ADEPT President's Awards 2024

Entry form

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Award category Delivering Clean Growth

Project Title Suffolk Carbon Charter

Local authority entrantSuffolk County Council

Headline summary (150 characters max.)

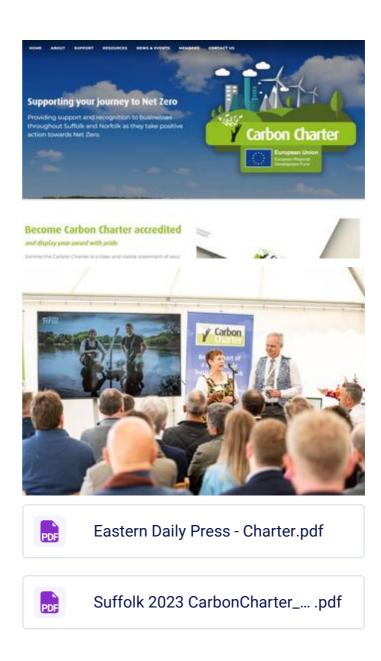
Suffolk's Carbon Charter has supported over 500 SMEs to improve environmental performance, train staff, share best practice and work towards net-zero.

Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission. Upload your image/s below.









Video - please paste links to any video evidence here. (Leave blank if not relevant.)

Intro to the Carbon Charter animation - https://carboncharter.org/about-the-carbon-charter/

Business created video: https://www.facebook.com/yumyumtreefudge/videos/we-have-been-working-hard-to-achieve-the-gold-level-of-the-suffolk-carbon-charte/972217183419415/

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 Carbon Charter is preparing our local economy for a low carbon future. Established by Suffolk County Council over 10 years ago it is an SME accreditation scheme and business network providing guidance, training, case studies and collaboration opportunities that not only supports SMEs transition to net-zero, but also promotes a sustainable approach to their customers and supply chains.

The Charter provides businesses with a journey from Bronze to Gold, that develops knowledge; supports staff training and engagement; establishes effective monitoring; and tracks performance. The vision is to embed sustainable practices, changing the business-as-usual approach to deliver clean growth.

The Council has a long-term goal to deliver net-zero for its own operations, this requires a local supply chain that can deliver low-carbon services. The Charter supports this ambition and has been incorporated into the Councils "Climate Change Commercial Ask" as a method to recognise good environmental performance in public procurement.

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

Managed by Suffolk County Council, the Carbon Charter is supported by Groundwork East as the delivery partner and the Environment Agency as an accreditation partner. Although the Carbon Charter was developed in Suffolk, for more than 6 years it has also supported businesses in Norfolk as part of wider collaboration with Norfolk councils. The Charter is targeted at SMEs, but understands the importance of involving larger businesses to increase reach and impact. To this end we have a long-standing relationship with the East of England Co-op who act as a Pathfinder Partner, the Co-op promotes the Charter via its supply chain and stores, funding their accreditation. This partnership has resulted in emission reductions across the Co-Ops stores and supply chain.

The Charter and its future development is integral to the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan, which is a long-term, multi-sector action plan focused on delivering net-zero across Suffolk.

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.)

Many small businesses do not have an Energy or Sustainability Manager and are not large enough to adopt rigorous a Environmental Management System. The Carbon Charter exists to fill that gap. The Charter will help develop a strategy to reach net-zero carbon, support the calculation of an environmental footprint and create a clear action plan with concrete, practical steps along the way.

Businesses are supported with a suite of online tools, how to guides, a suppliers directory, grants advice, carbon literacy training, sector guides, regular blogs and webinars. The Charter also delivers regular

carbon literacy training, sector guides, regular blogs and webinars. The Charter also delivers regular newsletters and face to face events, these always seek to highlight local business achievements and foster peer to peer learning opportunities.

The Charter accreditation process is hugely important, but the real success is the deep and frequent engagement between the Council and the businesses and more importantly between the businesses who learn so much from each other.

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 Carbon Charter was originally created over 10 years ago, as a pilot with EU funding. The scheme now provides a level of service to members which has allowed the establishment of a subscription model. Members pay for accreditation every two years. However, the Charter is administrated on a flexible basis to allow for any available funding streams to be used to add value for members. Examples include an additional Net Zero Business Advisor post provided at no cost to support Suffolk business and a recent focus on events and support for the visitor economy funded by Suffolk Growth. Having carried out 782 accreditations to over 500 individual businesses, the growing popularity of the Carbon Charter is evidence that members consider it wise investment and this self-finances the ongoing delivery rather than it being tied to council budget cycles.

www.carboncharter.org

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

Please visit the Carbon Charter website to get a clear picture of the range of guidance, support and events we offer local businesses: www.carboncharter.org