



LOW CARBON OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAMME

FREE low carbon innovation and renewable energy generation support and grants available!

The Low Carbon Opportunities Programme is available throughout Worcestershire offering FREE renewable energy or low carbon innovation assessments to small and medium size enterprises (SMEs).



How does the Low Carbon Opportunities Programme work?

We are offering FREE assessments, which could lead to grants, for SMEs who wish to either install a renewable energy system, or undertake a low carbon innovation project.

STEP 1

RENEWABLE ENERGY MADE POSSIBLE

A free assessment offering 2 days support, worth up to £1,000, to consider the renewable energy generation potential of your business. The assessment will assess your energy usage and site/s and recommend the most appropriate system/s for your business.

STEP 1

CLEAN TECH INNOVATION

A free assessment offering 2 days support, worth up to £1,000, to work with you to develop your low carbon innovation projects. The low carbon innovation assessment will be tailored to your business and could include analysis of the opportunities for diversification or development in the low carbon products and services sector, followed by specialist advice according to your business needs.

STEP 2

Following the assessment, we will send you a report containing recommended actions. You can then apply for a grant for projects worth up to £222,000 (capital), or £111,000 for revenue projects. The grant intervention rate is 45% and your business contribution is 55% for the project. For example, if your project costs are £80,000, your contribution is £44,000 and we provide £36,000.

All grant applications are subject to evaluation against the programme criteria by a grant appraisal panel.

STEP 3

If your grant application is successful, we will require you to sign an agreement detailing the grant conditions. Once signed and returned, you can carry out the approved activities.

STEP 4

We will monitor your project to ensure that it is on track.

Find out more at business-central.co.uk/locop
Email info@business-central.co.uk or call 01905 677888



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**WORCESTERSHIRE
BUSINESS CENTRAL**



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Eligibility/Criteria

To qualify, your business must:

- Be situated in and trading from Worcestershire
- Employ fewer than 250 employees
- Have a turnover of less than the equivalent of 50 million Euros per annum or a balance sheet of less than 43 million Euros.

Please note that some industries, such as primary agriculture and retail, are not eligible. Other activities excluded are social welfare and education facilities, banking and insurance.

The Low Carbon Opportunities Programme can provide grants of up to 45% of the total cost of a project (to a maximum contribution of £100,000 for capital, £50,000 for revenue) for businesses to install renewable energy systems or undertake low carbon innovation projects.



Solar PV panels on Worcestershire business Autotechnik Systems Ltd
Photo: Chris Sutor of All Eco Energy

Examples of projects which could receive a grant

Renewable energy projects such as:

- Solar PV
- Geothermal heat systems
- Biomass boilers
- Air, ground or water source heat pumps
- Innovative systems such as geothermal heat collectors or solar collectors
- Heat networks
- Renewable energy distribution technologies
- Renewable energy storage

Low carbon innovation projects such as:

- Low carbon product, process or service development
- Commercialisation or implementation costs
- Market research and assessment
- IPR protection
- Accreditations
- Prototyping, demonstration or testing of new products
- Manufacturing scale up or market rollout

There may be many other projects which can be funded; this is not an exclusive list. The business assist you receive before you apply for a project grant will help you to work out what is best for your business at this time. The business assist may also help you to obtain quotes for the work. Both capital and revenue projects are eligible for support.

The programme will also be hosting events and forums to discuss low carbon innovation and renewable energy technologies. These are available to all businesses. Let us know if you would like to find out more about these.



Find out more at business-central.co.uk/locop

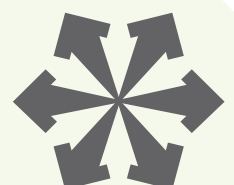
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