amp;D in an area;</li> <li>• lessons from existing or recent activities to support the low carbon economy (eg. business networks, low carbon housing programmes, business support etc);</li> <li>• how development of the low carbon economy can be integrated into other local economic development activities (eg. housing growth, enterprise zones and industrial estates, skills development, inward investment).</li> </ul>

LEP FUNCTIONS:	POTENTIAL LEP LOW CARBON ECONOMY ACTIONS:
<p><b>Planning and infrastructure</b></p> <p>Help shape local planning framework.</p> <p>Identify and enable delivery of local infrastructure priorities.</p> <p>Strategic housing delivery.</p> <p>Planning applications - involve businesses in development and consideration of strategic planning applications:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Local Authorities to ensure that local planning policies are in place which will accelerate low carbon homes and buildings, renewable energy, low carbon development and infrastructure.</li> <li>• Identify local low carbon infrastructure needs (energy, waste, transport, green infrastructure for flood alleviation etc).</li> <li>• Work with partners to develop the low carbon infrastructure plans and attract investment.</li> <li>• Integrate low carbon housing standards into strategic housing plans, potentially including CHP, Green Deal.</li> <li>• Help develop local housing retrofit programmes – using Feed in Tarriff (FiT) and Green Deal (eg. Birmingham Energy Savers Phase 3).</li> <li>• Develop local provision of skills and training for low carbon housing and retrofit.</li> <li>• Involve low carbon businesses in the development and consideration of strategic planning applications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Business support</b></p> <p>Help existing businesses to survive and grow.</p> <p>Encourage business start-ups.</p> <p>Promote entrepreneurship.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead role for LEP in ensuring effective engagement by business support providers with low carbon businesses.</li> <li>• Low carbon business networks to provide a conduit for delivering support to suppliers of low carbon goods and services.</li> <li>• Help businesses in all sector (especially energy intensive industries) to achieve cost savings through energy and resource efficiency – eg. via resource efficiency clubs and networks (eg. BESST network in Telford and SBEN in Staffordshire).</li> <li>• Signpost low carbon businesses to relevant support – eg. information on market opportunities, skills, innovation, finance, marketing, overseas trade support etc.</li> <li>• Develop local programmes on low carbon skills / training – eg. support businesses with Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) accreditation.</li> <li>• Support business diversification – help businesses from other sectors identify opportunities for diversification into Low carbon markets.</li> <li>• Identify potential income streams for Local Authorities, Housing Associations et al from use of renewables – eg. Feed in Tariff.</li> <li>• Strengthen local supply chains, eg. for low carbon housing retrofit, through promoting sustainable procurement in public sector, networks, ‘finditinsandwell’ websites etc.</li> <li>• Ensure that high growth business support initiatives include low carbon businesses.</li> <li>• Include low carbon businesses in Enterprise Zone plans.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Skills, training and employment</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify whether skills shortages are blocking local low carbon growth.</li> <li>• Work with local employers, Job Centre+, skills providers, Work Programme contractors to align training to local low carbon training needs.</li> <li>• Help low carbon businesses to access skills support, apprenticeships etc.</li> </ul>

LEP FUNCTIONS:	POTENTIAL LEP LOW CARBON ECONOMY ACTIONS:
<b>Innovation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help establish low carbon innovation programmes – eg. in low carbon vehicles.</li> <li>• Help low carbon suppliers to access university R&amp;D skills and financial support for innovation – eg. work of the Marches Environmental Technology Network (metnet), Science City.</li> </ul>
<b>Inward investment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Target low carbon inward investors.</li> <li>• Establish Enterprise Zones with a low carbon focus and attract inward investors.</li> </ul>
<b>Cooperation between LEPs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with other nearby LEPs to develop joint initiatives to develop the low carbon economy – eg. procurement, waste, energy, housing.</li> </ul>

### 3.2 Delivering the low carbon economy through LEP Structures

Low carbon economy activities should not be seen as a discrete project or programme of actions. Instead it needs to be integrated throughout of the work of the LEP.

Drawing on good practice which is already emerging from LEPs in the West Midlands, means of integrating the low carbon economy into the work of a LEP include:

- Ensuring that the LEP provides strong leadership and communicates messages of why the low carbon economy is important to the local economy.
- Establishing a low carbon economy lead on the LEP Board.
- Establishing a low carbon economy working group to lead on identifying and developing actions.
- Identifying low carbon economy priorities within LEP priorities, strategy and action plans.
- Engaging effectively with other key partners to develop low carbon economy actions, eg. businesses, Local Authorities, universities and colleges, Skills Funding Agency, Sector Skills Councils, voluntary sector, housing associations, energy utility companies, waste and recycling companies, transport bodies such as Centro.
- Ensuring that low carbon priorities are being integrated into the work of other LEP working groups – eg. groups working on businesses support, construction, automotives, planning policy, skills, inward investment etc.
- Monitoring LEP progress in developing the low carbon economy and reporting progress to the LEP Board and local businesses.
- Working with other LEPs on joint LEP activities to support growth in the low carbon economy, eg. on large scale low carbon housing retrofit programmes, developing low carbon skills provision with different colleges providing different training courses.

### 3.3 Finding the funding for the LEP to deliver the low carbon economy

LEPs do not have direct funding from Government to cover running costs or project development and relatively small amounts of funds have been made available to assist with start up and capacity building. There is an ongoing discussion between LEPs and Government to address this.

LEPs are expected to make use of staff and resource contributions from local authorities and private sector partners. In view of the lack of direct funding, the valuable LEP roles in funding actions to support development of the low carbon economy include are described below.

### **Working with local partners and businesses to assemble a mixture of funding for low carbon actions.**

The Birmingham Energy Savers low carbon housing retrofit programme provides an excellent example of innovative approaches in assembling funding from a variety of sources, making use of Prudential Borrowing, FiT, Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), Energy Company Obligations (ECO), Green Deal and European sources.

Other funding sources that could be accessed could include:

- Local Authority Prudential Borrowing / Public Works Loan Board (PWLB)
- Feed in Tariff and Renewables Heat Incentive
- Regional Growth Fund
- Growing Places Fund
- Enterprise Zone business rate receipts
- Local Sustainable Transport Fund
- Growth and Innovation Fund (for skills)
- Technology and Strategy Board funding for low carbon innovation
- European sources such as ESF, ERDF, JESSICA, ELENA, EU Energy Efficiency Fund (EEEF), and from emerging Government initiatives such as the Green Deal, the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), Tax Increment Finance and the Green Investment Bank.

### **Influencing or leveraging funding from others**

For example the LEP could influence the Skills Funding Agency to ensure that their sources are used in the local area to address low carbon skills priorities.

LEPs could help with the leveraging of private sector funding in areas such as energy and waste infrastructure, including potentially via joint ventures between Local Authorities and energy utility companies, such as existing Energy Service Companies (ESCOs).

### **Stimulating the local market place**

The local public sector bodies could be encouraged to adopt low carbon practices (eg. internal energy efficiency programmes) and sustainable procurement practices to help stimulate local demand for low carbon goods and services.

In the next section of this guide we use this information about functions, structures and funding to provide a checklist so you can assess the progress of your LEP.

## 4 LEP checklist to assess your progress and areas for improvement

We have developed a checklist for LEPs to assess how they are doing on integrating the low carbon economy into their functions and structures to help inform their forward work programmes.

This is best conducted as a self-assessment by the LEP secretariat and input from the relevant Board members and then verified or challenged by an independent third party, such as Sustainability West Midlands, your local Green Business Club, or another existing advisory body or 'critical friend'. You can also adapt and improve this checklist with your reviewing organisation to assess your progress as your LEP develops over time.

For the checklist below we have filled in examples from several LEPs in the West Midlands to illustrate how this checklist can be used and the type of issues that are emerging.

Then the checklist should be used to agree actions to prioritise for improvements over the year with an annual review. In our experience it is unrealistic to expect improvements across all criteria each year, but more a measured approach based on where the LEP is in its development and relationship with partners and the priorities for the local area.

**Table 2 LEP Low Carbon Economy Checklist – with example LEP assessment**

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments / Actions in place or to be developed
<b>1. Integrating the Low Carbon Economy into LEP working and structures</b>					
Does the LEP provide strong leadership and communicate messages on why the low carbon economy is important to the local economy?				X	Not yet evident
Have low carbon economy priorities been identified within LEP priorities, strategy and action plans?			X		Only as headline ambition around low carbon R&D
Is there a low carbon economy lead on the LEP Board?				X	No
Has a working group been established to lead on identifying and developing actions to develop the low carbon economy?				X	No
Is the LEP engaging effectively with other key partners to develop low carbon actions? (eg. businesses, Local Authorities, universities, voluntary sector, housing associations, energy utility companies)			X		Beginning to draw on existing work of partners, but focus not yet clear.
Are low carbon priorities being integrated into the work of other LEP working groups? – eg. groups working on businesses support, construction sector, automotives, planning policy, skills, inward investment, overseas trade etc.			X		Partially with inward investment providing low carbon R&D promotion, but not clear on other working groups
Is the LEP working with other LEPs on joint actions to develop the low carbon		X			Housing retrofit scheme being shared with other LEPs

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments / Actions in place or to be developed
economy? - eg. developing large scale housing retrofit schemes.					
Is LEP progress in developing the low carbon economy being monitored and reported to the LEP Board and local businesses?				X	No
<b>2. Identifying local low carbon economy niches and opportunities:</b>					
Has there been mapping of your area's low carbon businesses, infrastructure, strengths, threats, opportunities, skills and resources?		X			Good evidence base for unitary authorities within LEP, but not the other districts. Weak on overall skills needs and resources.
Has the LEP identified priority aspects of the low carbon economy to develop? Based on analysis of existing strengths and future market opportunities.			X		Not yet – balance to be achieved between where the enthusiasm is and the evidence
Are there existing activities in the LEP area that can be built upon to develop the low carbon economy?	X				Strengths in retrofit of housing, combined heat and power, waste reprocessing, bio-energy, some aspects of low carbon transport.
Has the LEP brought key partners together to identify and develop actions to grow the low carbon economy? – eg. businesses, universities, local authorities, housing associations, relevant business networks.			X		Existing work within and by partners, but no overall process to harness this.
<b>3. Stimulating demand and developing local supply chains in the low carbon economy:</b>					
Have key public sector bodies in the local area adopted sustainable procurement practices to help stimulate demand for low carbon goods and service? (eg. Local Authorities, hospitals, schools etc)			X		Mixed success with 'find it website' for local services, and research on vehicle procurement but needs more focused support and leadership on key areas of spend
Have resource and energy efficiency business good practice clubs been established, especially amongst energy intensive sectors?				X	Fragment green business activity, no clear club in place, but one authority within LEP beginning to develop one for their part of the LEP
Are actions underway to strengthen local supply chains for low carbon technologies and services – eg. meet the buyer events, networking between suppliers, raising awareness of low carbon opportunities amongst businesses?			X		Partially with some good work by construction good practice clubs and Chambers.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments / Actions in place or to be developed
<b>4. Business Support - for existing low carbon suppliers and new entrants / diversification:</b>					
Are there specific business support initiatives focused on businesses in the low carbon economy? (which correspond with the identified low carbon economy priorities for the local area)				X	Most of existing business support is in transition specific support funding is coming to an end
Are businesses in the low carbon economy being effectively included in cross-sector business support initiatives? – eg. support for high growth businesses				X	Priority for LEP to help high growth businesses, unclear on which parts of low carbon economy this will help.
Is there a network for low carbon economy businesses through which support to businesses can be provided / signposted? (eg. Marches Environmental Technology Network - metnet)			X		Fragment green business activity, no clear club in place, but one authority within LEP beginning to develop one for their part of the LEP
Are low carbon suppliers being signposted to relevant sources of business support? (eg. WRAP, skills support, etc)				X	Most of existing business support is in transition specific support funding is coming to an end. LEP is seeking to address this.
Are actions underway to help businesses in other sectors to diversify into low carbon market opportunities? (eg. businesses in the construction, plumbing, heating sectors)		X			Partially within construction sector to help move into renewable energy on buildings and automotive to produce greener vehicles.
<b>5. Skills for the low carbon economy:</b>					
Have key low carbon skills needs of businesses in the local area been identified?				X	Unclear
Is local skills and training provision meeting these low carbon skills needs?				X	Unclear
Have actions needed to develop local low carbon skills been identified?				X	Unclear
<b>6. Planning and Infrastructure for the low carbon economy:</b>					
Are local planning policies in place to support development of the low carbon economy? (eg. standards for energy efficiency, use of renewable or decentralised energy in new developments)		X			Good planning policies developing, but dependent on infrastructure such as district energy and green space. Issues around implementation
Are there sufficient sites and premises in place for low carbon businesses (eg. incubator sites, Enterprise Zones, sites for		X			Many development sites available for resource reuse and professional business premises.

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Comments / Actions in place or to be developed
renewables, resource / waste management etc)?					
Have actions been identified to attract private sector investment in low carbon infrastructure (eg. energy, transport, buildings)?		X			Partially through housing retrofit programme and energy networks.
<b>7. Accessing Funding and Resources</b>					
Is the LEP ensuring that the local area is accessing and benefitting from various Government funding schemes relevant to the low carbon economy? eg. Feed in Tariffs, Renewable Heat Initiative, Green Deal, Regional Grow Fund, Growth and Innovation Fund, apprenticeship schemes, Green Investment Bank etc.		X			LEP sub-group on funding and innovative Enterprise Zone Scheme to raise finance for infrastructure across the LEP
Is the LEP ensuring that relevant funding opportunities for low carbon businesses are effectively flagged up to businesses?			X		Due to undeveloped green business clubs and networks limited systems in place to do this.

Source: Sustainability West Midlands April 2012

## 5 Other sources of help and support

Sustainability West Midlands has been working with partners over many years to help with the delivery of the low carbon economy in the West Midlands. In addition to this guide we would recommend the following guides and links.

### **Green Business Clubs Good Practice Guide, December 2011**

This helps your LEP or Local Authority understand how to support or set up a club in your area.

[http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk//media/resources/0328425001326986082;SWM\\_Green\\_Business\\_Clubs\\_Good\\_Practice\\_Guide-dec11.pdf](http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk//media/resources/0328425001326986082;SWM_Green_Business_Clubs_Good_Practice_Guide-dec11.pdf)

### **Local Authority Funding Guide, 2011**

Although developed for local authorities this has useful guidance on the type of funding models for combined heat and power, energy efficiency measures for commercial buildings and houses.

[http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk//media/resources/Local+Authority+Funding+Guide+FINAL\[1\].pdf](http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk//media/resources/Local+Authority+Funding+Guide+FINAL[1].pdf)

### **Public Sector Procurement Guidance, 2012**

This covers procurement guidance for several of the largest areas of public expenditure by local authorities in the West Midlands that could achieve carbon and energy cost savings while stimulating the local market.

<http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/projects/?/Public+sector+-+Low+Carbon+Procurement/1718>

### **Low carbon economy profiles for local authorities, 2010**

With the West Midlands Regional Observatory we took the existing evidence base for the former Regional Economic Strategy and broke it down into unitary or county level for local authorities. We are currently collating other information we have which may be useful to inform emerging future LEP low carbon evidence bases.

<http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/resources/presentations/?/Low%20Carbon%20Economy%20for%20the%20West%20Midlands%20-%20local%20authority%20profiles/1426>

### **Sustainability West Midlands Monthly e-newsletter**

Subscribe to our monthly newsletter which will help alert you to new resources, guides, case studies and opportunities.

<http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk/join-us/>

If you are from a LEP in the West Midlands please get in touch and we can update you on our current support work programme with LEPs in the West Midlands. If you are from a LEP outside the West Midlands we are always willing to share or learn from good practice elsewhere. To help us do this we are also part of Climate UK.

[www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk](http://www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk)

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END