



West Midlands Low Carbon and Circular Economy Innovation Fund

This fund has been designed to support the development of collaborative projects between West Midlands' based businesses that can help the deployment of environmentally sustainable approaches and practices in the region's food and drink manufacturing businesses.

Successful projects will undertake feasibility studies that demonstrate how sustainable technologies, or novel integrations of new sustainable technologies, will be deployed in the WM-region to decarbonise operations of food and drink businesses, or enable the new sustainable approaches or products be integrated into activities.

Projects are expected to fulfil one of the following themes:

- Implementing circular economy¹ principles for food waste in food and drink manufacturing
- Decarbonisation of food and drink manufacturing processes
- Sustainable packaging in food and drink manufacturing
- Low Carbon approaches (all sectors)

The GBSLEP will offer up to £30,000 of revenue funding to exemplary projects, with 30% match funding from the project proposal. A total of £240,000 will be available to support these projects from the GBSLEP.

Projects should be based at a location in the West Midlands; this could either be at the facilities of a business here, to improve the operations of a business based in the West Midlands, or the supply chain of a business based in the Midlands.

The project will open for applications during the Greater Birmingham and Solihull annual conference in the early autumn 2021.



Eligibility and Criteria

To lead a project your organisation must:

- Be a West Midlands registered business of any size (BCLEP, GBSLEP or CWLEP areas)
- Be a Low Carbon Technology & Environmental Technology business or a Food and Drink Manufacturer*
- Collaborate with other registered businesses (of any sector), academic institutions, charities, public sector organisations or research and technology organisations (RTO)
- Carry out your project work in the West Midlands (BCLEP, GBSLEP or CWLEP areas)

To collaborate with the lead, organisations must:

- be a registered business (of any sector), academic institution, charity, public sector organisation or research and technology organisation (RTO)
- carry out project work in the UK
- intend to exploit the results from or in the UK
- be invited by the lead organisation

Outputs from the feasibility study could include:

- Planned business case for your proposed solution
- Technical feasibility of your solution at a location within the WM.
- Proposal for a demonstration project to take place upon the completion of the project.

The funding comes from the GBSLEP's Strategic Economic Plan Enabling Fund (SEP EF), this is a revenue fund, designed to support the delivery of projects that will help GBSLEP to deliver its SEP. The Expenditure may be considered under the following headings:

- Market Research
- Consultancy Costs
- Technical Development/Prototype/Innovation
- Salary/Own Labour Research

The GBSLEP reserves the right to not fund any projects if they do not exceed fundamental quality thresholds. All projects will need to be completed by the 31st March 2022.

Full details of the Fund and a Fund guidance document will be made available in early Autumn 2021.

**Current plans are that those applications relating to food waste or sustainable packaging are to be led by a food and drink manufacturer. Applications relating to low carbon processes are to be led by a food and drink manufacturer or low carbon business. Further clarification will be released in early Autumn 2021.*