

Report to Council on Low Carbon Dorset (LCD)

Low Carbon Dorset is a 5-year programme of activities to help stimulate growth in Dorset's low carbon economy and reduce the county's carbon footprint. Funded by the European Regional Development fund, Low Carbon Dorset helps businesses, community and public sector organisations in Dorset and BCP.

The programme is run by Dorset Council's Sustainability Team, and consists of 7 staff, with Heather Kiel being the programme manager. It aims to help improve energy efficiency, increase use of renewable energy and aid development of new low carbon products.

Since its launch in April 2018, Low Carbon Dorset has received over 645 applications for support, and has awarded over £5.4 million in grants, to support 164 renewable energy, energy efficiency and innovation projects across Dorset and BCP. The £5.4million grant funding will equate to over £16 million being spent or contracted within the Dorset area on low carbon initiatives.

Between our completed and contracted projects, we are:

- Helping 135 different SMEs (Small and medium-sized enterprises)
- Helping to create 6 new carbon saving products or processes,
- Installing almost 12 megawatt hours of renewable energy production,
- Improving energy efficiency in 65 houses,
- Reducing the energy usage in public buildings by almost 1.2 million kilowatt hours per year ,
- Saving at least 9,400 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year.

These numbers include projects already completed and those that we have contracted. Projects that completed last year alone will save an annual 1390 tonnes of CO₂e. Added to completed projects in previous years, cumulatively to date, low carbon Dorset funded projects have already saved 6915 tonnes of CO₂e.

This programme will complete next year, it still has some funds left to award and is still receiving a number of new applications each week. Enough praise cannot be given to the outstanding team that have delivered and are delivering these fantastic benefits to our amazing county. This is just one part of what we are doing as a council to combat the environmental emergency that we all declared.

Whilst the programme does come to an end next year, the need for a continuation of these excellent projects of work will continue to be essential for us to meet the 2040 goal we are striving for as a council and the 2050 goal for our entire community.