

ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

Main contact name	Donna Brown
Email	donna.brown@atkinsglobal.com
Award category	Delivering Clean Growth
Project Title	Carbon Calculation and Accounting Standard: GHG Scopes 1 & 2
Local authority entrant	Devon
Partner/s if applicable	Future Highways Research Group (FHRG), Proving Services, and Eurovia

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Clean growth can only start with a clean picture of baseline greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). We're helping Local Highways Authorities achieve that.

Delivering clean growth: How is this project delivering clean growth, not just now but into the future – demonstrating ambition and vision, anticipating future challenges and future proofing growth including developing the workforce for the future? (150 words max)

Clean growth depends on GHG reduction. But to reduce emissions, we must first understand where they are.

That's why we pioneered a framework and toolkit for Local Highways Authorities (LHAs) to consistently identify, measure, and report their emissions. The Guidance for the Application of Greenhouse Gas Scope 1 & 2 in Local Highways Authorities was developed through the vision of a public-private partnership comprising the Future Highways Research Group (FHRG), Proving Services, Eurovia and Atkins - enriched by insights from 10 LHAs and academic partners.

The toolkit provides, for the first time, a consistent approach to sharing best practice and delivering scalable CO2 savings across LHAs and their supply chains. Informed with accurate and comprehensive information on emissions, we can engage and embed a bold, forward-thinking, and low-carbon culture at every level of the workforce.

So that LHAs can develop resilient roadmaps to decarbonisation, and make far-sighted decisions with confidence.

Delivering clean growth: How is this project working across boundaries and with different partners to achieve long lasting clean growth? (150 words max)

GHG emissions in large organisations are complex - making decarbonisation harder. The framework and toolkit creates consistencies across LHAs, breaking the silos that have been hampering progress. By providing a common baseline and understanding, we are enabling large, complex organisations in both the public and private sector to overcome traditional boundaries, share best practice, and deliver long lasting clean growth at speed.

With over 21 partners participating in the research programme, our project is pioneering clean growth through unprecedented collaboration, utilising the enormous breadth and depth of our sector to innovate solutions.

By collaboratively engaging such a wide array of partnering organisations, we were able to develop coherent and consistent reporting tools that are genuinely responsive to the range of challenges LHAs face.

To date, 19 LHAs have signed up to use the new carbon assessment framework - embedding these insights and enriching their procurement criteria, processes and behaviours.

Delivering clean growth: How is this project proactively engaging with business to tackle problems and find solutions, stimulating the clean growth sector at the same time? (150 words max.)

Engaging with business is at the heart of our solution. The vision emerged from, and is funded by, businesses working proactively with FHRG and LHA's. Technical experts and practitioners are uniting to create tangible solutions for clean growth.

Recognising that the majority of GHG emissions are from Scope 3 activities, our collaborative arrangement is now extending guidance to provide actionable solutions and guidance for Scope 3.

The framework and toolkit has been foundational for developing common standards for LHAs. In May this year, CCAS (Carbon Calculation and Accounting Standards) will be rolled out for all local authorities, to identify, qualify and quantify carbon reduction options.

By prioritising carbon reduction initiatives around key carbon hotspots, LHAs are already reducing carbon while minimising cost and disruption to key functions and activities. The framework drives engagement, education, and action throughout the supply chain - and therefore the transition towards clean growth.

Delivering clean growth: How is this project going beyond the 3-5 year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges including the use or consideration of innovative funding solutions? (150 words max.)

Our guidance enables data-driven decisions, improving planning, strengthening resilience and mitigating risk. It enables LHAs to identify the most impactful, valuable and cost-effective path to decarbonisation, and develop compelling business cases to prove it - transcending the 3-5 year budget cycle to solve future challenges. Successful business cases can be shared among LHAs, reducing duplication of effort, cost, and de-risking programmes across the sector.

As the climate emergency intensifies, the funding landscape will change, challenging LHAs to innovate. Without understanding their total GHG emissions, LHAs will struggle to develop clear business cases or strategies to obtain funding.

Driven by ESG principles, private sector investors will expect to see evidence of carbon awareness, or progress towards reducing emissions. By improving and streamlining their roadmaps to Net Zero, our framework helps LHAs to position themselves for these investments, allowing them to go beyond the budget cycle and find innovative funding solutions.