



## Utilise Plus Partner Update September 2019



Since 2017 the Sustainable Business Partnership CIC has delivered the Utilise Plus programme across the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership area funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), falling under Priority Axis 4b (Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy in All Sectors).

As the delivery phase of the project comes to a close, we are delighted to report that we have exceeded our target of 150 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) receiving 12+ hours of low carbon business support. Furthermore, because the SBP's commitment to providing whatever support is needed, we have actually helped over 300 organisations in total through our events and tours.

We wanted to share some of the achievements of the project with you and look to the future, recognising that even since delivery began, the UK and other governments have committed to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, making projects like this even more vital to help avert catastrophic climate change.

The project has helped SMEs to reduce their costs and greenhouse gas emissions by saving energy, alongside stimulating the low carbon economy. In addition to helping SMEs to improve their cash flow and prepare themselves for increasing energy costs,

Through Utilise Plus, participating organisations will make a collective saving of over 1,000 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions each year, while their individual energy costs have been reduced by around 27% on average. This was achieved through the following outputs:

- Almost **£250,000** of grant funding being issued to **79** organisations for them to install energy-saving measures, such as LED lights or energy-efficient boilers.
- Over **£750,000** of SME match-funding being paid into the low carbon and environmental goods sector.
- **60** energy audits being delivered to help organisations identify where energy and cost savings can be made.
- **34** learning and networking events being held, attended by **183** different organisations.

For further information on Utilise Plus see [www.sustainablebusiness.org.uk](http://www.sustainablebusiness.org.uk)



### Utilise Plus

