Regions open for green business: environment legislation as the driving force

Bristol – European Green Capital 2015 and a regional hub for green growth

Introduction

European Green Capital
Bristol’s Green Growth approach:
• Sector Support
• Resilient Infrastructure
• Energy Efficiency
• Inward Investment
Plans for the Future
European Green Capital

The annual award is given to a European city that:

- Has a consistent record of achieving high environmental standards;
- Is committed to ongoing and ambitious goals for further environmental improvement and sustainable development;
- Can act as a role model to inspire other cities and promote best practices to all other European cities

Previous winners include:

- Hamburg (2011)
- Nantes (2013)
- Copenhagen (2014)

Bristol 2015 – three key goals

**Local empowerment:** working with existing initiatives, and building long term change

**International Reach:** To build Bristol’s global profile as the UK’s most pioneering, sustainable city and region, to encourage exports, investment, tourism and economic growth.

**Sustainability leadership:** For Bristol to become the leading forum global exchange in sustainability expertise, in the lead up to the 2015 UN Conference on Climate Change.
Bristol’s Green Growth Approach

Supply side support for the Low Carbon and Environmental Goods and Services (LCEGS) Sector

Creating and supporting sustainable and resilient infrastructure

Demand side stimulation within the business community and the public, for example via promotion of energy efficiency

Promotion of the city-region and a centre for excellence in green technologies

Sector Support

Bristol Environmental Technologies and Services (BETS) and Low Carbon South West CIC

Bristol Hydrogen Ferry Demonstration Project

SevernNet and other local groups

ERDF funded: Environmental Technologies iNet

Regen SW - Bristol 2015 Marine Energy Accelerator Programme

Engine Shed & SetSquared – ranked top university business incubator in Europe

Bristol Energy Company
Case Study: Low Carbon South West

Membership organisation supporting the development of Low Carbon & environmental technologies & services in the South West of England

A community interest company and sector partnership between businesses, academia, investors, local authorities and national agencies

- Over 3000 network members
- Over 100 paid members

LCSW aims and objectives

Deliver member services that strengthen the low carbon sector in the South West

Facilitate networking and trade between our members and the wider community at local, national and international levels

Provide training and resources for businesses and organisations committed to innovation and excellence within the sustainability sector

Help to create demand for environmental goods and services in businesses

Drive up skills; Supporting Universities, Further Education colleges and apprenticeship schemes
Resilient Infrastructure

Resilience: Rockefeller 100 Resilient Cities

Sustainable Transport: Britain’s first Cycling City, promoting walking, developing Metrobus and local rail services, SourceWEST

Growing digital infrastructure: £300 broadband connection voucher scheme

Supporting local communities: Green Capital and Neighbourhood partnerships

Promoting local supply chains: the Bristol Pound

Energy Efficiency

Domestic:
Warm Up Bristol
Bristol Solar City

Business:
Confederation of British Industry reports that there is potential for businesses to save up to £23 billion a year from improving their resource efficiency
ERDF funded ‘Improve Your Resource Efficiency’
Go Green
Case Study: Go Green

Building a sustainable business community

Signposting to expertise & sharing experiences

Strengthening networks & adding value to the local economy

Free bespoke Action Plan

Events: workshops, discussion and networking

Online resources

Go Green 2015 membership
Go Green events

Inward Investment

Low Carbon is one of four key priorities sectors for the region

Invest Bristol & Bath

Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone

Programmes with local colleges to create skilled low carbon workforce

Current growth rates predict **16,000** will be working in the South West renewable energy sector in 2020
Inward Investment infrastructure

**Case Study: Bristol Is Open**

Joint venture between the University of Bristol and Bristol City Council

Funded by the local, national and European governments, academic research funding, and private sector

Delivering research and development initiatives that contribute to the development of a smart city and the ‘Internet of Things’.

---

Inward Investment and skills

**Case Study: Filwood Green Business Park** - ERDF funded
Bristol’s plans for the future

Some examples:

Bristol is currently finalising a new Climate and Energy Security Framework including “The Economies of Low Carbon Cities: A Mini-Stern Review for the City of Bristol”

Building a new arena – to be the greenest in the UK

Many more projects are underway to improve sustainable transport options and air quality

European Green Capital status is a springboard to improve the Low Carbon prosperity of the city-region

Thank you

Amy Robinson
Network Director
Low Carbon South West CIC
amy.robinson@lowcarbonsouthwest.co.uk