

ADEPT PRESIDENT'S AWARDS 2019 CATEGORY 1: DELIVERING CLEAN GROWTH

HIGHLY COMMENDED

Business Energy Efficiency Anglia

Brief Summary (150 Characters)

Business Energy Efficiency (BEE) Anglia is a one-stop shop service that tackles the barriers to clean growth in East Anglia's SMEs.

500 words outlining the project

The Clean Growth Strategy targets a 20% improvement to business energy efficiency by 2030. BEE Anglia responds directly to that challenge, and NEW Anglia LEP's call to achieve this through the rapid roll-out of best practice. Additionally, we seek to stimulate demand in local low carbon businesses, supporting them to maximise share of the rapid growth seen by this sector and the future potential identified by the CCC's Net Zero report.

The barriers are widely understood (e.g. IEA - [Accelerating Energy Efficiency](#) p.18) to cover time and financial resources and low information and trust for new technologies. Our partnership of Norfolk & Suffolk County Councils, a well-recognised charity in Groundwork and enterprise agency in NWES, gives a trusted and impartial voice. Working with so many businesses, we can increase awareness of uptake elsewhere, which is a key factor encouraging technology adoption. The independent advice is supported by grants, events and accreditations - covering all bases to create wider change.

We have now visited over 800 SMEs to develop tailored energy reduction plans, identifying priority measures that would result in annual savings of 32,000 tCO₂e or £4.8m off energy bills. Our grants programme has awarded £1m to 170 businesses, drawing an additional spend of £4m into low carbon sectors, and generating a direct annual reduction in carbon emissions of 2,300 tonnes.

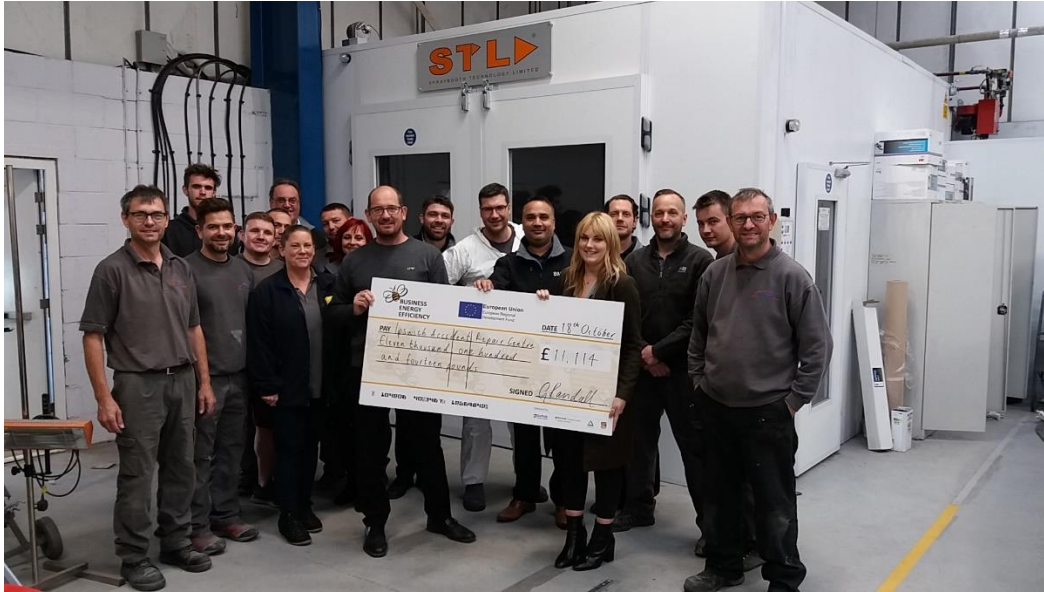
Finance is a major barrier and our grants are critical to the viability of most projects, but it is not the only factor. The impartial expert advice is critical to smaller businesses having the confidence to invest. 75% of businesses supported have said they identified good or excellent savings opportunities, including at least one measure that would be easy to implement. Past analysis of our approach found that 20% of identified savings are implemented within 2 years, even in the absence of other support. The grants and ongoing support under BEE Anglia mean we confidently expect this to be a bottom estimate.

BEE Anglia provides a consistent service throughout Norfolk and Suffolk, while we work closely with our sister project BEECP in Cambridge and Peterborough to remove any geographical boundaries, and minimise bureaucratic barriers. While the project's success over the initial three years has resulted in an extension until 2022, the transition to a low carbon economy is a challenge that exceeds our funding cycles. The 'boom & bust' nature of EU funding can be a barrier to long term change. We have tackled that by building a lasting sustainable business network into the programme, through Carbon Charter accreditations.

The individual delivery elements are not new; they are proven to successfully change business practice. What is radical about BEE Anglia is the scale and connectivity of the delivery. But the challenge is huge - identified savings represent about 1% of business emissions in the region. True change will come from within the business community. By promoting a wide range of measures in a short period of time, and supporting local LCEGS providers, we are catalysing a long-term sustainable shift.

Images

2 of the 170 businesses that have received funding



One of our advisors on a site visit



Some of the typical feedback from a satisfied customer

