

WLEP Annual Report to OSPB 2022/23

Appendix 1 – List of WLEP Energy Strategy Successes and Achievements

SUCCESSSES

Since the launch of the Energy Strategy in 2019, WLEP and WGH has supported several local energy projects across the partnership as either a convenor, delivery body or investor. Each of them contributing towards the county's pathway to net zero. This has included the support for the Carbon Reduction Strategy and Action Planning for all six Local Councils, via provision of support from Midlands Net Zero Hub.

Some examples of successful projects that the WLEP has been involved in:

Transport:

- OLEV Ultra Low Emission Taxi Infrastructure Scheme
 - WLEP supported Bromsgrove District Council with their bid via provision of support from MNZH, ultimately securing £300,000 from Government to install charging points in the Rubery and Wythall areas.
- Woo Bikes
 - WLEP investment of c. £50k for Worcester e-bike scheme in partnership with the University of Worcester as Lead Delivery Agency
- Worcestershire Parkway (Charge station / EV bus facility)
 - WLEP investment of £8.3m Local Growth Fund into this scheme in partnership with WCC as Lead Delivery Agency. Technical /Advisory support via MNZH

Place:

- Worcestershire Heat Mapping and master planning study
 - This included a pre-feasibility study of Geothermal Potential in Offenham and was conducted by Mouchel.
 - This study was 70% funded by BEIS Heat Networks Delivery Unit (HNDU) and supported by WLEP match funding contribution.
- Seismic Study of Geothermal Potential in South Worcestershire
 - Further to the Heat Mapping Study, a deep geothermal seismic study was delivered by GT Energy, jointly funded by Worcestershire County Council and Local Councils: Wychavon, Worcester and Malvern Hills, with the WLEP contributing the larger share of funding.
- Community Energy Projects
 - Investment from the BEIS Rural Community Energy Funded (RCEF) to fund local community energy projects in Worcestershire.
 - Feasibility studies have been completed for:
 - Hanley Energy Action
 - Eckington Weir Hydro-Power
 - Sesame Community Energy - Sedgeberrow
- Grid Capacity
 - A review of sub-station capacity to assess ability to meet demand of new developments (conducted 2020 and 2022) to inform Electricity DNO
 - This work intends to ensure network constraints do not present a barrier to local economic growth

Business & Industrial Processes:

- BetaDen North Bootcamp
 - Successful delivery of the inaugural 8 week intensive business support programme, supporting six local businesses to accelerate their cleantech innovations and lead industry supply chains towards net zero (April to June 2022)
 - This has been delivered in partnership with Wyre Forest District Council and central government via the CRF
 - The BetaDen North programme has since been extended to provide support to more businesses with their greentech/cleantech innovations from September to December 2022
- The WLEP, via the Worcestershire Growth Hub has signposted businesses to ERDF and CRF funded advice and grant programmes, administered by WCC.
 - Business Energy Efficiency Programme (BEEP)
ERDF funded free energy efficiency assessments and grants of up to £20,000 for SME's. The current phase of the programme started in April 2019. Cumulatively, to July 2022, the BEEP programme has registered 226 Worcestershire based businesses and exceeded the local target by 101%. Worcestershire Growth Hub referred 143 businesses to the programme of which 41% were eligible for assistance and grant awards.
 - Low Carbon Opportunities Programme – Renewable Energy & Innovation (LoCOP)
ERDF funded advice and installation of renewable energy technologies & support for businesses to develop and commercialise low carbon technologies and services. The current phase of the programme started in October 2019. Cumulatively to July 2022, the LoCOP programme is progressing well against targets, with 58 registered companies for renewables and 27 Worcestershire based companies registered for Innovation support. Worcestershire Growth Hub referred 14 businesses to the programme, accounting for 15% of Worcestershire businesses currently on the LoCOP programme.
 - Zero Carbon Ready Worcestershire (ZCRW)
CRF funded advice and grant programme, providing organisations and businesses with decarbonisation advice and assessments and access to grant funding for smart meters. This short-term programme started in March 2022 and is due to close c November 2022. Cumulatively to July 2022, the ZCRW programme has assisted 161 businesses. To date, Worcestershire Growth Hub has referred 7 businesses to the programme, culminating in over 60 hours of bespoke specialist advice and assessments.
- The WLEP, via the Worcestershire Growth Hub and MNZH has signposted businesses to the BEIS funded Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF). This grant supports businesses to invest in energy efficiencies and deploy decarbonisation technologies to reduce industrial energy consumption and achieve industrial carbon emissions savings. Nine Worcestershire based businesses were identified as eligible for the IETF. Following close consultation, only four companies demonstrated suitability. The WLEP supported Mettis Aerospace to submit a bid for an Energy Efficiency Feasibility Study in Spring 2022, via provision of support from Midlands Net Zero Hub

and The Clean Tech Group. Mettis have submitted a second bid for a feasibility study on furnaces for the Summer Round 2022 for £70k, as their first application was unsuccessful. Mettis welcomed the assistance provided by the Worcestershire Growth Hub Team, and have provided the following quote:

“Clean Tech provided funded support from the Worcestershire Growth Hub which enabled Mettis to take their first steps to evaluating the road to net zero”

The WLEP via the Worcestershire Growth Hub has engaged with 16% of Worcestershire’s strategic companies. The Growth Hub are continuing to promote support to companies that have yet to engage.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TO NOTE

Further highlights of the WLEP’s business engagement with the green agenda, include:

Events:

- Sustainability Event @ Morgan Motors, Malvern (Sept 2021)
 - WLEP / WGH held a Sustainability Event for Worcestershire based businesses in September 2021.
 - This event aimed to help businesses understand the steps needed to reach their net zero targets.
 - Harriett Baldwin, MP for West Worcestershire and Andrew Griffith, MP (the Government’s Net Zero Business Champion) supported the event.
 - Businesses received presentations from Indra Renewable Technologies; Octopus Energy and The Clean Tech Group, in addition to information on the current business support programmes available from the Worcestershire Growth Hub and insights on improving the environmental footprint for businesses.
 - The event assisted the development of a letter to the COP26 President Alok Sharma from the Worcestershire business community
- Hydrogen Roundtable with Cadent and Worcestershire businesses
 - In October 2022, the WLEP / WGH will deliver a roundtable event on Hydrogen for Worcestershire Based businesses.
 - The Head of Regional Development (Northwest and West Midlands), from Cadent Gas will be delivering an update on Hydrogen Developments, nationally as part of Cadent’s Future of Gas Transition Plans, to include an update on the Hydrogen Feasibility Study for the Midlands, which is due to report in early 2023
 - This will provide high-energy business users in Worcestershire an opportunity to learn more about emerging plans, outline their challenges and inform Cadent’s future strategy

Sub Station Upgrade:

- Warndon sub-station
 - WLEP / WGH / MNZH also facilitated an acceleration of the investment by WPD to upgrade Warndon Substation, which took place earlier this year
 - Business intelligence gleaned from the local area, including companies on Worcester Six Business Park, revealed that some Worcestershire businesses

- were not able to invest in smart energy solutions (PV, batter storage, EV schemes etc.) due to constraints on the electricity network
- WLEP conveyed this information to WPD, demonstrating real commercial demand and the investment plans were accelerated resulting in the substation upgraded by WPD in July 2022

Worcestershire Growth Hub (WGH) Business Support:

- Specialist Professional Business Advisors programme
 - WLEP via WGH has completed delivery of two BEIS-funded Specialist Professional Advisor Programmes (Jan 2021 – March 2022).
 - This programme enables businesses to access specialist advice from professional external experts on a range of topics, including the green agenda and sustainability.
- Worcestershire Growth Hub: Specialist Professional Advisor Programme (1)
 - BEIS funded programme providing specialist business advice on the green agenda and sustainability.
 - Specialist Adviser: Clean Tech Business Group (aka Shrewsbury Consulting) delivered 73 interactions and supported 16 Worcestershire businesses, accounting for 132.3 hours of support during the 3 month pilot phase from: January 2021 – March 2021. Sustainability contract value for period: £7,453
- Worcestershire Growth Hub: Specialist Professional Advisor Programme (2)
 - This programme ran from 18 June 2021 to 31 March 2022. The initial contract awarded for the Sustainability Specialist Advisor, The Clean Tech Group was £8,950.00, however, due to high demand from businesses, this was increased to £11,950.00.
 - 34 Worcestershire based businesses were supported on this programme with one to one and group session delivery. Over half of the businesses (53%) on the scheme were referred by the Worcestershire Growth Hub.
 - It is important to note that the nature of the sustainability specialism required more time spent with a business than the other programme specialisms, such as marketing or finance.
 - The Clean Tech Group delivered 113 interactions with Worcestershire businesses. This included 13 site visits, accounting for a total of 33 hours, to first ascertain the business issues before advice on energy efficiency savings could be provided.
 - The programme exceeded its initial business engagement targets by 36%.
- Worcestershire Growth Hub: Specialist Professional Advisor Programme (WGH-funded)
 - With the advent of the global energy crisis, the WLEP Board have approved local funding for a further wave of the Specialist Professional Advisor Programme.
 - This will again be delivered via the WGH
 - Pro Enviro have now been appointed as the Specialist business advisor for the green agenda and sustainability contract
 - This contract started 1 August 2022 and will run until 31 March 2023. The Sustainability contract value for this period is £12k