



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Supporting Local Growth

Edition 2



**CORNWALL AND THE
ISLES OF SCILLY**



SOUTH WEST



NORTH EAST



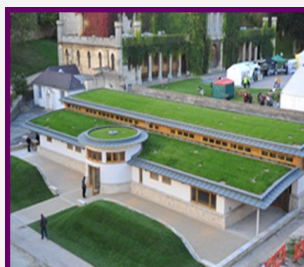
NORTH WEST



WEST MIDLANDS



**YORKSHIRE AND
HUMBER**



EAST MIDLANDS



EAST OF ENGLAND



**SOUTH EAST OF
ENGLAND**



LONDON

European Regional Development Fund Programmes in England 2007 - 2013



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in Your Future

European Regional
Development Fund 2007-13

England European Regional Development Fund Programmes 2007 to 2013

In 2007, £2.6 billion was awarded to England through the 2007 to 2013 European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Programmes to support projects through investments that boost local economies and create jobs, help local businesses start, grow and improve, and regenerate local areas and communities. In total nine ERDF Programmes were established around England to cover all local areas focussed on promoting innovation, stimulating enterprise, and ensure sustainable development and communities.

In addition, ERDF funding is made available through the European Territorial Co-operation Programmes support projects which involve cross-border, transnational and inter-regional co-operation and involve working with other European countries and sharing best practice.

ERDF funding has made a huge difference and impact to communities across England. As a result of the investments made:

- 109,583 jobs have been created
- 137,101 business have been set up or helped to improve their performance and grow
- 182 hectares of land have been developed

Through the European Territorial Co-operation Programmes, €320.48 million of ERDF funding has been approved in the UK to support joint projects. Of the investments made 692 projects involve UK partners and there are 1,404 UK project partners.

Support continues through the 2014 to 2020 European Structural and Investment Funds Growth programme which started in March 2015 and looks to support innovation, boost business and local growth. £2.6 billion of funding is available over the lifetime of the Programme, together with support from the European Social Fund (ESF) and part of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). More information on the 2014 to 2020 Programme is available on our [website](#).

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

The **GetSet for Growth** project helps businesses to access finance to start, sustain or grow. With a little under £1.5 million of ERDF GetSet for Growth offers a free investment readiness service for ambitious businesses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly looking to access money and markets to start, sustain or grow. Businesses receive one to one support, access to Group Action Sessions, masterclasses, connections and specialist knowledge.

The programme, uses bespoke marketing and finance support to help businesses access new money and markets. The programme has helped to secure over £2.5 million of finance for small to medium sized enterprises. GetSet For Growth has a team of business finance, marketing and sales experts who work alongside businesses and their teams to find, plan and implement the most suitable sources of money and growth to move them forward.



GetSet for Growth team celebrate success

Carolyn Garman, Islands' Partnership, explains the impact the GetSet service has had on the business community:

“The service has provided much needed support for many of our businesses, which are very small operators. Our experience and those of our members who also took advantage of the programme, was that the help and advice was very practical and hands-on.”



Mi-Generation Biomass Boiler

Mi-Generation Limited is an integrated energy supply business covering the supply, service and maintenance of biomass boilers. £154,786 of ERDF facilitated the establishment of a new line of business to supply and install wood pellet boilers and fuel at a wide range of locations across the country.

The owners of a small working Cornish organic farm on the southern tip of Cornwall wanted to produce all their energy requirements using renewable energy. They approached Mi-Generation for a biomass steam boiler to replace their current costly and ageing oil steam boiler. Mi-Generation was able to offer their exclusive Bidragon range steam boiler. The 750kW, 1 tonne boiler installation will return an anticipated fuel saving of 38%, a CO2 saving of 86 tonnes per year and a payback period on the capital cost of 5 years.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly

Just over £7.5 million of ERDF has supported two projects - the **Pendennis Building & Redevelopment of the Yacht Basin**. The extensive redevelopment of the Pendennis Building began over two years ago and has seen the previous shore side facility almost completely rebuilt, replaced by larger modernised construction halls, workshops and office space.

Pendennis also has one of the world's leading custom superyacht build and refit facilities. The project supported the development of a 7,564m² non-tidal wet basin to accommodate superyachts before and after their time in the yard. Since May 2015 six yachts have already made use of the new basin.

Pendennis has become one of Cornwall's most important employers, significantly improved the facilities and 315 existing jobs have been safeguarded with 60 permanent skilled jobs created to date in the Falmouth Docks area. This work builds on the historic maritime tradition of the town and has helped to deliver the Port of Falmouth masterplan.



Pendennis Yacht Basin



Environment & Sustainability Institute (ESI)

Based on the University of Exeter's Penryn Campus near Falmouth, **the Environment and Sustainability Institute (ESI)** is a £30 million interdisciplinary centre leading cutting-edge research into solutions to problems of environmental change.

With just over £21.3 million of ERDF, the project works businesses and revolves around knowledge transfer and the commercialisation of intellectual property. To date ESI has worked with 460 businesses, creating 57 jobs and is expected to create a further 300.

Training provider and food and grocery industry recruitment solution charity The Employment Academy (TEA) were looking to expand their operations beyond Cornwall, but needed additional resource to put together a strong proposition for expansion. ESI helped them secure a graduate for a three month placement to carry out important research and analysis into their activities.

South West

Ready for Retrofit aims to boost the energy efficiency and micro-generation sector in the South West. The project funds social landlords to improve the energy efficiency performance of their housing stock, as well as working with businesses to grow local supply chains.

£2.3 million of ERDF, has levered £10 million investment in 1,430 energy efficiency and micro-generation measures on a range of social housing property types resulting in just under 40,000 tons of CO2 savings. This has improved properties from a number of low Energy Performance Certificate bands.

The project is working with 520 retrofit businesses, helping them create competitive advantage to deliver at scale, value and quality. These businesses have so far created or safeguarded 56 jobs and £6.21 million gross value added and this figure is set to rise further.

Exeter City Council received a grant to undertake a house refurbishment for 3 hard-to-treat, unoccupied properties in poor structural condition. The funding improved the energy efficiency, reducing the predicted annual energy costs by over £500 and saving over 3 tons of CO2/year per property.



Before Refurbishment



After Refurbishment



Marine Innovation Centre (MARIC)

The **Marine Innovation Centre (MARIC)** accelerates growth by creating intelligent connections between marine sector businesses, world-class knowledge, technologies, people and infrastructure. Building on the international success of Plymouth University's Marine Institute and housed within the Marine Building, MARIC streamlines access to the cutting-edge resources of the University and its growing network of specialist partners.

£526,702 ERDF has enabled MARIC to operate as a Business Technology Centre to help enterprises to advance their technology readiness levels creating new products and services. Established in October 2012, the Centre has so far helped 120 businesses.

South West



Business Enterprise Centre

ERDF is providing £2.5 million for the building of a new enterprise centre in Plymouth by Millfields Trust. The **Millfields Community Economic Development Trust** enables local people to contribute to the regeneration of the Stonehouse neighbourhood in Plymouth. The project forms part of the Urban Enterprise element of the South West Competitiveness programme to create more jobs for people in the city. The new **Business Enterprise Centre 'Genesis'** has provided 1,995 metres of commercial workspace, housing up to 50 flexible hot desk spaces.

With just under £2.5 million ERDF, the Centre is built to the “Excellent” standard with an irrigated living wall – a system of vegetated panels fixed to a waterproof backing board. The vegetated wall panels will provide a beautiful façade for the development and require only the minimum of resources and maintenance. To date 3 businesses have been supported and the project is contributing to the regeneration of one of the most deprived neighbourhoods of Plymouth.

CALMARE is an initiative to provide South West businesses with the expertise, advice and support to optimise the use of composites and plastics (thermosets and thermoplastics). At a time of growing environmental and legislative pressure, the Centre is particularly focused on the recycling and remanufacturing of waste materials.

With £801,094 ERDF, the £1.8 million centre offers businesses a competitive advantage. It provides industrial companies with the support they need and brings businesses together to deliver collaborative commercial ventures. Supplying businesses with research support for material options and carrying out sustainability projects, the centre combines material expertise and testing facilities with processing knowledge and waste reduction techniques to deliver an end to end solution. From advising on material options for new product developments to Investigating waste separation techniques, experts have shared their knowledge to assist approximately 63 companies in a range of sectors across the South West. Of these, 6 are new businesses, 11 environmental technology businesses and 13 are research and development collaborations.



Research and Development

Yorkshire and the Humber



Lynne Darwin, Sales Director

Enterprising Barnsley is a £9.4 million programme that aims to support and stimulate successful enterprise and business growth across Barnsley in South Yorkshire.

With £5m ERDF, Enterprising Barnsley recognised the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial talent through the provision of bespoke and focused business support. The project focusses on emerging growth sectors and helps businesses to achieve their goals and overcome barriers to growth through a programme of personalised one to one support, seminars and business networks. Specialist coaches support companies with strategic business planning and help them work through challenges and opportunities. The programme has assisted 850

businesses, created 1,390 jobs and safeguarded 687 jobs.

Building Product Solutions of Goldthorpe which manufactures windows and doors for new houses, has doubled productivity following investment in its factory and workforce. The company has developed and implemented a strategy for growth and has just completed a £100,000 investment in new production line machinery so that it can manufacture 1,500 windows and doors a week, compared to 550 six months ago consequently doubling its workforce to 32, with 17 new jobs created in the last 18 months.

Huddersfield Enterprise & Innovation Centre is a £9.7 million project and provides 3900 square meters of business centre space for collaboration and research. Existing buildings at the University of Huddersfield have been extended and refurbish to create a business facing centre for collaboration and research. The Centre is a combination of open plan, shared desk facilities; individual rentable units in a range of sizes to accommodate companies of different sizes and at different stages in development. Workshop and laboratory space for collaborative/shared research use and some bookable meeting space is also available. With

a £5.8 million grant from European Regional Development Fund, Huddersfield University has established growth and economic regeneration within the local area supporting both new start-ups and established businesses involved in science and technology.



Huddersfield Enterprise & Innovation Centre

Yorkshire and the Humber

Superfast North Yorkshire is a joint investment between ERDF, Broadband Delivery UK, a part of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport, and North Yorkshire County Council and delivered by NYNET. The project's objective is to create jobs and promote local growth through increasing access to, and take up of, superfast broadband services to boost business competitiveness.

ERDF contributed £11.7 million towards the £34.5 million costs required to provide superfast broadband infrastructure to areas of North Yorkshire and York which would not receive the capability from commercial providers. The infrastructure provided superfast capability to 150,000 premises, including more than 11,000 businesses. Superfast broadband access has now increased to 86% of premises from 46% initially.

An associated £2 million business support offer engaged with over 2,000 businesses between 2013 and 2015. Businesses received advice on how to exploit the opportunities available through superfast broadband to increase their competitiveness. Businesses reported over 650 new jobs and a £45 million GVA increased. The net GVA increase over the next 2 years is estimated at £220 million.



Superfast Broadband Launch



Sheffield City Region Enterprise Zone

The **Joint European Support for Sustainable Investment in City Areas (JESSICA)** programme is an initiative between the European Commission and the European Investment Bank to promote sustainable investment, growth and jobs in urban areas.

The **South Yorkshire Development Fund** is the JESSICA fund for Sheffield City Region, it includes £15.2 million ERDF. The Fund makes repayable

investments in urban projects across South Yorkshire and seeks to address market failure and deliver local growth and jobs, supporting the growth objectives of the Sheffield City Region Enterprise Zone. One business benefitting is X-Cel Superturn, who has tripled the size of its operation at the Park. X-Cel produces precision-machines components to the petrochemical, power generation, aerospace and construction industries. Its rapid growth meant it quickly outgrew previous premises. The provision of the facilities has enabled the Company to realise its growth, safeguarding four full-time employees' jobs and the creation of 2 new jobs.

North West



Women's International Centre for Economic Development

The **Women's International Centre for Economic Development (WICED)** provides a high-quality business environment for women led small business and enterprises through the provision of incubation units and hot desks.

Managed by the Women's Organisation, and supported by £2.4 million ERDF, the facility in Liverpool includes space for 70 women's enterprises which enables entrepreneurship and small businesses to prosper. It also assists enterprises to start, grow, maintain and improve performance, all helping to create and safeguard local jobs and boost local growth.

The Centre has supported the start of 486 new women led businesses and growth support to 3787 women. The building also houses an International Research Hub, which provides access to research information and international links with other female entrepreneurs on a global scale.

The North West Fund is a £155 million investment fund providing debt and equity funding from £25,000 to £2 million to businesses based in, or relocating to the North West. The funding is provided by ERDF and the European Investment Bank.

To date the fund has exceeded £125 million investment and supported more than 375 of the growing businesses; creating or safeguarding over 3,500 jobs in the process. The fund has leveraged a further £95 million in private sector finance, which has had a significant impact on the local economy. The range of sub funds has helped to support a wide range of businesses, in different sectors at different stages in their lifecycle. The fund has also provided follow-on funding to support their long-term business objectives; boosting both jobs and gross value added (GVA).

Amongst the businesses supported, the Venture Capital Fund invested £300,000 to ISIS Forensics – a company from Lancaster University - which is developing language analysis technology that can use web data to determine age, gender and other characteristics. The Fund also invested £150,000 to Windtechnic Maintenance Limited, who provide servicing and repairs to the wind turbine sector. The loan enabled Windtechnic to undergo a rapid increase in sales over the period of a year.



North West Business Support

North West

Located in Manchester the **National Graphene Institute (NGI)** is the national centre for graphene research in the UK. The facility builds on the research leadership of two Nobel winning scientists who isolated graphene in 2004. It is working with other Higher Education Institutions, research centres and companies in applied research to help take graphene from the laboratory to the market place, strengthening the UK's competitiveness in the growing global market for graphene applications.

With £23 million ERDF, the project has created a flagship national and European research hub promoting collaboration in research and commercialisation. ERDF helped with the construction and fitting out 7,825 m² five storey facility that features 1,500m² of clean room space.

Opened by George Osborne in March 2015, the facility houses cleanrooms, plus laser, optical, metrology and chemical labs and equipment - the ideal environment for world-class graphene research. The NGI also houses industrial partners. The NGI is focused on collaboration between the University of Manchester and its partners to develop graphene applications of the future.



National Graphene Institute (NGI)



Citylabs

Citylabs is a newly developed £20 million biomedical centre of excellence located in Manchester. The project sits within Manchester's Oxford Road Corridor which accommodates Europe's largest collection of academic and clinical assets including two Universities and Central Manchester University Hospital. The Corridor has a strong knowledge focus with a large concentration of companies undertaking research, development and innovation activities.

Formerly vacant and derelict, the development has involved a refurbishment of the Grade II listed façade with a new high-quality building to the rear. £3.75 million ERDF providing high specification and flexible office, laboratory and networking space within a 100,000 square feet facility. The building has been developed to high sustainability standards and has been driven by a lack of grow-on space for biomedical businesses. High demand in the first 12 months of opening has secured 75% occupancy rate. In recognition of the success, a follow-up project providing further accommodation for Manchester strong biomedical sector is in development.

North East

The **Swan Hunter Ship Yard - Low Carbon Enterprise Zone** project located at Swans, the former shipyard site in Wallsend, is helping transform and unlock the potential of the site to support the growth of manufacturing businesses in the offshore and marine renewable industry.

£7.8 million ERDF has assisted with the infrastructure works to enable the re-development of 17.2 hectares of brownfield land making the site investor and development ready, with potential capacity to deliver a range of development opportunities, including space for primary manufacture, shared testing facilities and secondary manufacture.

The Green Management Programme: **Delivering Energy**

Efficient Low Carbon Sustainable Industry assists

enterprises to improve efficiency and reduce carbon usage. Managed by The North East Process Industry

Cluster (NEPIC), the programme aims to address the growing requirement for suppliers to demonstrate green credentials. Both manufacturing and supply chain companies are increasingly being asked to assess and submit resource efficiency and carbon footprint for products going into consumer markets – with major retailers requiring such data due to customer demand. In order for companies to maintain and grow their businesses into the future, the manufacturing and supply chain must be able to demonstrate and report a credible assessment of their green credentials.

With £520,850 ERDF, the project delivers workshops, access to specialist groups, literature and communication tools, expertise from the NEPIC Bio-resources and Renewables Team, and specialist consultant advice. NEPIC's team helps businesses establish a base line, develop an improvement programme and crucially enables companies to clearly state their sustainability credentials.



North East

The **Design for Growth** project supports design projects within the North East. Run by RTC North's Design Network North team, it provides financial support for companies wanting to work with local designers and grow their business by investing in new products and services. With £941,785 ERDF, an enterprise programme also supports new start-ups with advice and incubator space in Gateshead's Northern Design Centre. Young design companies are given support and guidance to help them grow and prosper. More tailored support is also made available to identify new markets, customers or products through one to one sessions or workshops. With 650 companies, the Network represents a significant cross section of the area's manufacturers, designers, business service companies and designer makers. Design Network North provides a forum to meet businesses outside of their usual networks.

Gordon Ollivere MBE, RTC North CEO said:

"The Design for Growth' programme is a service launched to support innovation within small and medium sized companies. The service will provide companies with the expert guidance and financial support they need to get new design projects off the ground."



Stimulating Business Growth in the North East contributes to the economic growth in the local area by assisting 2,600 businesses. With just over £4.5 million ERDF, the project provides help to businesses to support and promote growth potential. Subsidies are offered via the 'North East Business Support Fund' to bring in external expertise to help the businesses achieve increased impact and growth. Managed by Northumberland Business Service Limited (NBSL), the fund offers grant support up to £1,400. Projects which

have benefitted from the support include product development, web design and marketing strategy development.



John King, North East business support manager, said that the fund will allow SMEs in the local area to access support to help them develop and realise their expansion goals. He said:

"It's been fantastic for us to help so many businesses to access this funding and see them grow as a result. We are delighted that more businesses in the North East will have the chance to gain access to support that will unlock their potential."

West Midlands

The highly successful **Entrepreneurs for the Future** is a programme offering office space, funding, expert advice and mentoring to the next generation of West Midlands technology entrepreneurs looking to get a successful business idea off the ground.

Entrepreneurs for the Future offers vital business support to local people. This is helping to create jobs through new business ventures and provide a positive impact on the local economy. With £900,022 ERDF, 117 companies have been assisted, with 50 businesses trading for 12 months or more. In total the companies have raised over £8.7 million of investment and equates to 234 jobs in the West Midlands.



Matt Dredger, CEO, Borrowclub.co.uk

Borrowclub.co.uk; a marketplace for people to rent out their idle household items to others who live in the locality has been supported. Pitched between eBay and throw it away, 1,000 items are anticipated to be listed on the platform across the West Midlands this year.

Matt Dredger, CEO, said: “On average, a drill is used for a total of 12 minutes a year. The rest of the time, it’s taking up space in a garage. By lending it out to people in the local area, the owner can make a bit of money, while feeling like they’re contributing to their local community. So far our borrowers have saved over £1,300 and in the process, over 300kg of CO2 has been saved.”



Lightweight Seat Design

Coventry University Enterprises have developed the **Electric Intelligent Vehicles** programme to allow businesses access to expertise relating to electric vehicle technologies and intelligent vehicle systems. Support is offered through grants of up to £30,000.

Boulter Electric Vehicles Ltd approached the project for assistance with a lightweight seat design for an electric motorbike prototype they were working on. During discussions it became apparent there was also a larger piece of development work required around the proposed battery system.

Boulter were awarded a grant of £30,000 to access expertise to help them with the design, testing and validation of the battery system. They are developing an integrated battery system complete with monitoring and capable of autonomous electrical isolation from the bike or off board charger.

West Midlands

Dudley Canal Tunnel and Limestone Mines has embarked on a master plan of improvement activities that will attract thousands of extra visitors every year, adding to the already impressive tourism regeneration plans at nearby attractions Dudley Zoological Gardens and the Black Country Living Museum.

Work includes a new visitor Portal where you can learn more about the history and importance of the canal tunnels and mines. A new canal bridge will also be built to connect the Portal and towpaths with the Black Country Living Museum. £997,104 ERDF has assisted the redevelopment of the site, which included making safe an underground void left by historic mine workings and removing asbestos contaminated soil. In total 11 new jobs have been created.



Dudley Canal Tunnel exhibition



Smith's Wood Village Centre

North Solihull is undergoing a dramatic transformation with help from a package of ERDF activities aimed at regenerating the local area and improving the environment, helping businesses and supporting local communities by creating jobs.

£4.2 million ERDF is supporting regeneration in North Solihull at the **Craig Croft Village Centre** with the creation of a vital new road junction opening up the site for future investment and the development of an Enterprise Centre which provides facilities for

local small businesses has been built. Tenants are already moving into the centre, with a bus route providing easy access.

Adding to the plans is the £1.3 million ERDF **North Arran Way** project which has helped to develop a brand new village centre at North Arran Way in the area of Smith's Wood. Investment has been made to access routes, lighting and signage creating a vibrant village centre. The work will provide better access to job opportunities and act as a catalyst for investment.

Making up the trio of ERDF support is a 13 km cycle network around the area through the £1.3 million **North Solihull Strategic Cycle Network**. Helping local people go green in a bid to access jobs, the cycle friendly routes provide another transport option and access to top employment areas, making cycling a cheap, healthy and environmentally friendly way for people to get to work.

East Midlands

Budding female entrepreneurs in Leicestershire have been given the opportunity to explore and develop new business ideas with help from the **Leicester Business Women** project.

Delivered by Skills for Enterprise and specifically designed for business women in disadvantaged and isolated communities, the £373,000 ERDF has enabled the establishment of a central women's 'hub' providing enterprise awareness, coaching and mentoring. Since the launch in September 2009, 324 ladies have been helped to start a new business venture helping to create 119 new jobs.

Bina Sitaram of Eco Kids (Leicester City) Limited officially started her business in January 2012 after attending a training workshop. Eco Kids is a social enterprise, helping to educate children in an imaginative way to lead a greener and healthier lifestyle. 2012 saw Bina being featured on the BBC1 East Midlands News for her businesses role with a local school. Eco Kids also hold children's parties with new fun and exciting ways of being creative.

After attending the training workshops, Sabina Kovacheva of Sabivo Design went on to successfully register her business in July 2012. Sabivo Design, a boutique publisher, specialises in handmade greeting cards. Sabina's cards are now in many shops and stores.



Sabina Kovacheva, Sabivo Design



Innovation Centre in action

Based on the Basford Hall Campus at New College Nottingham (NCN), current derelict land has been transformed into an eco-friendly building providing facilities that will encourage innovation and help businesses during the early stages of developing their skills, finding markets for their products and getting them ready to move to permanent business premises.

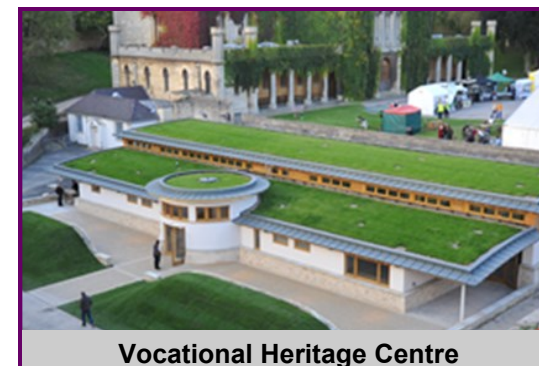
£1.4 million ERDF was awarded to NCN to develop **The Sustainable Construction Innovation Centre** as an example of best practice in eco-friendly building construction and operation. There is particular focus on minimising the adverse effects of building on the environment and maximising the use of eco-friendly resources within the building's fabric and during its operation.

The centre houses twelve incubation units, providing flexible space where new businesses can develop their skills and build a market base.

East Midlands

Vocational Heritage Centre at Lincoln Castle and **Heritage Working for Business** are two interlinked projects helping to regenerate the historic local area, support local businesses and in the long term, help to improve the local economy.

With £920,000 ERDF, a new **Vocational Heritage Skills Centre** was created within the 900 year old walls of Lincoln castle. Called 'Building on the Past', and as the first new building to be developed here in 150 years, this architecturally striking centre provides both workshop and classroom facilities creating a training area for new recruits to learn bygone trades. A visitor attraction with public viewing spaces allowing visitors to see, for the first time, traditional skills such as stone masonry and stained glass work, and how they are being used to maintain historic buildings has also been built.



Vocational Heritage Centre

Complementing this work, the **Heritage Working for Business** project is a business connectivity project aimed at increasing sustainable enterprise in the uphill area of Lincoln, through a package of infrastructure connectivity enhancements.

Housed in the heart of Chesterfield College, the **Chesterfield School of Arts and Creative Enterprise** will provide sustainability for the sector by influencing and inspiring students studying at the College through mentoring and work shadowing. This will plant the seeds of a enterprise and provide the creative business start-ups of the future.



Gwin Kerry's Workshop

With £626,485 ERDF the project provides a flexible, purpose built space encouraging the creation, development and support of small creative businesses. The funding has generated free shared studio space for up to 15 small creative businesses; a meeting room; a serviced reception area; drop-in studio and exhibition space. Enterprises are supported as they develop their business and their skills helping to develop the performance of businesses in the area and create jobs. Gwin Kerry creates copper and enamel jewellery and worked from home before applying to West Studios. She now shares a studio with three other new businesses.

"Sharing a space with like-minded women is both supportive and inspiring. With the support we have from West Studios it's a powerful thing knowing that you aren't alone in what you are doing, even though your business is solely your responsibility." Gwin Kerry

East of England

Supported by £1 million ERDF, the OrbisEnergy **Supply Chain innovation for Offshore Renewable Energy (SCORE)** is a business development programme which through the help of grants addresses the supply chain and innovation needs of businesses in the offshore renewable energy industry in the East of England. Offshore and vessel support service specialists, Kiss Cranes Ltd, received £4,500 funding to fast track the 3D modelling and structural calculations of its revolutionary new crane design, which were undertaken by engineering analytics experts. They benefited from specialist and industry expertise available and funding of an initial feasibility study. The results of the study then played a critical role in securing the crane's patent and intellectual property rights.



Brainchild of Kiss Cranes' Stephen Chadd, the innovative concept addresses the problems of lifting increasingly wide offshore personnel transfer boats out of the water for repair. The crane's innovative design provides stability when manipulating the load, which is balanced by moving weights to reach the perfect balance point, whilst negating the need for extensive and costly quayside reconstruction.



Garden Swing Sets

The Local Enterprise Growth and Efficiency (LEGE) Programme is focused on the administration and distribution of grants to businesses to purchase and install efficient new processes, production facilities and clean tech efficiency equipment, helping them invest-to-grow.

The grants and other direct assistance, support businesses to promote Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) such as clean technology and renewable energy. With just over £3.3 million ERDF, the project has covered a large proportion of the East of England working in partnership with four of the region's Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). Bramble Cottage Woodcraft Ltd makes hand-crafted garden swing seats, tree swings and garden swing frames, primarily in English oak. As a new business, it has worked hard to establish and grow market share and the internet now accounts for 75% of sales. Working with LEGE Grants4Growth funding, the Company secured £6,500 to assist with the purchase of an energy-efficient CNC router system and dust extractor; an additional tooling and manufacturing plant, and a new fuel-efficient van. This investment has enabled them to create a new job, realise annual cost savings of £5,560, reduce carbon emissions by a tonne and increase profit margins to 23%.

East of England



A beneficiary of the project

Thames Gateway South Essex (TGSE) **Leading a Low Carbon Economy** programme is aimed to increase the competitiveness of the South Essex economy and the economic prosperity of small to medium sized enterprises (SMEs) by co-ordinated interventions to address high levels of carbon emissions through significant reduction in their carbon footprint.

TGSE experiences some of the highest levels of carbon emissions for the East of England and the Low Carbon Programme provides the co-ordination, advice and bespoke support that is required to reduce these emissions. This is currently achieved by providing businesses with access to expertise on best practice in 'greening' businesses, and to introduce carbon reduction solutions at an individual business level. TGSE's programme, supported with £1,3 million ERDF, helped growing and new businesses to set up web marketing and replace hard copy advertising increasing their on-line presence.

Aquarius Heating and Plumbing, a business supported by programme, received 75 requests for quotes through an online enquiry form in the first 12 weeks of getting set up. Another company supported by the programme, Abi's Catering Supplies were awarded £14,850 to upgrade insulation and refrigeration. The company made annual energy reductions totalling 130,000kWh; annual CO2 savings totalling 103 Tonnes; and annual cost savings totalling £12,200. The grant allowed the project to safeguard 10 full time equivalent jobs.

The Future Business Centre is an environmental and social enterprise innovation centre, and aims to help businesses specialising in clean technologies to improve their social and environmental impacts. The Future Business Centre was awarded a commendation at Cambridge Design and Construction Awards in March 2014, a commendation in the 'Social, Economic and Environmental Sustainability' category for 2013 In recognition of its contribution to the buildings and townscape of the City of Cambridge. The Centre offers affordable workspace for growing businesses who want to make a difference on social or environmental issues. This has helped local businesses in developing products and services to benefit the local community, including Cambridge's many cyclists.



The Future Business Centre

Supported by £3.9 million ERDF, the programme blends seminars, workshops, clinics and peer to peer sessions and to date 250 businesses have been helped, 180 jobs created, 30 jobs safeguarded and 98 new businesses assisted.

South East England

The **Low Carbon Workspaces** is a grant scheme that helps businesses across the South East of England to identify opportunities to reduce energy usage. With £822,050 ERDF, the project offered businesses grants up to £5,000 to help pay for the installation of energy efficiency solutions.

A.C. Entertainment Technologies Ltd, who provide cutting edge professional equipment solutions to the entertainment and architectural sectors carried out an audit of their premises in High Wycombe and found that they could save money and energy by replacing their warehouse lighting system with an LED version. After applying, received £5,000 ERDF to help redesign the lighting used in their warehouse. This incorporated new energy efficient LED fixtures, as well as a localised control system with in-built sensors that would cut energy waste by turning the lighting on and off automatically depending on the need of a particular area of the warehouse. It wasn't long before the project was up and running.



Energy Efficient LEDs

Mark Tonks said;

“Our lighting bills have regularly been over £6,000 a year, but our new system is expected to reduce this by at least £3,200 a year, a result that we are delighted with. The grant has enabled us to replace our 400W fixtures that were operational from 6am to 8pm with 150W LED fixtures, some of which will now only come on where and when we need them. I estimate that we'll save more than 20% a year on our overall energy use.”



Sustainable Transport Methods

The project **Smarter Small Business Travel in the South East** enables 150 businesses across the South East to implement efficiencies and innovation across their travel and transport practice; reducing operating costs, carbon emissions, and improving productivity. Businesses will save fuel and energy costs through adopting the practices advised by the project and increasing their profits and growing their companies. To date 291 businesses have been helped, 19 of which have already adopted sustainable mobility strategies and at least 100 will be fully assisted to make real CO2 savings and increase their profitability.

Rosie Lord-Taylor BA MBA, Quality & Environmental Manager Gully Howard Technical (One of the participating SMEs) said; “Sustrans performed an extensive travel plan that has been instrumental in promoting alternative transport methods for both our staff and clients.”

South East England



HiETA Centre

Offering loan from £20,000 to £200,000, the **South East Sustainability Loan Fund (SESLF)** complements existing innovative funding solutions by providing funding to businesses in the South East. SESLF typically supports businesses operating in new and emerging ecologically driven market sectors, those delivering products or technologies which contribute to a reduction in the rate of the local areas ecological footprint or those delivering innovation in other business sectors that result in more resource efficient business practices.

HiETA Technologies Ltd's innovative use of new advanced Additive Manufacturing technology and patented design allows the production of more efficient, compact heat exchangers, recuperators and componentry which in turn produces significant advances in heat engines, micro-turbine, scroll compressors and/or Stirling engine technology. Due to the economic climate, HiETA were having difficulties in securing funding however once the SESLF loan was accessed they were able to use this as match funding for a Technology Strategy Board grant of around £300,000. This allowed the company to grow rapidly.

Low Carbon Plus is an integrated programme of financial assistance and business support to increase demand for low carbon technology, increase efficiency and grow businesses in the low carbon and environmental goods and services (LCEGS) sector in Kent and Medway. Grants from £1000 to £20,000 are available for businesses based in the South East. The programme consists of two key elements. The first 'Steps to Environmental Management' (STEM) offers advice to improve resource efficiency through a series of workshops providing advice on carbon reduction measures and signposting to further sources of advice. The second is Low Carbon Plus Grants which offers grants of between £5,000 and £20,000 within the LCEGS sector. Low Carbon Plus grants unlock private investment in low carbon enterprises, recognising the additional risks that businesses operating in sectors using new or unproven technology present to investors.

Log Heat is a sole trader in Shadoxhurst, Kent which operates as a supplier of quality seasoned and kiln dried firewood logs. With £20,000 new equipment could be purchased to upscale their operation allowing them to operate throughout the year. This led to a 200% increase in profit for the business, enabling it to grow, safeguarding 2 existing jobs and creating a further 2 new local jobs.

London

The **Business Food Waste Solutions Delivery** project helps deliver advice and support to London's food sector businesses, to identify and implement measures to reduce food waste which provide significant environmental, financial and social benefits. With £426,716 ERDF, support has been provided to 170 businesses, including the **Breakfast Club** (BC) a high volume, fast turnover operation. Suspecting their restaurants were wasting too much food, the BC signed up to FoodSave. The FoodSave team monitored kitchen and plate waste over a total of six weeks. The results saw a reduction in kitchen food waste by 55% - preventing 2.5 tonnes of waste going to landfill and providing a £5,600 saving on food costs annually. Information informed a menu redesign looking at portion size and customer preferences. The FoodSave programme has also developed www.foodsave.org - a resource packed website, full of good practice and lessons learnt. The project was a 2014 Local Authority Recycling Committee winner.

"Taking part in FoodSave has had a hugely significant impact on our business, making us think about how we order and store our food to the size of our portions. It's been a very positive experience with lasting effects on all the restaurants." Matt Goussaert, Executive Chef, The Breakfast Club

The **London Green Fund** is a £120 million fund - (£60 m ERDF) - set up to invest in schemes that cut London's carbon emissions and support green infrastructure. The London Green Fund provides funding for three Urban Development Funds (UDFs) that invest directly in waste, energy efficiency, decentralised energy and social housing projects. The Fund had provided £97 million to 16 projects worth approximately £700 million. The waste fund has invested in seven projects that utilise new forms of technology to reduce the amount of waste in London sent to landfill; including anaerobic digestion plants and plastic recycling.

The housing fund has supported the refurbishment of over 2,500 properties to make them more environmentally friendly. The retrofitting measures supported include external and internal solid wall insulation; boiler replacement; installation of air source heat pumps; and upgrading to triple glazed windows. The Energy Efficiency Fund has provided debt financing to projects, including the 'retrofitting' of Tate Art Galleries, schools in Croydon and a district heating network in the Lee Valley. The project was a RegioStars 2015 finalist, recognising Europe's most outstanding ERDF projects; and nominated for a C40 City Climate Leadership Award.



Surplus Food Collection



Tate Modern Building

London



THABTO's funder presenting the Company's products at the project's showcase. Photo credit: kalroy.co.uk

The British Library's Business & Intellectual Property (IP) Centre's **Innovating for Growth** project provides high quality business and intellectual property advice and support services to help ambitious businesses innovate, grow and create new jobs in the knowledge economy in London.

With £1 million ERDF, the project has created 240 jobs and supported over 200 businesses, which have become highly-recognised in their industries and secured prestigious business awards. This includes the FSB Overall Winner Best Business in London and Best Business for Customer Service 2015 (First Aid for Life), Great British Entrepreneur Award 2014 (Living the Dream), People's Champion Award at the Startups Awards 2014 (Pobble) and ERDF's own Most Innovating Business Award 2012 (Squid London).

The **International Showcasing for British Designers** is an innovative and experimental international marketing and sales project promoting London's creative fashion design talent to key international audiences. Supported by just over £1.2 million ERDF, the project is made up of two strands of activity; the Digital showcase - which enables and supports designers to access new markets through the International digital promotion of their businesses and the LONDON showROOMS – which supports new, talented young designers to showcase, market and sell their designs in key International cities. As a collective space, the LONDON showROOMS allows designers to generate more sales opportunities than would be achieved if they were showcasing individually. Press and buyers are invited to visit the event to meet designers, view their collections and place orders.

Business support underpins both strands, enabling designers to fully understand and maximise their opportunities. The project has assisted 65 businesses, created 3 jobs and £688,000 of new sales generated.



The British Fashion Council held several pop up London showROOMS in Paris and New York

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