

LOCASE TWITTER

CUT CARBON, CUT COSTS, WIN BUSINESS. ENVIRONMENT SENSE MAKES GOOD BUSINESS SENSE.

LOCASE – Low Carbon Across the South East. <http://locase.co.uk/>

The Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) £18m European Regional Development Fund Programme provides a free business support to SMES across the South East. Its aim is to help businesses become more competitive and profitable while protecting the environment and encouraging low carbon solutions.

To do this, LoCASE provides grants for businesses of up to **£10,000** as well as training workshops and fully funded events. Targeted business support is on offer for companies who offer “green” or low carbon goods and services or those who just want support with their energy bills.

Businesses can apply for grants to pay for installation of energy-saving lighting, heating and insulation. It can also subsidise efforts to introduce flexible travel or ways for staff to access office work computers remotely, reducing business mileage and emissions. This can include video conferencing facilities.

Firms can also use grants to help develop and launch products in the low carbon and environmental goods and services sector. Businesses supported range from the first zero carbon cheese maker to high tech renewable energy and logistics terms and all the way to a firm that produces coffee beans.

The construction sector in particular has used this for support with building information modelling, known as BIM, which improves efficiency throughout a project. The programme has also backed waste management companies and firms operating using the circular economy model. A wood fuel collaboration event held at Bore Place near Edenbridge in Kent also highlighted the scheme’s support for the biomass, forestry and arboriculture sectors.

Since August 2016, LOCASE has assisted over 400 SMEs, awarded circa £3,000,000 and supported the creation of 23 new businesses and 194 new jobs. This has saved 4774 tonnes of carbon and increased average turnover by £6,333 per SME.

GR Marine was given a grant to fit out its new premises in Hawkinge, near Folkestone. The business insulates high and low temperature systems within various heavy industrial environments. It conserves energy through the design, construction and application of insulation and cladding.

The firm also undertakes work on wind turbines - making it eligible for £10000 of LoCASE funding as part of the supply chain. To fit out its premises it needed a Truecut mechanical guillotine, gauge lockformer and gauge flanger, welder and fume extractor, bending roller and a heavy duty trolley.

“The grant process was simple and the LoCASE team were very helpful and efficient helping me with each step and making things clear to understand. The grant has had a profound effect on my business helping to me to take on contracts I previously would not be able to manage. Since I have opened the workshop my turnover has quadrupled, this would not have possible without the help from LoCASE. “I am very grateful for their support and would highly recommend.” Glyn Johnson, Director at GR Marine

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