



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

## ADEPT President's Awards 2020/21

### Entry form

<b>Award category:</b>	Category 1: Delivering clean growth
<b>Title:</b>	Low Carbon Kent
<b>Entrant:</b>	Kent County Council
<b>Main contact name and email address:</b>	Rob Robinson, Sustainable Business Programme Manager, 1 <sup>st</sup> Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX Rob.Robinson@kent.gov.uk
<b>Partner/s (if applicable):</b>	(chiefly, via LoCASE) Thurrock Council, Essex County Council, East Sussex County Council, Southend on sea Borough Council and University of Brighton
<b>Headline summary (150 characters, c. 30 words)</b>	
KCC's Low Carbon Kent team have been linking targeted activities across the SELEP region to stimulate demand, support supply & nurture innovation for sustainable clean growth	

**Please attach supporting photos separately as jpg or png files. Please note we need at least one supporting image per award submission.**

**Please paste links to any supporting video evidence here**

Link 1	
Link 2	

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**500-word project outline** (please ensure you address all the judges' criteria – for more info see [here](#))

The Sustainable Business Team at KCC work under the [Low Carbon Kent](#) banner. We've been leading on The Low Carbon Across the South East ([LoCASE](#)) programme since 2016 and have delivered support for 1,278 SMEs across the SELEP region. The partnership not only helps generate demand for energy and resource efficiency improvements but helps businesses who are looking to deliver these services by access to ERDF grant funding and innovation support. We've just secured Government agreement to not only continue this in the South East but also forming a partnership with Local Authorities in EM3, Coast2Capital and Solent LEAs to realise the same [shared ambitions](#) across the South and East.

We are also using Sector Support Fund money to deliver [Clean Growth South East](#). This is mapping the Low Carbon, Renewable Energy Economy (LCREE) and Environment Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) businesses across SELEP, identifying barriers to and opportunities for growth, then piloting a Clean Growth Programme to maximise the impact on what we are looking to be a real green recovery from COVID for our economy and implement Government's Green Industrial Strategy. This ties in with our [Inn2POWER](#) project and offshore wind supply chain work we're looking to build on by looking at Green Hydrogen in a follow-on bid with Interreg for the autumn.

Our business engagement strategy revolves around a joined-up service provision. When speaking to a firm about a particular project that might be most pertinent to them, we also introduce other sustainability aspects which might not be on their agenda. Waste and the circular economy figure highly through [Upcycle Your Waste](#) and [BLUEPRINT](#) to find novel and viable business solutions to challenge the status quo of linear waste streams. We're also adding this theme to our Steps To Environmental Management ([STEM](#)) accreditation and ensuring that all businesses engaged (both Kent and beyond) take the chance to think of their wider impacts, not just to remain compliant but also adapt and move towards continuous environmental improvement. KCC is leading on [C-Care](#), a 'green economic recovery' project to ensure that we do indeed build back better in all sectors (including leisure and tourism)

Our approach, bringing in teams like Transport Innovations, Waste, Planning and Economic Development to implement the [Kent Environment Strategy](#) showcases how we feel that local businesses and communities are intrinsically linked in realising Net Zero ambitions and driving change. Our commitment to cover 2 years of delivery revenue costs in order to secure Highways England funding for a fleet of 50 electric vans has meant that the [Kent REVS](#) (Realising Electric Vans Scheme) has been able to successfully launch, enabling interested organisations around Kent to sample for free a range of models for up to 2 months. This has also meant working with our Local Authority partners in developing charging infrastructure.

The wider Sustainable Business & Communities team has played a leading role in forcing the agenda and call to action on sustainable estates, adaptation and resilience, behaviour change and community action throughout this pandemic.

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