

ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

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Award category Delivering Clean Growth

Project Title Leicestershire CAN! Collaborate to Accelerate Net Zero

Local authority entrant Leicestershire County Council

Partner/s if applicable Energy Systems Catapult, Green Fox Community Energy

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Leicestershire CAN! enables collaboration, innovation and cross-sector partnership working to drive clean growth and deliver Net Zero Leicestershire

Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6vGcbUpHUK>

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)

LCC has an ambitious, long-term vision for clean growth, achieving a net zero county by 2045. Our Net Zero Strategy and Action Plan (NZSAP) provides a blueprint, delivering multiple co-benefits for the county – improved health, increased natural capital and access to skilled jobs - “a cleaner, greener Leicestershire for people, prosperity and planet”.

We are collaborating with partners to:

- embed clean growth and net into local and strategic planning
- deliver innovative rural transport solutions; demand-responsive buses, rural EV car clubs, solar-battery powered charging hubs
- retrofit hundreds of fuel-poor homes and scale up renewable energy and supply chains.

We lead by example – the NZSAP is supported by our internal carbon reduction plan, targeting net zero by 2030; already delivering LED streetlighting, heat pumps, biomass/heat storage and a solar farm. Our organisational change workstream is embedding new skills, processes, engagement and leadership to ensure success.

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

We are building upon our successful Net Zero Stakeholder Forum, which attracts over 40 organisations to work collaboratively to deliver the NZSAP, to launch Leicestershire CAN: collaborate to accelerate net zero.

This Innovate UK-funded project is working alongside Energy Systems Catapult to develop a novel, replicable framework for cross-sector net zero governance, decision making and delivery. The

framework will maximise local powers, cross-sector capacity and skills, and stimulate community delivery by incubating new community energy companies. The outcome will be a vehicle for effective and efficient place-based delivery, at scale and pace, optimising the role of different sectors and making Leicestershire highly investable.

Additionally, we have implemented a Collaboration Agreement with district councils to deliver clean growth projects, overcoming a key challenge in a two-tier local authority area, and launched the Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact, asking other organisations to pledge commitment to tackling the Climate and Ecological emergencies.

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.)

The Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact, based on the Glasgow Climate Pact, asks organisations to commit to reduce carbon, adapt to climate change, protect nature, and enable climate action through finance, collaboration and research.

Launched in February 2023, 20 key partners including the LLEP, Leicestershire Universities, Midlands Net Zero Hub, Environment Agency, National Forest and more have signed up and we will shortly be launching a campaign to promote the pact more widely to large employers, SMEs and our supply chain.

We also offer a range of business support through our NZSAP; Green BELLE has funded business energy efficiency projects, Zellar provides a platform for businesses to understand their carbon footprint, and our Innovation Zones support clean growth such as the Hydrogen Cluster at MIRA Technology Park.

We lead by example, including social value in contracts, such as requiring retrofit contractors to install biodiversity interventions alongside insulation and solar installations.

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.)

We have made a long term commitment to tackle climate change, targeting net zero for Leicestershire 5 years ahead of the national target. Although we have included allocations to support this in our MTFs, such as our £2M carbon reduction fund, we also recognise the need for long term commitment and investment.

Our emerging funding plan prepares us to maximise available grant for Domestic Retrofit, EV infrastructure and more, but also to utilise diverse funding mechanisms including private and community investment.

Leicestershire CAN will build upon past community share pilots, including the Cleveland College Community Woodheat Co-operative and Thornton Lane Solar Farm to stimulate community fundraising and delivery, increasing capacity to deliver clean growth. Green Fox Community Energy and Community Energy South are partners in Leicestershire CAN and are supporting us to develop and implement our pathway for community energy growth.

All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry

- Link to NZAP: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero/net-zero-leicestershire-strategy-action-plan-and-reports> - Link to internal Carbon Reduction Plan: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/environment-and-planning/net-zero/net-zero-council-action-plan-and-reports> - Link to Leicestershire CAN PR: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/council-receives-ps63k-funding-to-take-net-zero-plans-forward> - Link to Leicestershire Climate and Nature Pact PR: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/county-leads-the-way-in-new-pact-to-drive-the-green-agenda>