**An Audit of Buckinghamshire’s Green Economy – Specification**

The project will include:

1. **Developing an evidence base**

This will consist of two elements.

1. Innovation for net zero
* Mapping and categorising local businesses operating in the green economy *(defined as the sectors identified in the* [*Green Jobs Taskforce report*](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1003570/gjtf-report.pdf)*, July 2021, which is referenced in* [*Net Zero Strategy: Build Back Greener*](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf)*, October 2021. These are listed in table 1 below)*
* Identifying Buckinghamshire’s green economy specialisms.

Which local companies are leading the way nationally and internationally? Are there clusters of green economy activity in / near to Buckinghamshire?

* Identifying opportunities for growing these and other green specialisms in the County
1. Business journey to net zero
* Benchmarking the extent to which Buckinghamshire’s business population as a whole are adopting net zero strategies (including switching to cleaner fuels and improving resource and energy efficiency) and net gains being achieved.
1. **Making policy recommendations**
* Articulating the opportunities and challenges for green innovation and business journeys to net zero in the County
* Making recommendations regarding the role of Buckinghamshire LEP and economic development partners (including Buckinghamshire Business First and Buckinghamshire Council) in driving forward local, national and global net zero ambitions in the short, medium and long term. What should the LEP and partners be doing over the next 5, 10, 15, 25 and 30 years?

Ultimately, the findings of this research will inform local net zero economic strategy (including skills strategy[[1]](#footnote-1)).

Table 1. Green economy sectors

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Well-established green sectors which will experience significant growth
 |
| * electricity networks
* smart systems technologies
* buildings retrofit sector
* building fabric energy efficiency
* modern methods of construction for retrofit and especially new build
* offshore wind
 |
| Green sectors that are predicted to grow ahead of the transition to net zero |
| * hydrogen
* Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage (CCUS)
* climate resilience market
 |
| Sectors experiencing significant transformation |
| * automotive
* heating and cooling
* circular economy
* oil and gas
 |

**Outputs**

We require the following outputs from the project:

* An interactive map, that we can maintain locally, plotting the location of Buckinghamshire’s green economy innovators (such as that produced by the West Midlands Observatory - [Green Growth Storymap (arcgis.com)](https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/8aa56ffc49084bc2a88f7954905cf3fe?item=1)).
* A list of local green economy businesses (where they are located, their size (employment/turnover) and what they do)
* A dashboard and underlying methodology for local stakeholders to benchmark and monitor Buckinghamshire businesses journey to net zero over the coming years.
* A written report (including a short, clear executive summary) including policy recommendations

**Supporting information**

We wish this project to take into account recommendations set out in the government’s [Net Zero Strategy](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033990/net-zero-strategy-beis.pdf), along with the following local strategies:

* [Buckinghamshire’s Local Industrial Strategy](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/local-industrial-strategy/)
* [Buckinghamshire’s Economic Recovery Plan](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/buckinghamshire-economic-recovery-strategy-consultation/)
* [Buckinghamshire’s Local Energy Strategy](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/?wpfb_dl=517)
* [Buckinghamshire’s Climate Change and Air Quality Strategy](https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/environment/sustainability-and-climate-change/climate-change-and-air-quality-strategy/).
* [Buckinghamshire’s Local Skills Report](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/buckinghamshire-local-skills-report/)

We also wish this project to take into account existing activity being undertaken within the County. Including:

* [Low carbon workplaces grants](https://bbf.uk.com/business-support/low-carbon-workspaces)
* [The Buckinghamshire Business First Net Zero Collaboration Circle](https://bbf.uk.com/business-support/net-zero-collaboration-circle)
* Green innovation activity being undertaken at [Buckinghamshire’s Enterprise Zones](https://www.aylesburyvaleez.co.uk/)

**Steering group members**

The project will be overseen by a steering group, comprising representatives from Buckinghamshire LEP, Buckinghamshire Business First and Buckinghamshire Council.

Buckinghamshire Business First (the County’s business support organisation) has a membership of around 14,000 local businesses, including links to many of the County’s net zero innovators.

Buckinghamshire LEP has begun to develop a list of local green economy businesses. This will be shared with the successful bidder.

1. Note, Buckinghamshire’s Skills Strategy will be refreshed in early 2022. Current strategy is set out in the [Buckinghamshire Local Skills Report.](https://www.buckstvlep.co.uk/our-strategies/buckinghamshire-local-skills-report/) It is envisaged that the refreshed strategy will set out goals in relation to ensuring the local economy has access to the skills needed to enable the transition net zero. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)