

# Green Growth Platform Events Programme 2014 to 2016

52 business events to support and stimulate  
the growth of the low-carbon economy in Sussex

Delivered by the Sustainable Business  
Partnership CIC on behalf of the  
University of Brighton



# Introduction

The University of Brighton's Green Growth Platform supports a thriving and innovative green sector in Sussex through a unique menu of business services delivered by a team of industry specialists, business advisers and university experts.

The Platform offers businesses 1-2-1 coaching, events and networking, innovation and R&D support and skills and training. It is funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

The Sustainable Business Partnership CIC is a not-for-profit company that helps businesses of all sectors improve resource efficiency and reduce environmental impact and works with organisations in the environmental sector to help them develop their business.

Since 2009 the Sustainable Business Partnership CIC has co-ordinated the Sustainable Business Network, which through regular learning and networking events brings together like-minded businesses to share ideas and best practice.

## Working in Partnership

The Sustainable Business Partnership CIC was pleased to work in partnership with the Green Growth Platform to deliver an exciting programme of networking events, behind-the-scenes tours, meet-the-buyer events and specialist seminars.

Thanks to its trusted relationship with Sustainable Business Network members and the wider Sussex business community, the Sustainable Business Partnership CIC was able to generate immediate business interest in the Green Growth Platform.

Over 100 different organisations attended the launch event in Crawley in June 2014, many of which went on to take up business support services. Most also returned to attend other events over the next two years, along with nearly 500 other organisations keen to play their part in the growth of the local low-carbon economy.

*"I just wanted to say thank you to everyone who organised the exporting seminar. I found it very interesting and informative. Being part of Green Growth Platform and having the opportunity to attend events like this are very helpful for our business."*

**Alex Addison, Pro-Earth, after attending Exporting Green**

# Green Growth Platform Events in Numbers

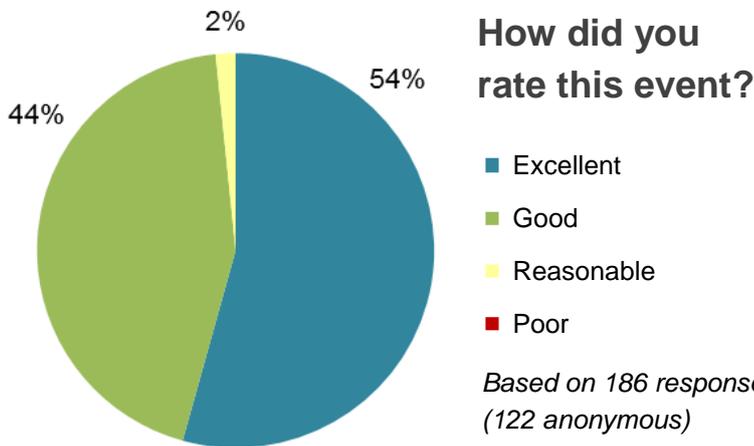
**925** different delegates...

....representing **588** different organisations  
attended a Green Growth  
Platform event

**220** organisations attended  
more than one event

*"Green Platform events are always well organised and executed, as well as maintaining an informal fun and friendly vibe with great people."*

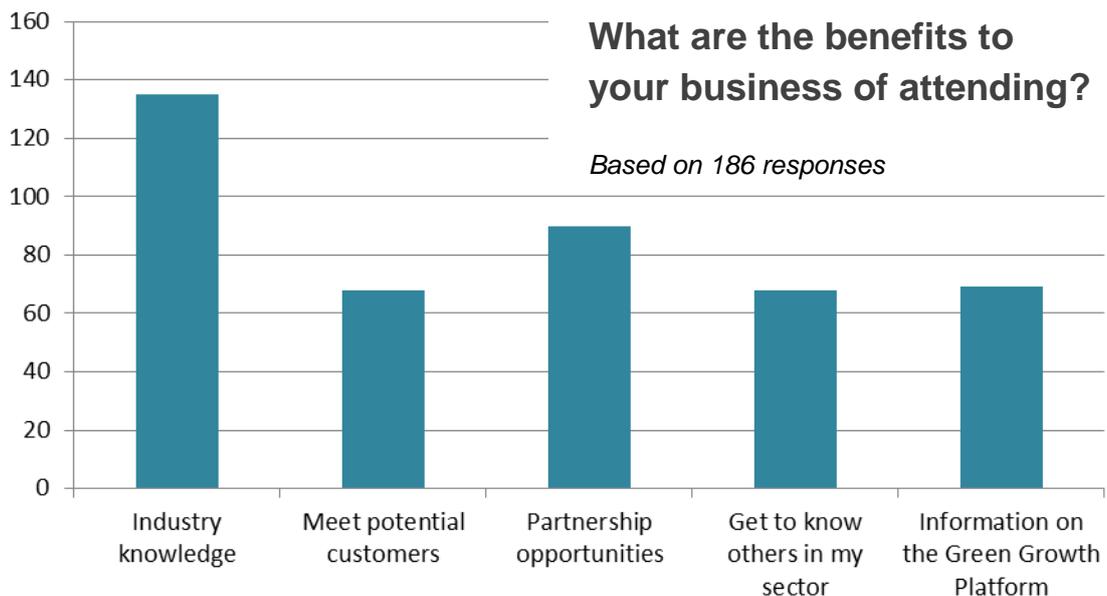
**Jo Dickens, Discerning Events, following the Summer Social**



## Opportunities across Sussex...

Events were held in Crawley, Lewes, Horsham, Ardingley, Shoreham-by-Sea, Ford, Eastbourne, Chichester, Worthing, London, Hastings, Brighton, Newhaven, Gatwick, Peacehaven, Littlehampton, Arlington, Ringmer, Uckfield, Southwater, Whitesmith, Plumpton and Tangmere!

**1,511** total delegates



## Launch Events

137 delegates from businesses of all sectors and sizes converged in Crawley for the launch of the Green Growth Platform in June 2014. Key-note speakers from the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew's Millennium Seed Bank and Heatcatcher, an environmental innovator, shared the opportunities the low-carbon economy had presented their organisations.

A second event was held at the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, for close partners of the University of Brighton and the Sustainable Business Partnership CIC. Hosted by Henry Smith, Member of Parliament for Crawley, the event celebrated 15 years of the Sustainable Business Partnership CIC and the exciting new opportunities available to businesses through the Green Growth Platform.

*"It was great to be able to reflect on our humble beginnings and on how much has been achieved, but to also consider how much is still to be done to move the sustainable business agenda forwards in Sussex."*

**Janette Ackroyd, East Sussex County Council**

## Learning & Networking Events

In Brighton a live thermal imaging demonstration brought building heat loss to life. In Chichester sweetcorn grower Barfoots explained how their anaerobic digestion plant powers their fleet of electric vehicles.

Fifteen learning and networking events were held across Sussex with expert and case study speaker exploring topics from green roofs to sustainable travel, LED lighting to environmentally conscious pest control!

*"A very well run seminar with knowledgeable speakers. A good opportunity to meet similar companies and potential supplies, with no pressure."*

**Dave Humm, Varian Medical Systems, who attended the Gatwick Diamond Green Business Showcase**



## Industry Insight Tours

Industry Insight Tours provided businesses the rare opportunity to go behind the scenes at eight energy, water and waste facilities across Sussex.

A highlight included walking on the 16,000 square metre green roof that hides Peacehaven Wastewater Treatment Works from neighbouring houses.

*“Excellent event, very professional and well organised. Great bunch of attendees as well - made a number of connections. Thank you.”*

**Barry Dunlop, Renewable Living, who attended the Tour of Tangmere Solar Farm**

## Case Study Visits

Plumpton College, Wakehurst Place, Brighton Earthship, Skyhouse Eco-B&B, Ringmer College and Roffey Park kindly opened their doors to a total of 163 delegates to share the energy efficiency and environmental initiatives they've implemented.

## Environmental Managers Forum

Harnessing the power of peer-to-peer learning, the Environmental Managers Forum provided a platform for large organisations in Sussex to discuss common challenges and project ideas.

The five meetings included a tug boat tour at Shoreham Port, a chance to see inside the emissions testing laboratories at Ricardo UK and a factory visit to Sony DADC, where 80,000,000 CDs and DVDs are made every year.

*“I found all the meetings very useful and a good opportunity to talk to people about both similar and different initiatives we're either working on or thinking about.”*

**Fred Furner, Wave Leisure, who attended the Environmental Managers Forum and other events**



## Specialist Seminars

Raising Green Investment, held five times across Sussex to meet demand, explored the options available to businesses seeking capital to fund expansion or launch new products.

Attendees included Circuitree and the Big Lemon CIC, who both went on to run successful crowd funding campaigns to raise money to commercialise a salt-water battery and to buy an electric bus!

Six other seminars covered low-carbon innovation, public sector tendering, exporting and renewable energy developments.

*“Many thanks for putting together the masterclass, for presenting the information in an interesting and interactive way and for making Nicholas Electrical more confident in the tendering process.”*

**Jessica Nicholas, Nicholas Electrical, who attended a Tendering Masterclass in Crawley**

## Meet-the-Buyer Events

Meet-the-buyer events provided small and medium sized businesses ‘foot-in-the-door’ opportunities with national companies the Go-Ahead Group, Mitie, Willmott Dixon and the Berkeley Group. Sustainability and contract managers outlined their procurement processes then met one-to-one with delegates.

Arbus, a Chichester based fencing specialist, are now a main contractor for the Berkeley Group and have completed projects at three of the home-builder’s major Sussex developments.

117 delegates attended West Sussex’s first Local & Sustainable Construction Exhibition in June 2016 for a chance to meet South East based construction firms looking to grow their supply chains and innovative businesses working with the Green Growth Platform to develop new products and services to reduce the environmental impact of the construction sector.



## Low-Carbon in Demand

The popularity of events programme designed by the Sustainable Business Partnership CIC for the Green Growth Platform demonstrated the thirst of businesses to capitalise on the opportunities that the low-carbon economy presents.

The variety of events offered something for both those looking to develop their environmental sector businesses and those looking to improve sustainability at their own organisations.

While events alone do not create a low-carbon economy, conversations with businesses that participated in the programme suggest that the ideas they picked up, expert advice they received, new connections they made and follow-on support from the Green Growth Platform are leading to real opportunities.

Further examples include;

- The Green Light Company UK securing a £30,000 project to install LED lighting at a Sussex college after meeting the facilities manager on a Case Study Visit;
- West Sussex based Newlife Paints having their unique recycled emulsion trialled in social housing by a national property services company they met at a meet-the-buyer event;
- Sunninghill Construction Company inviting an electrical contractors and a heating and plumbing company they met at the Local & Sustainable Construction Exhibition to join their supply chain and sub-contract for local projects soon after.

## Final Word...

*“What a fun way to celebrate success in the sustainable business environment!”*

**David Treadwell, Mid Sussex Wood Recycling Project, after trying his hand at beach volleyball at the Green Growth Platform Summer Social**



## Sustainable Business Partnership CIC

Brighthelm Centre, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD ♦ 01273 964236

[www.sustainablebusiness.org.uk](http://www.sustainablebusiness.org.uk) ♦ [info@sustainablebusiness.org.uk](mailto:info@sustainablebusiness.org.uk)

