

Green Economy Pathfinder Project
Delivering a strong and sustainable green economy, resilient to climate change
A project led by the New Anglia LEP

The scope of the project

Norfolk and Suffolk are uniquely equipped to capitalise upon local strengths as a Green Economy Pathfinder building upon priorities identified in the New Anglia LEP business plan, trailblazing approaches to current private sector growth barriers and providing Green Economy expertise. Key strands include:

Further development of the LCEGS sector

The LEP will actively foster the necessary conditions and success factors for private sector and inward investment to develop the strategic Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) supply chain, enabling it to realise **25% of the growth in the UK's LCEGS** sector by 2015 and **25% of the 4,000 new LCEGS jobs** that according to government figures will be created by 2017.

Creating networks

The LEP, local authorities and business to drive the development of up to **five new green economy 'hub and spoke' networks** in leading sectors, such as agricultural, smart and low-carbon technologies (building on existing schemes such as UEA Adapt, UCS, BT, Norwich Research Park, Hethel Engineering, the region's agricultural colleges and Smart Anglia) by end 2015.

Natural partners

Using the example of its successful relationship with the **Wild Anglia Local Nature Partnership (LNP)**, the LEP to proactively lobby for Government to **remove barriers and encourage LNPs and LEPs to work closely together by end 2013**. In addition, the LEP and LNP to join forces and conduct an audit to establish a **baseline of biodiversity and natural capital and its economic contribution** by end 2013.

Low-carbon zones

Local Authorities and Central Government to agree **tax and rates breaks for new Low-Carbon Business Zones** (to be the same or equivalent to Enterprise Zones) **by end 2014**. One Low-Carbon Business Zone to be set up in Norfolk and Suffolk **by 2015**, and the LEP to support this by working to attract at least three incoming businesses and 10 incubator businesses (with a focus on renewables systems manufacture) within two years of the Low-Carbon Business Zone being established.

Enhancing renewables

The LEP, local authorities and business to work together to ensure businesses looking to invest in manufacturing for the **offshore renewables industry** receive the most comprehensive support possible, and to work with other **CORE (Centres for Offshore Renewable Engineering)** locations, BIS, DECC, UKTI and other Government departments to raise the profile of the CORE offer through effective communication and marketing activities.

Green business services

The LEP, local authorities and business to support the **rapid roll-out and replication of best practice in Business Resource Efficiency and support services**: evaluating, communicating and applying key learning for a responsive 'green business services' approach across Norfolk and Suffolk that builds support where it's actually needed.

Progress and key activities

The Pathfinder presents the opportunity to map out the route plan for a long term vision of developing the Green Economy in Norfolk and Suffolk.

A 'Manifesto' of policy recommendations and case studies from a number of topic areas was published in June 2012 and launched in Whitehall. The case studies have been coalesced to show their benefit to the creation of jobs, growth, skills and financing.

The case study topics are based on existing best practice and future aspirations.

The **Green Economy Pathfinder** will seek to identify funding opportunities for the case study topics and importantly where there is the availability of match funding to maximise leverage of external funding and investment sources.

The pathfinder will establish the "Green Economy Brand" as a "Unique Selling Point" for Norfolk and Suffolk.

The timing of the project

New Anglia met with officials from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Defra, The Department for Energy and Climate Change and The Department for Communities and Local Government on September 9th 2011. At this meeting it was agreed that New Anglia would initiate its Green Economy project as the first LEP pathfinder in this sector.

New Anglia secured a pathfinder coordinator seconded from Suffolk County Council and based at the Suffolk Chamber of Commerce. Their first job has been to firm up the agreed milestones with government departments and a Pathfinder Board and to organise a consultation event with stakeholders within the New Anglia area.

The initial duration of the Pathfinder was 6 months, at the end of which the manifesto was launched and submitted to government profiling both existing and planned actions in Norfolk and Suffolk reflective of a leading role in the Green Economy.

The timeline for the Pathfinder was as follows;

Oct 2011- Draft Pathfinder plan, identified board members.

Nov 2011- Inaugural Pathfinder Board meeting agreed pathfinder plan and identified case study leads.

Dec 2012 - Chair of the pathfinder secured endorsement of plan from the LEP Board. LEP Chair briefed government departments on the pathfinder proposal.

Dec 2011 to March 2012 – Pathfinder case studies developed and Whitehall relationships developed in relation to the pathfinder.

Feb 2012 – Green Economy Board meeting received presentations by pathfinder leads on case studies.

March 2012 – Third board meeting and agreement on submission of Pathfinder case studies to Govt. Pathfinder launch event attended by 150 people and supported by Environment Agency.

April/May 2012 – Final submission of case studies to Government to influence policy and roll out of best practice to other LEP's across UK.

May 2012 – Profiled Green Economy Pathfinder at Norfolk Chambers Sustainability Event and other events.

June 2012 – Manifesto launched in Houses of Parliament by Norman Lamb MP and Lord Deben and manifesto profiled at BIS major stakeholder event

July 2012 – Green Economy Board starts process of overseeing implementation of manifesto actions.

What are pathfinder projects?

Through a process of shared learning, path finder projects will help local enterprise partnerships maximise the benefits of working within the new local economic growth framework. Aims of the approach are to:

Support partnerships to refine and sharpen their ambitions around their key economic objectives

Understand better the capability of partnerships undertaking specific economic roles and help national policy leads better understand how LEPs can play a major role in economic development at the local level

Share best practice

For additional information about this project, please contact Iain Dunnett, Low Carbon Development Manager, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce – iain@suffolkchamber.co.uk, 01473 694817