

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 to build upon priorities identified in the New Anglia LEP business plan, trailblazing approaches to current private sector growth barriers and providing delegated Green Economy expertise. Key strands are:

- **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) supplychain, enabling it to realise 5-year growth projections of up to £617m in market value and the creation of up to 4,000 jobs by providing high level representation, leadership, effective marketing/communications and coordination of partners and stakeholders to secure investment and outcomes.
- **Building business resource efficiency support framework**
Supporting business growth has been identified by the LEP as a key enabling activity. The LEP will a) coordinate partners and stakeholders to progress investments and bid-writing to build and maintain relevant and inclusive business resource efficiency support frameworks to enhance business resilience and comparative advantage and deliver total potential savings of up to £1.6bn and 2.6 Mt CO₂e, and b) develop, promote and enhance broader national business schemes within the New Anglia LEP area.
- **Attracting and retaining low carbon capacity**
Securing infrastructure, jobs and expertise for the LEP area, including the creation of 200 skilled energy sector jobs in the next year.

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' will be produced of policy recommendations and case studies from a number of topic areas. The case studies will be coalesced to show their benefit to the creation of jobs, growth, skills and financing.

The case study topics will be based on existing best practice and future aspirations, they are as follows:

What are pathfinder projects?

Through a process of shared learning, pathfinder 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

- Energy - incorporating case studies on; localization/off grid, nuclear, and offshore.
- Low Carbon Innovation and Finance - incorporating energy/resource efficiency.
- Natural Capital - incorporating landscape, wildlife, leisure and recreation, local food and tourism.

The 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 has securing a pathfinder coordinator who is 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.

New Anglia presented the Green Economy Pathfinder at Defra's LEP round Table on 29th September where they explored how best to disseminate best practice with other LEPs.

The initial duration of the Pathfinder is expected to be 6 months, at the end of which a manifesto of best practice case studies will have been 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 is as follows;

- Oct 2011- Draft Pathfinder plan, identify board members.
- Nov 2011- Inaugural Pathfinder Board meeting agrees pathfinder plan and identifies case study leads.
- Dec 2012 - Chair of the pathfinder secures endorsement of plan from the LEP Board.
- Dec 14th 2012 – LEP Chair will brief government departments and a well formed pathfinder proposal will underpin the briefing.
- Dec 2011 to March 2012 –Further development of Pathfinder case studies and the opportunity to work directly with" Whitehall resources" in relation to the pathfinder. Disseminate an ambitious.
- Feb 9th – Board meeting to have presentations by pathfinder leads on case studies. Environment Agency supported event to celebrate the Pathfinder and engage a wide range of stakeholders..
- March 2012 – Third board meeting and agreement on submission of Pathfinder case studies to Govt.
- 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 –Profile Green Economy Pathfinder at Norfolk Chambers Sustainability Event, May Day Event with Business in the Community and other events.

For additional information about this project, please contact Iain Dunnett, Low Carbon Development Manager, Suffolk Chamber of Commerce – iain@suffolkchamber.co.uk, 01473 680600

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