

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP

Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Market Snapshot

Midlands Energy Hub

2017/18 to 2019/20

Disclaimer

kMatrix

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Midlands Energy Hub

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Project Overview

The Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector study was commissioned by Nottingham City Council on behalf of the Midlands Energy Hub (MEH), sponsored by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), and its stakeholders across the Midlands including the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Local Authorities.

The study was commissioned in November 2020 and awarded to kMatrix Data Services Ltd and Sustainability West Midlands, with the aim of understanding the current state of the sector, where support is needed to help grow the sector across the Midlands from a Local Authority level to a regional level and the role the sector can play to drive a low-carbon recovery from Covid-19.

The UK has a clear commitment to clean growth, where the economy continues to grow while reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The commitments are set out in the Industrial Strategy and the Clean Growth Strategy. The UK has a strong record of clean growth, cutting carbon emissions by 42% between 1990 and 2015, while experiencing a 67% increase in GDP during the same period, in contrast to the G7 emissions reduction of 3% and GDP increase of 61%¹. This has been achieved through a variety of strategies including improved energy efficiency, increased recycling of waste products and improved automobile engine technology, with the largest contribution in reduction of emissions from the decarbonisation of power. The UK now has the largest installed offshore wind capacity in the world².

Although the UK is arguably a world leader in clean growth, there is an ongoing need for further development across multiple sectors to deliver on the low carbon economy commitments both local and central government are pursuing. LEPs in the Midlands are fully cognizant of the need to support and further develop the green economy, as set out in their Energy Strategies and Local Industrial Strategies.

The study is grounded in evidenced data provided by the kMatrix Big Data Analytical tool, which has been used to inform the nature of the sector across the Midlands region, in a number of sub-sectors. The data has been used alongside desk research, documentation review, stakeholder engagement and collaboration with partners and the awarding authority to produce a series of reports constituting an evidence base of both quantitative and qualitative evidence. This evidence not only informs policy recommendations as an integral part of the study, but also acts as a baseline from which progress can be measured post Covid-19 and into the future.

The study involved the production of a quantitative evidence base led by kMatrix and a qualitative evidence-base led by Sustainability West Midlands with findings from each workstream enriching the evidence of the other. By full collaboration between partners, the project steering group and stakeholders, the evidence base produced by the project delivers a comprehensive overview of the LCEGS market, with detailed information at the LEP and Local Authority levels. The wider relevance to the green recovery and national commitment to net zero by 2050 have been considered throughout the work and are integral to the policy recommendations and growth forecasts made during the study.

¹https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/700496/clean-growth-strategy-correction-april-2018.pdf

² <https://gwec.net/global-figures/global-offshore/>

Local Authorities within the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP

This report includes Local Authority-level data, to allow deep disaggregation within the LEP area. For clarity of data visualization, the names of many local authorities have been shortened. The formal names and shortened labels of the local authorities within the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP are listed below:

Formal name	Shortened label
Coventry City Council	Coventry
Warwick DC	Warwick
Stratford-on-Avon DC	Stratford-on-Avon
North Warwickshire BC	North Warwickshire
Nuneaton & Bedworth BC	Nuneaton & Bedworth
Rugby BC	Rugby
Hinckley & Bosworth BC	Hinckley & Bosworth

Executive Summary

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) sector was worth £3.5bn to the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's economy in 2019/20, as indicated by the value of sales in the sector. These sales were generated by over 1,200 businesses that employed 28,000 people in the sector in 2019/20.

Sales and growth

The Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector in the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP grew year on year since 2017/18. In 2017/18 total sales in the sector were worth £3.1bn have now reached £3.4bn in 2019/20.

The sector in the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP grew by 5.1% during the financial year 2017/18 to 2018/19 and 6.1% during 2018/19 to 2019/20. This rate of growth is stronger the MEH average (5.2% and 5.0% respectively) but slower than the UK average for the same period (10.0% and 8.1% respectively), however, the fast rate of growth in London raises the UK average.

Employment

Employment in Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector in 2019/20 was 28,064, up from 24,222 in 2017/18. Annual growth rate in employment was 7.0% between 2017/18 and 2018/19 and 8.3% between 2018/19 and 2019/20. This rate of growth is stronger the MEH average (5.7% and 5.0% respectively), but slower than the UK average for the same period (9.4% and 7.3% respectively) however, the fast rate of growth in London raises the UK average.

Companies

The number of companies in Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector in 2019/20 was 1,286, up from 1,222 in 2017/18. Annual growth rate in the number of companies was 4.9% between 2017/18 and 2018/19 and 0.4% between 2018/19 and 2019/20. This rate of growth was variable compared with both the MEH average (3.6% and 5.0% respectively) and the UK average for the same period (9.3% and 10.3% respectively) however, the fast rate of growth in London raises the UK average.

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's sub-sectors

In 2019/20 Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector was made up by the following proportions: Renewable Energy 39%, Low Carbon 38% and Environmental 23%.

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's sub-sector strengths

The five largest sub-sectors in the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector by sales account for 64% of the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's total sales and are made up of:

- Wind (£564m) – this includes control systems development and manufacture, drive train development, manufacture and systems integration, consulting houses and companies providing power firming systems and services, maintenance services and grid integration services
- Building Technologies (£528m) - this includes head office functions, building systems design and consultancy and building systems providers and installers
- Alternative Fuels (£483m) – this includes R&D functions, alternative fuel providers, designers and consultancy, process implementation, sales and accounting and application development specialists

- Photovoltaic (£368m) - this includes head office functions, systems developers, providers and installers
- Water & Waste Water Treatment (£274m) - development and implementation by utilities along with supply, consultancy and implementation by independent consulting engineers

The next six largest sub-sectors by sales account for a further 32% of Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's total sales and are made up of:

- Waste Management (£243m) - this includes process development and new process implementation and consulting, public and private operations management and supply and installation of operational equipment
- Biomass (£241m) - this includes systems development, supply, implementation and R&D
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle (£197m) - include selling agencies, alternative fuel development companies and consulting and applications development for vehicle conversion specialists
- Recovery and Recycling (£188m) – this includes waste collection, glass stock processing and paper feedstock processing
- Geothermal (£153m) - this includes branch office functions, design, international consultancy, lateral geothermal systems providers and installers at the domestic and small commercial level and vertical control systems developers and suppliers
- Energy Management (£74m) – this includes registered gas engineers, measurement and control systems and fitting and maintenance

Sub-sector growth

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's five largest sub-sectors by sales have all enjoyed high levels of growth in sales, number of employees and number of companies between 2017/18 and 2019/20:

- Wind – sales have grown from £505.8m to £564m (11.5%), number of employees by 16.1% and number of companies by 6.3%
- Building Technologies – sales have grown from £472m to £528m (11.9%), number of employees by 16.4% and number of companies by 5.3%
- Alternative Fuels – sales have grown from £432m to £483m (11.4% increase), number of employees by 3.1% and number of companies by 5.1%
- Photovoltaic – sales have grown from £368m to £368m (11.5% increase), number of employees by 15.8% and number of companies by 23.3%
- Water & Waste Water Treatment – sales have grown from £246m to £274m (11.3% increase), number of employees by 15.5% and number of companies also by 4.2%

Sub-sectors which saw stronger growth than the UK average between 2017/18 and 2019/20 include:

- Energy Management with 11.7% (MEH 11.4%, UK 5.7%)
- Air Pollution with 11.7% (MEH 11.4%, UK 5.8%)
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle with 11.7% (MEH 11.4%, UK 5.7%)
- Contaminated Land Reclamation and Remediation with 11.5% (MEH 11.4%, UK 1.0%)
- Hydro with 11.0% (MEH 11.0%, UK 1.8%)

Investment in R&D

Investment in R&D within Coventry and Warwickshire LEP grew in all three categories of investment between 2017/18 and 2019/20:

- Private Equity Investment in R&D grew 5.0% from £160m in 2017/18 to £168m in 2019/20
- Venture capital Investment in R&D grew 4.5% from £326m in 2017/18 to £340m in 2019/20
- Other Investment in R&D grew 3.4% from £485m in 2017/18 to £501m in 2019/20

Scalability of sub-sectors

Scalability of the sub-sectors within the Coventry and Warwickshire LEP is variable and when combined with GVA, strengths include:

- Alternative Fuels with high GVA and high Scalability (stronger position than the MEH average)
- Wind with high GVA and high Scalability (stronger position than the MEH average)
- Environmental Monitoring, Instrumentation and Analysis with high Scalability but small GVA (stronger position than the MEH average)
- Renewable Energy General Consultancy with high Scalability but small GVA
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle with reasonable GVA and good Scalability (stronger position than the MEH average)

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Exports

The value of exports in Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services sector in 2019/20 was £368m, an increase from £329m in 2017/18. This accounted for 12% of the MEH's LCEGS exports in 2019/20 and is in line with Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's 12% share of the overall MEH LCEGS market.

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's LCEGS exports grew by 3.6% and 8.0% over the last three years which compared with MEH growth of 4.5% and 6.2% and UK growth of approximately 8.7% and 9.5% respectively.

Coventry and Warwickshire LEP's top Export sub-sectors which saw large export market and strong growth include:

- Wind - £59m
- Biomass - £26m
- Recovery and Recycling - £20m
- Geothermal - £17m
- Building Technologies - £58m
- Alternative Fuels - £53m