

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The low carbon economy was worth almost £40 billion to the UK in 2011/12 and has been growing at 4%. The UK is the sixth largest player in the global market and has internationally-recognised strengths in low carbon energy and building technologies.

Although not a statutory responsibility, local authorities, together with the Local Enterprise Partnerships, can support the development of

this sector in their areas, for example through:

- Planning for low carbon infrastructure
- Instigating programmes to improve the energy performance of housing and their own estate
- Including sustainability requirements and support of the local sector in procurement of programmes, products and commissioned services

KNOWSLEY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council is supporting the development of an energy network to supply heat and electricity to Knowsley Industrial & Business Park (KIBP) as part of the Council's regeneration strategy. The Council funded the feasibility study (securing a grant from the Heat Network Delivery Unit), and is providing officer time to manage the project, bring together relevant partners and work with businesses on KIBP. The benefit to the Council is not income, but the regeneration of a business park and delivery of a benefit to businesses.

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CUMBRIA COHESION

Cumbria Cohesion, a partnership between Cumbria County Council, the local Housing Associations and training providers, delivered an external wall insulation programme for over 700 homes, part-funded by ERDF. As part of the tender process they were able to specify that:

- The supply chain of companies in Cumbria were supported and stimulated; and
- Jobs were created and safeguarded in Cumbria.

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OFFSHORE WIND SUPPLY CHAIN

Liverpool City Region LEP and partners are working with developers, DECC and The Crown Estate to maximise local supply chain opportunities arising from the development of offshore windfarms in Liverpool Bay.

Liverpool City Region has built up an internationally recognized talent pool of companies that finance, manufacture, construct and operate offshore windfarms. The LEP and partners work closely with DONG Energy and their Tier One suppliers to maximise local content. This involves showcasing opportunities, active customer supplier matching, practical support on procurement processes and supplier readiness levels, support for infrastructure, capital equipment and expansion. This active support has resulted in over 150 LCR companies now operating in the sector and contracts worth over £20m placed.

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FURTHER READING & SUPPORT

The size and performance of the low carbon economy: www.gov.uk/government/publications/low-carbon-economy-size-and-performance

The economic impacts of energy efficiency programmes for homes: www.energybillrevolution.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Building-the-Future-The-Economic-and-Fiscal-impacts-of-making-homes-energy-efficient.pdf

Heat Networks Delivery Unit: www.gov.uk/government/publications/heat-networks-funding-stream-application-and-guidance-pack

APSE: The Transition to the Low Carbon Economy: www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/research/current-research-programme/transition-to-the-green-economy-the-vital-role-of-the-ensuring-council/transition-to-the-green-economy/

Local support for the low carbon economy:
Greater Manchester: http://neweconomymanchester.com/stories/1798-low_carbon_and_the_environment
Liverpool City Region: http://www.liverpoollep.org/priorities/low_carbon_economy.aspx

COST-EFFECTIVE SERVICE DELIVERY THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY

Local authorities across the UK and abroad are proving that taking a sustainable approach to their operations and services delivers multiple benefits, such as improved performance, lower costs and better outcomes for their communities.

Climate change or sustainability themes are embedded in national policy and appear in different guises and services areas. Recent changes have threatened to push climate change, carbon reduction and sustainability off the priority list, as authorities handle the cuts agenda, tackle public sector reform and fight to deliver critical services with fewer resources. But actively addressing sustainability in corporate plans supports cost-effective service delivery – it is not just a “nice to have” that can be discarded when budgets are tight.

This series of briefings demonstrates how many local authorities are benefitting from actively considering sustainability in their operations and services:



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|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Save Carbon – Save Money | 6. Transport Infrastructure |
| 2. Generating Energy and Income | 7. Economic Development |
| 3. Decent Affordable Housing, Health & Fuel Poverty | 8. Supporting Communities |
| 4. Improving Public Health | 9. Reducing Risks |
| 5. Travel Choices | |



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