

# ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

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<b>Award category</b>	Delivering Clean Growth
<b>Project Title</b>	Re-Energise Manor Royal Local Energy Community (LEC)
<b>Local authority entrant</b>	West Sussex County Council
<b>Partner/s if applicable</b>	Manor Royal Business Improvement District

## Headline summary (150 characters max.)

The Manor Royal LEC enables companies to invest in low carbon energy together to reduce costs, improve resilience, and achieve net zero

## 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)

The LEC enables businesses to invest together in a low-carbon, resilient, locally based energy system - delivering savings to businesses and helping to deliver net zero operation more quickly than if they acted alone.

It supports clean growth by:

- Installing, managing and maintaining new renewable energy systems.
- Attracting inward investment to deliver large, cost-effective projects.
- Providing cheaper energy that's less exposed to price volatility.
- Delivering improved financial returns by aggregating surplus energy for sale to the grid.
- Providing less exposure to outages, global events, or price shocks.
- Providing a quicker pathway to net zero.

Beyond its first year, the LEC will develop additional services including 'peer-to-peer' energy trading between businesses, offering flexibility services to the wider energy network and low-carbon heating based on renewable energy.

The community's first 77kW solar PV project has been approved and a pipeline of new projects is under development.

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

WSCC has led the work to develop and launch the LEC, working with UK and European partners.

- WSCC provided officer time, energy market expertise and resources to develop and launch the LEC.
- Manor Royal BID led on business engagement, provided strategic input and is now responsible for

the LEC's ongoing operation and development.

- Interreg 2Seas Programme provided £450,000 to WSCC through the BISEPS Project for feasibility work and provided £680,000 (matched by WSCC) through the LECSea Project to develop and launch the LEC.
- Heat Network Development Unit provided £100,000 to investigate a local heat network.
- Coast to Capital LEP provided £35,000 for the LEC's business plan.
- Crawley Borough Council helped to secure £1 million through the Towns Fund to support new renewable projects at Manor Royal.
- Brighton Energy Co-op appointed delivery partner to develop energy projects, source investment and support the LEC's establishment.

**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.)**

WSCC engaged with businesses through the Manor Royal BID, which shares the authority's ambition for generating cheaper, cleaner energy. The BID provided an established and credible route to engage with its members and build local support for the LEC. WSCC achieved this through the BID's established networks and communication channels. It led to large companies, including Virgin, Doosan and Elekta, committing time and resources to the feasibility work. As the project developed, senior business representatives came together as a formal Steering Group to represent local companies and provide governance and strategic direction to the LEC's development.

Engaging smaller companies has proved a consistent challenge. To take account, WSCC held consultative events for SMEs to understand their requirements and influence the design and vision for the LEC. This has been reflected in the low financial threshold and ease of joining that will enable companies to take part regardless of their size.

**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.)**

The LEC is a self-sustaining community set up with the specific aim of long-term clean growth at Manor Royal. It is agile enough to adapt to new funding solutions, including the use of community share offers or third-party investment, to deliver new energy projects.

The LEC is a Community Benefit Society operating on a not-for-profit basis to benefit the whole community. Beyond its first year of operation, it will generate revenue through the services it offers, such as electricity sales or grid services. The community will reinvest its financial surplus into new clean energy projects for the direct benefit of LEC members.

Importantly, membership is open to all companies regardless of size and whether or not they have their own renewable energy systems. Future features, such as peer-to-peer energy trading, will enable Manor Royal companies that cannot generate clean energy to be supplied by their neighbours through the LEC.

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

Re-Energise Manor Royal formally launch in March 2023. It is led by a board comprising senior representatives from local businesses and the Manor Royal BID. WSCC expects to retain an involvement in its future operation - <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/energy-community-supports-push-for-net-zero/>