



Utilise Plus Project Summary



In 2017 the Sustainable Business Partnership CIC secured funding for its largest project to date. Utilise Plus ran from 2017 to 2019 and was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) under Priority Axis 4b (Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy).

A lot changed during the project lifetime, most significantly the UK and other governments committing to reaching net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, making the lessons learned from projects like this even more vital to help avert catastrophic climate change.

The programme provided grants, energy audits and sustainability themed workshops and tours to over 150 small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) delivered as 12 hours or more of low carbon business support. Furthermore, because of the SBP's commitment to providing whatever support is needed, it actually helped over 300 organisations in total, 150 more than the project target.

Participating organisations reduced their energy costs by around 27% on average and the project cumulatively saved over 1,380 tonnes greenhouse gas emissions (CO₂e) with the technologies installed continuing to deliver carbon savings year on year.

The project helped SMEs to reduce their costs and greenhouse gas emissions by saving energy, alongside stimulating the low carbon economy. It also helped them to improve cash flow and prepare themselves for increasing energy costs. The project outputs were:

- 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

