



Climate Action: Green Growth

*All Member Briefing
May 2023*



Agenda

- What is Green Growth & why is it important
- Climate at the Heart of our Everyone's Essex
- Climate at the Heart of our Economy
- Overview of activities to date
 - Retrofit and collaboration to stimulate growth in the county
 - Skills / Qualifications / Articulating the opportunity
 - Optimising opportunity for a local supply chain through procurement
 - Update on The Essex Climate Action Commission – Special Interest Group - A Just Transition to a Green Economy
 - Green Entrepreneurs
 - Great Start
 - Essex Heroes
 - Update on Net Zero Innovation Network (NZIN)
- Next Steps/Plans
- Q&A

What is Green Growth & Why is it Important?

Importance of Green Growth

What is Green Growth?

“Green growth is focussed on achieving sustainable economic growth by reducing environmental impacts. It is about finding ways to grow the economy without harming the environment and recognises that a healthy environment is essential for long-term economic prosperity.”

Why is Green Growth Important to Essex?

- The Chris Skidmore report to Government earlier this year was clear that the transition to net zero is the biggest economic opportunity this century
- He identified that local authorities have a key role in unlocking this economic growth opportunity in their areas.
- There are huge economic opportunities that will help drive our ambitions to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050 and help to protect the environment.
- Green growth is intrinsic to work across ECC it is not just the job of one team or one directorate
- Green growth is good for businesses, our residents and our environment



Climate at the Heart of Everyone's Essex & Essex Climate Action Commission

Green growth is a direct commitment of ECC Everyone's Essex and intrinsic to delivering against the recommendations of the Essex Climate Action Commission.

Everyone Essex Outlines the need to create a Strong, Inclusive and Sustainable Economy

Delivery is noted as "requiring whole organisation effort and co-ordination...on levelling up and on climate action".

This is underpinned by the 4 strategic aims:

Economy

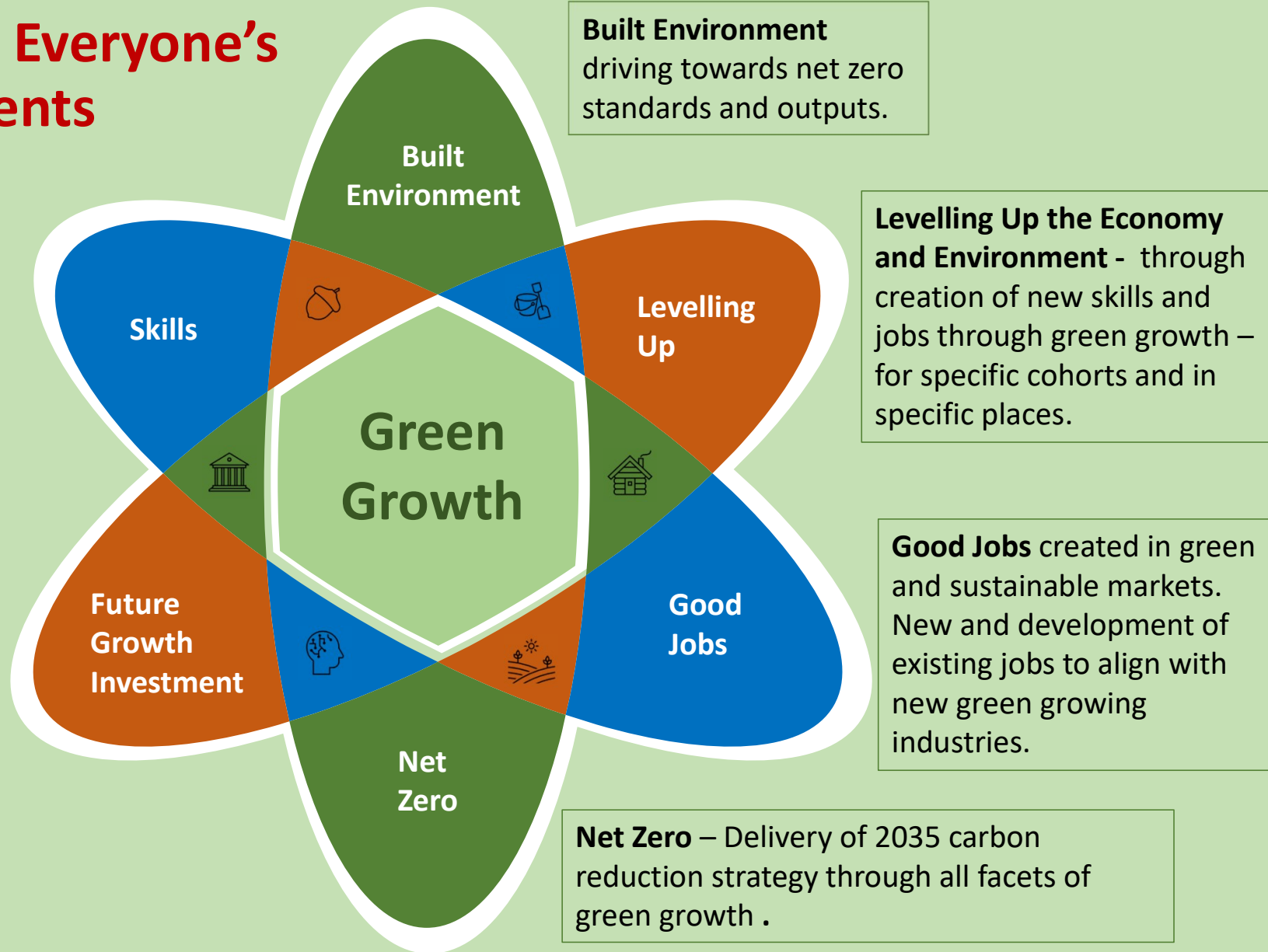
Environment

Health

Family



Delivery Against Everyone's Essex Commitments



Climate at the Heart of our Economy

Green Growth in Context of Sector Growth



Through **Everyone's Essex**, we have committed to 'help grow existing businesses and the **economic sectors of the future**'

Our **Sector Development Strategy** brings together public sector partners, businesses, and residents together to effectively plan for the economy of Greater Essex around 5 growth sectors:



Green Construction and Retrofit
(including NSIPs)



Clean Green Energy
(including low emission vehicles tech)



Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering
(supporting green transition)



Digitech (including Fin, Insure, Agri, Marine)



Life Sciences (focusing on med & care tech)

This is what the sectors are currently worth to the Essex Economy:

£9.7billion

£320million

£2.6billion

£1.4billion

£630million

Over the next 20 years, with no additional stimulus, they are projected to contribute an extra:

£4.1billion
37,000 jobs

£18million
1,000 jobs

£312million

£340million
2,700 jobs

£94million
3,500 jobs

← **27,000 green jobs in low carbon** →

Ambition is for sector development activity to ensure Essex exceeds this growth rate

Green Growth the Golden Thread



- **Essex Renewal Fund:**

- Supports land and property projects in Essex. The fund is part of our commitment to good jobs, future growth and investment, green growth and levelling up the economy.
- Over the next 20 years, the fund aims to invest over £100m, supporting 1,500 jobs and bringing to market enough land to deliver 1,000 new homes



- **Localities Plans:**

- Climate action and Green Growth is intrinsic to levelling up and is therefore a theme throughout localities plans



- **Skills:**

- LSIP, Green Skills Infrastructure review and Green Skills Summit puts Climate and Green Growth at the heart of plans
- Maximising NSIP contributions towards green skills

What does success look like for Essex

Green growth as essential to the future growth of the five priority sectors to ensure we meet our target for a net zero county by 2035.

Success for this opportunity looks like:

Reduced emissions in line with our ambition for the County to become net zero

Progress towards a decentralised and decarbonised energy system

Sustainable new homes and a thriving retrofit sector to improve existing homes

Essex at the forefront of low carbon (solar, offshore wind, nuclear and hydrogen) energy development and employment

Harnessing innovation to reach our net zero ambitions

Supporting the digital sector to thrive

Welcoming decarbonisation of the manufacturing industry

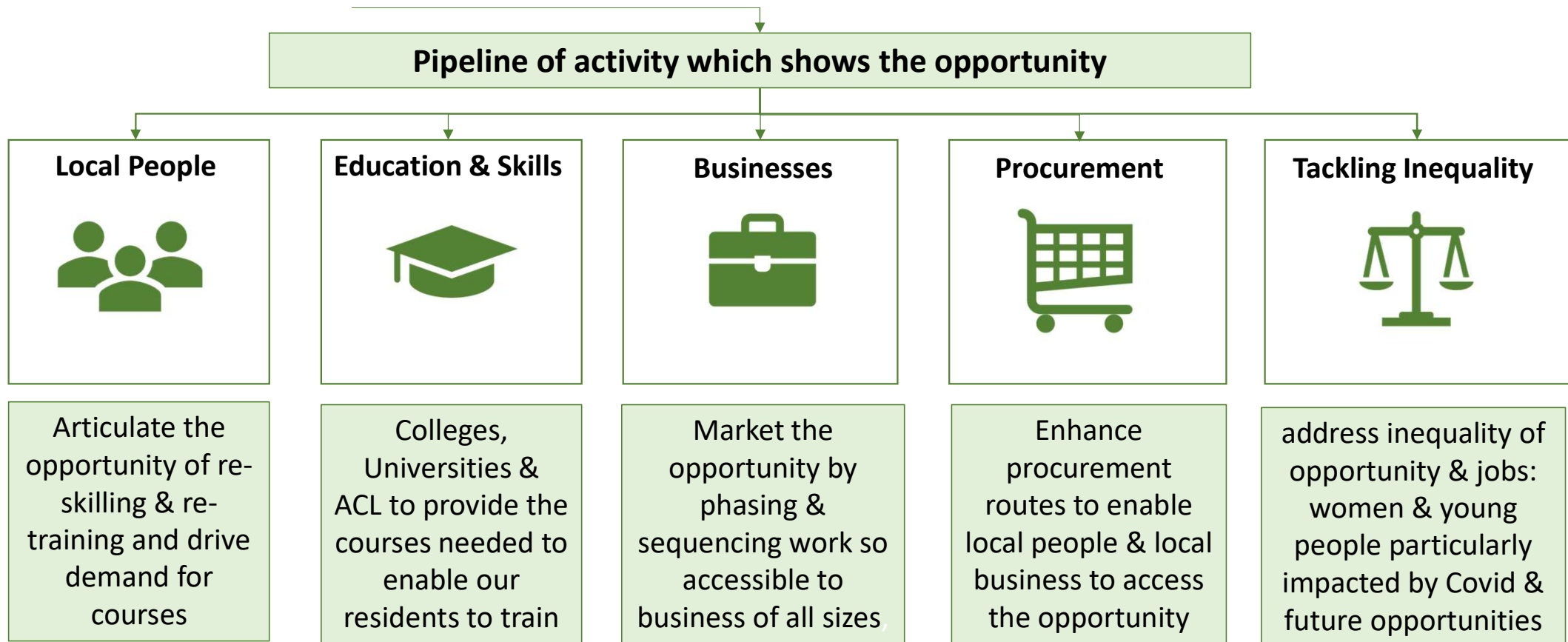
Promoting and supporting life sciences and med tech, which will support our public services for local and remote diagnostics, preventing excessive transportation and emissions



Retrofit - Green Growth Opportunity

The Essex Opportunity: Retrofit

In the UK it is expected to create **455,076** jobs; 67,400 in the South East; for **Essex** that could mean up to **14,000 jobs...BUT** we need to ensure our residents and businesses can benefit – it is **ESSENTIAL** to develop a...



The Outcome – A Circular Economy: Those trained and given work through this process will have transferrable skills and experience, helping Essex to be at the forefront of wider retrofit in commercial and domestic settings, keeping jobs local and the money spent within the Essex economy.

Barriers & Challenges

Low Business Awareness of Opportunity

- The scale and size of the market opportunity is not clear to business, meaning that many aren't transition or seeking to grow to grasp the opportunity of Retrofit
- The language around Retrofit is inconsistent - (Energy efficiency, net zero, retrofit, green homes, improved EPC, climate positive, climate negative – these are just a few!)

Skills

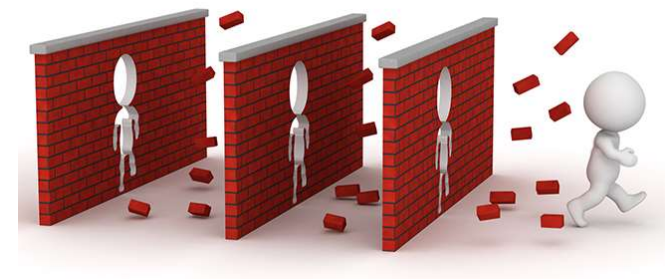
- Lack of a skilled local workforce and low take up of career opportunities across the sector.
- The largest risk to the UK retrofit targets is the shortage of trained, skilled, experienced people to deliver the changes required to our homes

Training

- Little quality retrofit awareness among retrofit contractors
- Limited numbers of approved, local supply chain partners

Low consumer confidence

- Often stemming from disjointed government policy
- Uncertainty of projects and short-term nature of funding.
- Consumer reticence meaning “able to pay” market is weak.



What we have delivered to support businesses and residents?

Retrofit Skills

- **Delivering** - subsidised training in Professional retrofit courses levels 2,3,4 and 5
- **Community Renewal Fund** - Partnership with The Retrofit Academy Community Interest Company (CIC) to deliver retrofit training to residents/business in Harlow and Tendring – **249** people were trained
- **Homes Decarbonisation Skills Training Competition** - roll out training to Basildon, Castle Point and Colchester – working through ACL
 - Number of people trained – Training is ongoing but presently **52 enrolled**.

Business Support

- Community Renewal Fund:
 - Fit for Retrofit programme - Fit for Retrofit was delivered to **10 Social Housing and Registered Providers** to get them ready for retrofit.
 - The Fit for Retrofit Programme also included six-months membership of The Retrofit Academy (since extended by an additional 12 months)
 - Support **18 Essex-based SMEs** to gain PAS 2030 certification.



“Fit for Retrofit has really steered me in the right direction with tenant engagement on retrofit.”

Property management/maintenance company consultee

Next Steps

Articulate the market opportunity to business

- **Seek to aggregate demand from retrofit schemes.** This will demonstrate to local SMEs that there is a significant pipeline of work.
- **Deliver clear communications** - Prepare and disseminate information, advice and guidance support to Essex businesses to help them access and understand retrofit opportunities.
- **Support SME's:** via our Business Support Services to understand how to access opportunities and bid for tenders.
- **Promote collaboration:** Encourage collaboration between local authorities, housing associations and other stakeholders to deliver retrofit projects at scale.

Grow the skills base for retrofit

- **Continue to enhance training:** Develop training programs to upskill the workforce and increase the number of qualified professionals who can carry out retrofit work.
- **Replicate the retrofit pilots** being delivered across the county and seek additional funding to extend this programme across Essex including:
 - Targeted PAS 2035 upskilling programme – tackling inequality with a focus on women.
 - Providing PAS 2030 training to local retrofit installers.
 - Fit for Retrofit training and coaching to housing providers.
 - Development of hub and spoke model between ECC and local training providers so they can deliver retrofit training in the future as part of their standard learning offerings/ not just through time limited competitions
- **Convene local employers and colleges:** to identify how they can work together to boost course provision and demand from students.

Retrofit and Renewable Purchasing

Why are we looking at this project?

During 21/22 ECC spent over **£15m** on works to retrofit and make our core estate and schools **more energy efficient**

Additionally **schools** and **Anchor** institutions will have also had their own **capital** spend in these areas

We are currently delivering these works compliantly through a main contractor model, which may not be driving the best outcomes for Essex in relation to **local economic growth, skills development, SME engagement and climate**

A lot of our spend has been through grant funding – this usually comes with short timescales for delivery, which means we may not always get the **best value for money**

Public and private sector organisations require support in **“knowing where to start”**

Retrofit and Renewable Purchasing

The Issues



Retrofit and Renewable purchasing requirements. ECC, Schools and Anchor organisations have requirements to reach net zero in their buildings by 2050 at the latest



Skills gap. Sector development research has shown that there are serious skills gaps in retrofit assessors as well as trade skills



Economic Growth. ECC and partners can leverage our future spend on these categories to drive local economic growth by developing a purchasing system that is attractive to SME's

Considerations for the Solution

1. **Framework for simple, flexible tool that enables businesses who are willing and able to compliantly provide the goods and services required for Essex Anchor organisations and schools.**
2. **Need a solution that allows for new entrants to the market as demand and supply both increase.**
3. **Buying organisations need confidence that suppliers are credible and can provide the services required.**
4. **Grant funding requires quick routes to market.**

ECC Retrofit and Renewable DPS...the Benefits



Targets smaller local businesses to directly deliver work for ECC, schools and anchors, rather than going through a main contractor



Simple onboarding system to encourage local SME's



Pipeline of work will allow skills providers and employers to understand future requirements and respond accordingly



Larger number of suppliers will be required if DPS is used by external parties



DPS allows for flexibility in markets which may not be established or are volatile



Buying organisations e.g. schools will have greater confidence as suppliers will be pre-qualified



Many of the works are grant funded – the DPS provides a quick route to market to enable grant timescale requirements to be met. This will potentially provide better value for money than existing contracting arrangements

A Just Transition to a Green Economy

A Just Transition to a Green Economy

Essex Climate Action Commission – Special Interest Group set up in 2022 – Just Transition to a Green Economy

- The group agreed its vision, aims and objectives and adopted these to support “A Just Transition to a Green Economy”.
- Set up a little over a year ago this group workshopped it’s priority projects for a 12 month period. From the actions and interventions – 3 projects were taken forward for the year of “Action”.
- By working collaborative and by using collective powers we are working together to put these ideas into tangible activities to better the lives of people in Essex, to support the Climate agenda and create a just and prosperous economy.





Help getting your green
business off the ground?



Are you a green entrepreneur
looking for support?



Join the Green Entrepreneurs' Programme
to celebrate Earth Day with the
Green Entrepreneurs' Programme



Become a green leader –
Register for the Green Entrepreneurs' Programme

Green Entrepreneurs

Green Entrepreneurs Programme

- Supporting individuals age 18-30 with green start-ups in Essex and hone the knowledge, skills, attributes and values for the future workforce
- Delivery of an enterprise programme to 30 individuals with green entrepreneurial aspirations and ideas
- Opportunity for participants to pitch for £5k of seed funding (£25k in the winners pot) – 5 winners
- The goal at the end of the 6 week programme is that all will pitch their idea to a panel in a dragons den type way with a chance to win 1 of 5 £5k prizes for seed funding.
- We will champion the winners and track their progress with their ideas.
- The opportunity for all to maintain relationships with their mentors and tutors from the course can be done following completion.
- Digital Badging – we are working with a team at real ideas to write a digital badge for this programme. The Badges come from Badge Nation and are all about showing what individuals achieve outside of formal qualifications to champion skills experience and learning.



Great Start

- Business Accreditation Scheme – Supporting Climate and Green Growth Ambitions of businesses
- Collective change for big impact
- Engagement meetings held with Lyn @ Provide to use same principle as Working Well accreditation
- A terms of reference has been drafted and shared with the project group
- Ian Barrett – ECC Place and Innovation Officer has done a great job in stakeholder engagement and gaining business insight into the best possible interventions and incentives to see the scheme thrive



Great Start



- We have agreed on a 3 Tier System
- Braintree and Uttlesford Council – both of which have extensive appetite to launch the scheme in their respective areas
- Application process will be as automated as possible so that SME's are not deterred by extensive paperwork
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel quarterly
- Working up incentives for scheme

Youth Movement

“

A youth movement to promote economic growth including career and skills opportunities from peer to peer”

- Clear we need to build a group and momentum to take this forward and create a movement
- Youth movement will be created by young people, for young people and will be a catalyst to drive this forward
- We have met a core group to date and will host a World Café event
- Young people engaged will receive training, mentorship and digital badges as part of the programme to support articulation of knowledge, skills, attributes and values they have demonstrated
- Once group established we will green the focus



BECOME AN ESSEX HERO

Shape the new Essex
Youth Movement



We are seeking

**A 16 TO 25-YEAR-
OLD ON CANVEY
ISLAND**

to brand a new youth
movement and support
young people across Essex

THE ROLE

- Help young people shape their next steps
- Use social media to grow the movement
- Brand the movement and shape its activities
- No qualifications required
- Two hours per week

THE BENEFITS

- Free access to a business mentor and professional social media training
- Transferable skills for a CV or university application
- Meet new people

Express your interest: louise.fry@essex.gov.uk

Net Zero Innovation Network (NZIN)

Welcome to the Net Zero Innovation Network

The Net Zero Innovation Network is a business led, cross-sectoral, clustered collaboration fostering partnerships which maximise the appetite for innovation in Essex – focussing on the vision of achieving carbon zero outcomes for the County.

We unite businesses, regional leaders, and academics across a breadth of specialisms in delivering bespoke projects, as aligned by the shared ambition to support the move to Net Zero in our locality.





Aims and Ambition of the Net Zero Innovation Network

Our focus has been driven by the ambitions and priorities outlined by the Essex Climate Action Commissions' recommendations. These recommendations have informed our Networks resulting Task and Finish Groups:



Built Environment



Energy



Sustainable Transport



Waste Management

Community engagement is held at the heart of the network; projects will deliver benefits with and for Essex residents.



Essex Climate Action Commission



Successes

Awards and Accolades



- **Delivering Clean Growth WINNERS**, sponsored by **Jacobs**, was won by *Essex County Council* for its *Harlow and Tendring Retrofit Pipeline for Economic Renewal*. Funded by the UK Community Renewal Fund, the scheme delivered a targeted programme across social housing, skills and employment, business and training all contributing to the local delivery of retrofit. The judges praised the programme for being ‘a bit out of the ordinary and a very specific and tailored approach to real world problem.’
- **LGC Awards shortlisted** in Community Involvement and Climate Response categories – announcing 8th June
- **Unlock Net Zero award shortlisted** - announcing 27th June

Future Funding



Department for
Energy Security
& Net Zero



Greater
South East
Net Zero Hub

- **SUCCESSFUL** application for funding under the Local Energy Advice Demonstrator Programme to the sum of **£941k**
- Department for Energy Security and Net Zero intends to publicly announce the grant awards in July 2023
- This money will be utilised to support the Able to Pay Retrofit Sector, taking a local cluster approach
- We are collaborating with ComuniHeat and Retrofit Works.

Next Steps

Future Focus

Funding in place to support Green Growth until March 2026 to deliver against Everyone's Essex ambitions and the recommendations of the Essex climate action commission. Disseminating the importance of green growth across the Essex ecosystem.

- **Retrofit Strategy**
- **Innovate UK Funding - NZIN**
- **Great Start, GEP and Essex heroes to progress**
- **Maximise green growth opportunities from potential devolution**
- **Continue business support for SME's to maximise green growth**
- **Develop the approach & capitalise on opportunities**



Contact details

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