



Energy saving help for businesses at Leicester Climate Week event

As part of Climate Week (21-27 March 2011) the Leicester Energy Agency (Leicester City Council) will be publicising help they can give local businesses with energy efficiency at De Montfort Hall, Leicester on Wednesday 23rd March. The event, "Growing the Low Carbon Economy", is aimed at businesses. It includes presentations on the low carbon economy and includes talks on resource efficiency experiences from a small/medium sized business's viewpoint.

The Leicester Energy Agency will be on hand to provide information on support it can provide to local businesses with controlling their energy costs. It will give details of ERDF grants which are available to help local businesses with energy monitoring. Businesses are being asked to consider automatically monitoring their energy and water consumption, an approach used at Leicester City Council which has enabled many savings to be made. Case studies of savings achieved with the help of energy monitoring are to be given out at the event. There is further information on the ERDF Reducing Carbon Emissions project on the internet at:

http://www.energyagency.co.uk/projects/reducing_carbon_emissions_in_smes/

Examples of savings which have been made, with the help of energy/water monitoring, include:

- A Leicester printing company made gas savings of about 50%.
- A performing arts company reduced gas consumption by about 45%.
- A potential water saving of about £2,800/year was made in a healthcare premises.
- An estimated electricity saving of about 1000kWh/week was achieved in one Leicester business.

For an Energy Monitoring Grants information pack please contact the Leicester Energy Agency at the Leicester Energy Efficiency Centre on tel. (0116) 299 5153, email webbp900@leicester.gov.uk



east midlands
competitiveness programme
european regional development fund



Notes

About intelligent metering

Leicester City Council uses automatic energy/water monitoring in many of its buildings. ½ hourly consumption data is collected automatically and analysed by the Council's Energy Management Team at the Leicester Energy Efficiency Centre. The use of the automatic monitoring ("intelligent metering") has shown many savings opportunities and has been very useful in helping the Council to manage its energy/water consumption costs.

About the Leicester Energy Agency

In 1990, Leicester became Britain's first Environment City, with the aim of promoting more sustainable development in the city. Leicester has targets for reducing its energy consumption and carbon footprint. The Leicester Energy Agency is based at Leicester City Council's Energy Efficiency Centre and helps to implement Leicester's Energy and Climate Change strategies.

Aims of the Agency include to:

- Implement energy efficiency improvements in homes and businesses in Leicester
- Create new markets and jobs in energy services
- Reduce local and global air pollution

More information about the Leicester Energy Agency is available at www.energyagency.co.uk or by phoning (0116) 299 5122.

About ERDF nationally

The ERDF Programme aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by supporting regional economic development.

The ERDF objectives for England are:

- Promoting innovation and knowledge transfer
- Stimulating enterprise and supporting successful business
- Ensuring sustainable development, production and consumption
- Building sustainable communities
- Improving accessibility and connectivity (for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly only – as part of their Convergence Programme).

A Programme Monitoring Committee consisting of regional stakeholders such as Government Offices, RDAs, Regional Assemblies, Local Authorities, Sub-regional Partnerships, Higher Education Institutions, Trade Unions, and the private and voluntary sectors will monitor and oversee programme implementation in each region.

For more information on ERDF funding generally, please visit http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/feder/index_en.htm

About ERDF in the East Midlands

The East Midlands is eligible for €268.5m (approximately £210m at current exchange rates) between 2007 and 2013, which when combined with match funding, provides a programme value of approximately £420m – a significant investment in the economic development of the region.

The East Midlands qualifies as a competitiveness and employment region under the EU's Cohesion Policy, which aims to meet the EU Lisbon objective to become 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social inclusion.'

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is responsible for the programme management and delivery of the region's 2007-13 ERDF Competitiveness Programme. The responsibility for ERDF programme management was transferred from the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) to *emda* following a decision by the UK Government to seek greater alignment between ERDF and regional strategies and funding streams. The 2007-13 ERDF Programme is therefore set firmly within the framework of the Regional Economic Strategy.

A Programme Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Regional Director of Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM), guides the strategic direction of the programme and works closely with *emda*.

To find out more about ERDF, the region's strategy for delivering the funds, how to apply for funding and how the programme is managed, please visit www.eastmidlandserdf.org.uk

About *emda*

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is one of nine Regional Development Agencies in England, set up in 1999 to bring a regional focus to economic development.

Working in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations, the aim is to deliver the 2006 Regional Economic Strategy (RES) A Flourishing Region, which sets out regional priorities until 2020.

The RES, co-ordinated by *emda*, highlights the themes of productivity, sustainability and equality and builds on the previous two strategies; Prosperity Through People and Destination 2010.

In early 2007 the National Audit Office announced that *emda* had received the highest possible grade of 'performing strongly' in an independent assessment of our work – scoring 22 out of 24.

For more details visit www.emda.org.uk

About the "Growing the Low Carbon Economy" event

Date: Wednesday 23rd March 2011, from 9.30am

Venue: De Montfort Hall, Leicester

The event has been arranged by Leicester City Council's Environment Team, Leicestershire County Council and Rutland County Council.

It looks at business opportunities of a lower carbon economy in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

For more information see: <http://bookwhen.com/cem-events>