

Community Renewal Fund: Clean, Green and Advanced Manufacturing Skills for the Future

1. Project Summary

The project aims to benefit the local economy by building on existing sector strengths in clean, green growth and advanced manufacturing, and addressing the skills gaps and shortages which are currently a barrier to productivity and growth for businesses in these sectors.

Working with local businesses to improve the skills of their workforce to be better able to deliver clean and green growth and to further strengthen our advanced manufacturing sector.

Improving the skills of their management teams and technical staff to contribute to Net Zero principles, whilst growing their businesses and building on current local strengths in the advanced manufacturing and clean growth sectors.

Undertaking these activities will inform future longer-term projects in these growing sectors, giving us a better understanding of exactly what support businesses need, and how best to deliver the required skills training to the workforce and improve productivity.

2. Project Activities

a. UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Snapshot

Produce a snapshot report on the Borough of St Helens position with respect to achieving the UN SDG, and to identify St Helens' furthest behind to prioritise future action through associated programmes.

b. Improving Workforce Skills

Working together with businesses to improve the skills of their workforce to be better able to deliver clean green growth and to further strengthen our advanced manufacturing sector by:

- Supporting firms to develop their own Net Zero implementation plans via blended learning through a series of 3 x half-day masterclasses and one-to-one bespoke advice.
- Running a series of events and awareness sessions to promote Net Zero to the St Helens business community.
- Signposting firms to additional support from other bodies, including ISO accreditation, product development, low carbon/circular economy solutions, and finance for investment into Net Zero related productivity improvements.
- Assisting firms to access new market opportunities including, entering the supply chain for tendered products and services where the supply chain requires a Net Zero plan or accreditation.
- Pilot a peer collaborative legacy group blending a series of masterclass sessions and networking to support achievement of Net Zero targets.

c. Reporting and Monitoring

Preparation of a monthly project monitoring and progress report demonstrating achievement of project targets and outcomes.

3. Project Impact

The project beneficiaries and outcomes include:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Snapshot will benefit (1) the borough of St Helens, (2) the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and (3) LCR LEP - Growth Platform.
- Engage with 15 businesses operating within the clean growth and advanced manufacturing sectors, predominantly SMEs but not excluding larger companies supply chains.
- 100 employees, managers and leaders of businesses in the clean growth and advanced manufacturing sectors to upgrade existing or gaining new technical skills to develop Net Zero plans for their businesses. We will also target teachers and educational professionals to increase their understanding of the career prospects and skills needs of these sectors.
- 15 businesses will benefit from support to analyse and meet Net Zero requirements both in terms of understanding the emerging agenda, developing their specific Net Zero plans, and onward referral to appropriate services.
- 10 businesses introducing innovation plans and new products to the firm, referring to the Net Zero plans which will influence how the firm's current products or services are delivered and able to improve their products, services and processes as a result of the support provided.
- 10 decarbonisation plans produced as a result of this project will directly impact on reducing carbon in 10 businesses, and will provide examples of good practice which can be widely disseminated to encourage more businesses to engage in carbon reduction.

4. Project Timeline

Milestone	Target Month
Convene partnership group to oversee delivery of project.	Jan-2022
Prepare 3 x half-day masterclasses for Improving Workforce Skills Programme.	Jan-2022
Compile data and evidence for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Snapshot on the Borough of St Helens	Feb-2022
Recruit businesses and individuals to take part in Improving Workforce Skills Programme.	Feb-2022
Assess data and evidence for UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Snapshot on the Borough of St Helens	Mar-2022
Deliver Improving Workforce Skills Programme with 30 individuals.	Mar-2022
Produce a UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) snapshot report on the Borough of St Helens.	Apr-2022
Deliver Improving Workforce Skills Programme with 40 individuals.	Apr-2022
Deliver Improving Workforce Skills Programme with 30 individuals.	May-2022
Remaining project targets achieved – 100% of beneficiaries across all categories.	Jun-2022
External evaluation completed.	Jun-2022