A toolkit for city regions and local authorities:

Chapter 3: Economic opportunity and job creation

Climate action co-benefits
Cutting carbon and improving people’s lives

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Guide to this toolkit

This toolkit is primarily intended for use by local authority officers when briefing elected members, mayors and senior managers. Each of the co-benefits sections includes facts and figures, links to data for local areas, the business case for taking action, opportunities for action and inspirational examples of successful initiatives from around the country. Case studies are shown in boxes with Ashden Award winning organisations indicated via the Ashden logo.

These can be used as the building blocks for making the case for action in your area; the intention is that users can pick and choose the messages and examples that will resonate in their areas.

The following links take you to different sections of the toolkit, or you can click here to download the whole document.

The links to films in this toolkit are designed to bring to life some of the challenges that people in towns and cities face. The aim is to facilitate conversations around the co-benefits of climate action, ‘multi solving’ climate and social issues.

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2 Health and wellbeing

3 Economic opportunity and job creation

4 Resilience

5 Equity and social cohesion

6 Useful resources

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Acknowledgements

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Ashden’s work on co-benefits

Ashden is working with UK cities to help them realise their sustainability ambitions. Our vision is of healthy, liveable cities where people want to live and work. Through our Liveable Cities programme, we created the Sustainable City Region Network – to help sustainability leaders to realise this vision and tackle common challenges. Realising the wider benefits of climate change such as better homes, more money in local economies, clean air, healthier travel options, and new employment opportunities is essential to connect climate policy to the needs of all citizens, demonstrating that action to combat climate change can improve lives, not diminish them. We are working with city regions to develop policy that delivers these wider benefits, securing a Just Transition. Find out more about our work: https://www.ashden.org/programmes/liveable-cities-programme

Cover image produced by www.morethanminutes.co.uk
Climate action co-benefits – economic opportunity and job creation

Climate action and economy – key facts

- The UK low carbon and renewable energy economy grew by 6.8% in 2017 to reach almost £45 billion by the end of 2017.

- Over the last ten years, annual growth of the UK Gross Domestic Product (GDP) has been between 1.5% and 3.1% while the green economy has consistently grown at around 5%.

- Over 200,000 people (full time equivalents) currently work in the low carbon and renewable energy economy with many more employed through supply chains.
  - Over two thirds of these jobs, and almost half of this turnover, are in the energy efficient products sector.
  - The second largest sector within this area is the low carbon electricity group, which covers electricity generation from renewables and nuclear.
  - Renewable heat saw the biggest growth within this sector, to £1.7 billion in 2017.

- Analysis for the Committee on Climate Change estimated that the low carbon economy has the potential to grow 11% per year between 2015 and 2030 – four times faster than the rest of the economy – and could deliver between £60 billion and £170 billion of export sales of goods and services by 2030.

- Local authorities are key players in the local economy, spending over £100 billion annually, providing them with an opportunity to drive growth in the low carbon goods and services sector. In the fiscal year ending in 2019, total UK public spending is expected to be £817.5 billion.

- According to a recent BEIS survey, 65% of all 18–24 year olds (which equates to 3.7 million people in the UK) were interested in working in the green economy.

- The government estimates that the green economy will create two million jobs between now and 2030.

- The UK cycle industry is worth three times more than the UK steel industry and employs twice as many people. Cycling related businesses currently generate at least £5.4 billion for the UK economy each year, and they sustain 64,000 jobs.
**Employment in the low carbon economy**

*Current Jobs (1 person represents 10,000 jobs)*

- Low carbon electricity
- Energy from waste and biomass
- Low emission vehicles
- Low carbon heat
- Low carbon services
- Energy efficient products

**Accessing facts that relate to your area**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Link</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LCRE data</td>
<td>Grantham Institute, London School of Economics</td>
<td>LCRE data is only available by nation, not by region. However, LSE has done some analysis that indicates low-carbon employment levels are highest in Scotland, with around 30,000 low-carbon employees, followed by the Southeast and Northwest of England, and then the Yorkshire and Humber region.</td>
<td><a href="http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Sustainable-Growth-in-the-UK_Full-Report_78pp.pdf">http://www.lse.ac.uk/GranthamInstitute/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Sustainable-Growth-in-the-UK_Full-Report_78pp.pdf</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BRES data</td>
<td>ONS</td>
<td>Business Register and Employment Survey. Provides data by combined authority and local authority. Job classifications do not specify low carbon, but approximate data can be derived from standard industry codes e.g electricity transmission/distribution.</td>
<td><a href="https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/newbres6pub">https://www.nomisweb.co.uk/datasets/newbres6pub</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The UK’s low carbon economy – driving regional growth

- **Scotland**: Turnover of the low carbon economy was £5.5 billion in 2015, supporting 31,000 jobs and 20,000 businesses.

- **Northern Ireland**: Turnover was almost £1 billion, supporting 5,000 jobs and 4,000 businesses.

- **Midlands**: Leading region for the design and manufacture of low carbon vehicles, with more than £1.5 billion (more than 60%) of UK automotive R&D carried out in the region.

- **Wales**: Turnover was £1.7 billion in 2015 (more than 60%) of UK automotive R&D carried out in the region.

- **South West**: The low carbon sector in Bristol employs over 9,000 people and over 19,000 in the whole of the West of England, generating £2.4 billion.

- **South East**: The low carbon economy in Oxfordshire has a turnover of £1.15 billion supporting 8,800 jobs, and is 7% of the local economy.

- **North**: Low carbon investment has encouraged innovation and generation of clean energy, and developed local supply chains, all of which has helped drive regeneration.

- **North East**: Low, environmental goods and services sector supports around 20,000 jobs in the North East, with high proportions of the national employment in offshore wind, geothermal, hydroelectric, and biomass energy, alternative fuels, heat networks and electric vehicles.

- **East**: Great Yarmouth port is being used as the construction base for a new offshore wind farm, and has a maintenance deal for another two wind farms. These contracts will create up to 150 jobs for 25 years, with hundreds more in the supply chain.

Source: Clean Growth Strategy
Why it matters

Taking action on climate change can have substantial economic benefits:

• Clean growth will increase productivity, create good jobs, boost earning power for people right across the country and help protect the climate and environment upon which we and future generations depend.

• Promoting local investment, growth, jobs and skills are key priorities for all cities and most local authorities. Focusing these on opportunities in relation to clean growth – i.e. growing the UK’s national income while cutting greenhouse gas emissions⁹ – will help to make the local economy fit for the future.

• Focusing on enabling local people to access the necessary skills to meet the future needs of a low carbon economy can help to protect against unemployment as the economy changes.

• Supporting local businesses in a changing economy can help protect them against future threats to their business (e.g. low emission zone charges for diesel vehicles).

• Focusing on sustainable transport and tackling congestion can create a better place to do business.

These principles are at the heart of the Government’s Clean Growth Strategy; and achieving clean growth, while ensuring an affordable energy supply for businesses and consumers, is at the heart of the UK’s Industrial Strategy.

As a response to the UK Government Industrial Strategy and Clean Growth Strategy, all local areas are expected to work with Government to produce joint Local Industrial Strategies to help focus future funding and coordinate support for business growth.
West Midlands – the UK’s first clean and inclusive Local Industrial Strategy

The West Midlands Combined Authority produced the UK’s first Local Industrial Strategy, launched by the West Midlands Mayor and Government Ministers in May 2019. The strategy has a clear clean and inclusive growth strand at its heart by:

- Incorporating carbon emissions reduction, air quality and natural environment as part of the current and future growth objectives.
- Setting out key local strengths and sectors which will make the best of this opportunity – e.g. future mobility.
- Identifying how to integrate into other local sector support – e.g. innovation, housing.
- Supporting infrastructure investment will help the foundation of all local business and clean growth e.g. energy, transport, natural capital.

Last year at a Green Alliance event, Mayor Andy Street said he wanted the West Midlands to be the heart of the clean industrial revolution. The launch of his local industrial strategy shows he has begun to make good on that promise. Commitment to further reductions in carbon emissions, increasing natural capital and going big on key regional clean growth opportunities – electric cars, batteries, energy efficient design and innovation – demonstrates what local industrial strategies should be doing. Now government needs to back leading metro mayors with similarly ambitious strategies with the funding and powers to make local clean growth happen.

Dustin Benton, Policy Director, Green Alliance
Redcar & Cleveland – Grangetown Training and employment hub

The award winning Grangetown Training and Employment Hub is a partnership between Redcar & Cleveland Council, the Future Regeneration of Grangetown (FROG) and MGT Teeside, which owns and operates the new Teeside biomass power station. To-date, more than 850 people have successfully found work through the hub, including many at the biomass power station site10.

Alan’s story:
Unemployed for over six months, 52-year-old Alan Gray (pictured) felt his future looked bleak. But thanks to the advice and support he received from the Hub, including skills training and CV writing, Alan has a new job with Bentall Rowlands assisting the building of the silos at the under-construction MGT Power Plant. “I had loads of support with my CV and training and if it wasn’t for them, I wouldn’t have this job.”

The business case for action; what difference can taking action make?

Clean growth can make a real difference to people’s lives, from reducing energy bills and improving air quality, to supporting new technologies and boosting earning power in high-quality jobs.

Cost of unemployment
In the financial year ending 2017, the UK government spent £264 billion on welfare, which made up 34% of all government spending11. £44 billion of this was on unemployment benefit.

By separating emissions from growth and fostering a low-carbon economy, competition will be encouraged and new jobs created.

Potential for employment generation in the low carbon economy
New high value jobs, industries and companies have been created which are driving a technologically innovative, high growth and high value ‘low carbon’ sector of the UK economy. Parts of the domestic economy are rapidly decarbonising and, thanks to the UK’s world leading expertise in technologies such as offshore wind, power electronics for low carbon vehicles and electric motors, and global leadership in green finance, the UK is now successfully exporting goods and services around the world – for example, one in every five electric vehicles driven in Europe is made in the UK. There is also considerable potential for employment through the retrofit of energy efficiency measures.

This progress now means there are more than 430,000 jobs in low carbon businesses and their supply chains, employing people in locations right across the country17.

Local Industrial Strategies, led by Mayoral Combined Authorities or Local Enterprise Partnerships, will promote the coordination of local economic policy and national funding streams and establish new ways of working between national and local government, and the public and private sectors. Given the speed with which the low carbon economy is due to grow, these strategies should include provision for supporting and enabling this sector of the economy.
RetrofitWorks

Ashden winner Parity Projects set up the RetrofitWorks cooperative to boost the able-to-pay market for energy efficient retrofit by providing access to this market for small local installers who are ‘practitioner members’ of the co-operative. RetrofitWorks is running three out of six pilot schemes funded by BEIS to test approaches for increasing the rates of energy efficiency improvements by providing support for local supply chain integration. These pilots are taking place in six different areas: West of England, Oxfordshire, Sussex, London, Manchester and Cornwall. RetrofitWorks have modelled the potential for job creation and estimate that at the end of a four-year programme, over 7,000 retrofit jobs could be created in each of their pilot areas (Oxfordshire, Sussex and London) with nearly 2,000 jobs sustained beyond the project completion (see table below)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of Work Delivered</th>
<th>Number of Retrofit Jobs</th>
<th>Jobs Sustained (FTE)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oxfordshire</td>
<td>£33.2m</td>
<td>7,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East and West Sussex</td>
<td>£56m</td>
<td>6,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London</td>
<td>£67.9m</td>
<td>7,295</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Zedify

Zedify, a finalist for the 2019 Ashden UK Clean Air in Towns and Cities Award, operate a fleet of e-cargo bikes. Operating from hubs in Cambridge, Brighton, Norwich, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Southampton, east and central London, their bikes make nearly 30,000 deliveries each month. The parcel delivery market is growing rapidly at around 7% per year but is well known for poor employment conditions. In contrast, Zedify’s 75 riders are all paid the living wage. As more towns and cities adopt restrictions on deliveries during peak hours to reduce congestion and pollution, Zedify offers a valuable zero-emission service to businesses while providing good employment opportunities.
Liverpool city region – £2 billion low carbon economy

In February 2019, Liverpool’s Metro Mayor Steve Rotheram announced plans for a new £10 million Green Investment Fund, which will back renewable energy projects and support his ambition for a zero-carbon city region by 2040.

Liverpool City Region has assessed potential employment and enterprise growth in the low carbon sector. The Low Carbon economy in the City Region experienced a net increase in employment of 7.75% (2,645 jobs) over the period 2010 to 2016, employing over 22,000 people in 1,400 companies. The sector contributes over £2 billion to the City Region’s economy.

The decision by Government to designate the City Region as a Centre for Offshore Renewable Engineering (CORE Status) is recognition of Liverpool’s continued potential in the low carbon and renewable sector. Growth is being stimulated through £3.5 billion of investment in Liverpool Bay, the exploitation of commercial opportunities in low carbon environmental goods and services, development of energy and heat networks and the imperative for a modal shift in transport [4]. Gross Value Added (GVA) of the sector is expected to rise by 34% by 2030 [5].

Q-Bot – creating attractive, highly skilled jobs in energy efficiency retrofit

Millions of homes in the UK have ‘suspended floors’ – a ground floor built from wood with a ventilated gap underneath – and up to 25% of their heat loss can be through the floor. Q-Bot has developed a robot that can apply a layer of insulation beneath suspended floors. There’s no need to pull up carpets or create disruption because Q-Bot’s robots can gain access through the exterior wall or a small hole in the floor and use on-board sensors to create dynamic 3D maps to guide installation and identify hazards.

Q-Bot’s work is creating attractive, highly skilled jobs, increasing productivity, reducing waste, and improving safety and accountability. These jobs appeal to school-leavers and graduates, whether in the design and maintenance of robots or in the installation process [6].
Cutting the cost of congestion and creating a better place to do business
The UK is the world’s 10th most congested country and London is Europe’s second most gridlocked city; UK drivers wasted an average of 31 hours in rush-hour traffic in 2017, costing each motorist £1,168 and costing UK businesses over £700 million each year. Reducing traffic congestion will improve air quality and reduce these costs whilst also helping to create a more attractive place to do business.

"We can only tackle congestion in the long term by making public transport more affordable, and making cycling and walking more appealing choices for all Londoners."
London Mayor Sadiq Khan, 2016

Nottingham Workplace Parking Levy – cutting congestion and investing in sustainable transport
To tackle traffic congestion, Nottingham City Council introduced a Workplace Parking Levy in 2011. This levy places a modest charge on employers providing 11 or more parking places and invests the revenue in sustainable transport measures such as new tram infrastructure and routes, electric buses, cycling and public transport real time bus display equipment. Since the introduction of the levy, journey time per vehicle mile increased more slowly in Nottingham than in comparable cities, despite strong jobs growth. According to an evaluation undertaken by Loughborough University, there is positive evidence from case studies of major inward investments due to the public transport improvement components of the Workplace Parking Levy package which is making Nottingham more attractive for employers.
Decentralised energy

Local energy schemes offer the potential to save both councils and their communities money and/or generate revenue.

Community renewables schemes can deliver a range of social and economic benefits to local communities, including increased autonomy, empowerment and resilience, by providing a long-term income and local control over finances, often in areas where there are few options for generating wealth. Other benefits include opportunities for education, a strengthened sense of place and, potentially, an increase in visitors to the area.

Community wind farms in Scotland – benefiting the local economy

A Scottish study found that the involvement of local contractors in on-site works for new community energy schemes can bring in around £10,000 (based on a 900kW turbine) to the local economy. Income from operation and maintenance of the project (typically land rental and local management charges) are estimated at £20,000 per annum. Operational income can range from £100–250,000 per annum (the latter being in exceptional island locations). Local investors will typically be offered a 2% premium over other locally available investment opportunities. Where local investors take up 25% of a £1 million share offer—representing a combined investment of £250,000—an additional £5,000 per annum will accrue to local investors within the community, a portion of which will be spent on local goods and services.
Most community energy schemes feed directly into the grid without any capacity for local people to use this energy at preferential rates. However, new smart meter technology can be used to allow households to match their use to local renewables, reducing their bills and giving more value to the generator whilst also keeping energy spend in the local community.

**Energy Local – matching local energy demand with local supply**

Energy Local CIC has introduced a game-changing solution to large discrepancies in the amount households pay and the amount generators earn from distributed, renewable energy generated at a local level, with its match tariff. Most community energy schemes feed directly into the grid without any capacity for local people to use this energy at preferential rates. Members of an Energy Local Club, the first of which is in Bethesda, Wales, are able to use local hydro-generated electricity at a price that is mutually beneficial.

Small-scale renewable energy is sold to energy suppliers at 5–6p per kWh, but people living nearby buy electricity back at up to three times that price. However, Energy Local uses new smart meter technology to allow households to match their use to local renewables. This is having a direct impact on fuel poverty, generating additional funds for renewable generators and keeping energy spend in the local economy.22
Opportunities for investment by local citizens

Most local authority capital projects are typically funded by loans from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). However, some councils are beginning to explore ‘municipal community bonds’ where residents can invest small sums in local projects, including sustainable housing, renewable energy and transport.

Ensuring a just transition

Past economic transitions characterised by rapid technological change have had immense impacts on labour markets. Job displacement and loss of livelihoods are common during these periods, which can increase inequality and social discord. High-carbon jobs disappear and new technologies such as artificial intelligence are expected to go beyond replacing mechanical and manual labour to replacing some cognitive ‘thinking’ workers.

Some estimates suggest automation could replace over half of all jobs by 2055 and, when combined with further globalisation, this could accelerate the trend in the hollowing out of middle-skill jobs that require routine manual and cognitive skills such as machine operators and clerical workers. This could make the low carbon transition much harder for some workers, in particular those in middle-skill, middle-level high-carbon jobs that may disappear.

Local government should actively consider how to maximise the opportunities that arise out of decarbonisation, in terms of fair work and tackling inequalities, while delivering a sustainable and inclusive labour market. This could involve supporting labour market flexibility by facilitating access to appropriate training and retraining.

A video telling the story of someone threatened by the changes of transitioning to a low carbon economy can be found here.

Abundance – testing municipal community bonds

Crowd-funding platform Abundance won an Ashden Award in 2014. Abundance and the University of Leeds have just completed a Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport-funded project, Financing Society, helping three UK local authorities and three NHS bodies to conduct feasibility studies on using investment-based crowdfunding to finance specific infrastructure projects in their area.

One of these case studies is Leeds City Council which has an ambitious plan to decarbonise the city’s infrastructure and is looking to commercialise an estimated annual £277 million of profitable low carbon projects. Leeds wants to ensure that the economic benefits of these projects are captured locally and that residents of Leeds participate in the low carbon transition. The Council’s finance team has undertaken a technical and commercial assessment of a community municipal bond to finance a rooftop solar project across the council’s estate; the council are currently assessing a 2019 pilot.

The other two local authority case studies are Bristol, which is considering a community municipal bond to finance energy efficiency retrofit work in the Council estate, and the Isle of Wight, which has looked at investor-based crowdfunding to supplement other funding for regeneration projects.
Repowering – training young people in renewable energy

Ashden award-winner Repowering delivers community-based renewable energy. They have delivered projects in some of the most deprived councils in London including Lambeth and Hackney. These projects get local people involved, providing opportunities to gain skills and confidence. Repowering provides a paid youth training programme to do this. The accredited programme is targeted at upskilling 16–25 year olds and gives an insight to sustainable energy, social enterprise and community development. Training includes activities such as solar panel making, visits to renewable energy technology sites, discussions with industry specialists and more general skills such as digital marketing, brand building, community engagement and surveying. By involving communities, rather than imposing projects on them, they’ve successfully implemented projects in areas previously deemed hard to reach.26
Job losses and potential job creation in the North East

The IPPR has predicted that up to 28,000 jobs could be lost in the north of England in the next 12 years under the government’s drive towards a low-carbon economy. The region is home to the largest number of coal and gas power stations in England, which is where job losses are likely. However, with the right support in place, the region, which currently produce almost half of the UK’s renewable energy, could be at the heart of a ‘clean energy revolution’ – with a potential for 46,000 new green jobs. The IPPR has criticised the government’s failure to include proposals within its industrial or clean growth strategies to limit the damaging effect on communities and help workers retrain. This risks job losses or forced acceptance of low-quality jobs, an increase in numbers on welfare benefits and an increase in local deprivation. Locally, training and skills can be offered to help workers transition to the low carbon economy27.

Councils in Norfolk and Suffolk fund a new training centre on offshore wind

In the past decade, the UK has emerged as a world leader in offshore wind energy. And some of the biggest winners from the multi-billion pound investment look set to be coastal towns searching for their industries of the future.

One such town is Great Yarmouth, which is ranked 20th amongst local authority districts with the highest proportion of their neighbourhoods in the most deprived 10% of neighbourhoods nationally. The town’s port is being used as the construction base for ScottishPower’s £2.5 billion East Anglia One wind farm, due for completion in 2019. It has also secured an operations and maintenance deal for Swedish energy firm Vattenfall’s two wind farms, which will be the biggest in the world. These contracts will create up to 150 jobs for 25 years, creating hundreds more in the supply chain.

To help ensure local people can benefit from these opportunities, the East of England Offshore Wind Skills Centre opened in the town in December 2018. It’s a collaborative regional training and competence facility that will support local people wishing to reskill and gain sustainable employment in the offshore wind industry on the New Anglia Energy Coast. The Centre has been made possible by a £1.1 million grant from the New Anglia Skills Deal Programme, provided by Norfolk County Council, Suffolk local authorities and the Education and Skills Funding Agency28.
Saving money on energy bills
A key economic benefit of energy efficiency programmes is reducing expenditure on energy. This leads to healthier balance sheets (for organisations) and increased disposable income (for non-fuel poor households). In a single street of 100 ‘average’ homes, the combined spend on energy will be around £140,000 a year, of which around £28,000 a year could typically be saved through cost effective measures; money that could then potentially be spent in the local economy. Similarly, a secondary school or college spending £100,000 a year on energy could save around £20,000 a year through implementing low cost energy efficiency measures.

West Midlands – calculating the potential for energy savings
There are 1.7 million homes in the West Midlands, forecast to increase to £1.9 million by 2030, which will add £100–300 million to the regional energy spending. In principle, energy bills and carbon emissions can be cost effectively reduced by 10–30%, equating to up to £600 million per annum for the region.

Cambridgeshire County Council – helping schools to slash energy bills and generate revenue
Cambridgeshire County Council has used the Ashden-award winning Re:fit Programme to deliver guaranteed energy-efficiency savings in schools across the county.

The council provides loans or managed service arrangements to pay for the energy saving measures and is able to draw down public sector capital from its Local Energy Investment Fund to pay for the works up front. The aim is to help schools plan for the future and manage their energy bills, as well as operate more efficiently and reduce their carbon emissions. For example: Great Paxton Primary School was spending £11,000 on energy each year. A range of energy efficiency and renewable solutions were installed through this programme, halving the school’s energy bill and generating over £4,500 in income each year. This represents a total saving on annual energy costs of almost 90%.

“It’s been a huge success. After one year we are cash positive and our electricity and gas bills have halved. We have generated income and reduced our carbon footprint, but most importantly, we have provided a better environment for our children to learn in. With the savings made we are in a position to provide more for our pupils.”

Lee Frost, Headteacher, Great Paxton Primary School
**Links to statutory powers**

**Economic growth**
The directly-elected metro mayors are responsible for setting out a strategy for growing the city region economy and will have certain powers over issues such as housing, transport and skills. Previously the majority of these powers lay either with individual local authorities, such as most planning or local transport decisions, or with national decision makers, such as the adult skills budget administered through the Skills Funding Agency (see below).

**Skills**

The government plans to devolve control of the adult education budget to six combined authority areas and the Greater London authority in 2019. This will involve devolution of around £700 million.

Education and Skills Act 2008
As part of this Act, local authorities have duties to secure education/training provision for all young people over compulsory school age and under 19, and those aged 19-25 for whom an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan is maintained.

**Procurement**
Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012
The SVA requires local authorities to consider, at the pre-procurement stage, how procurement could improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the area.

**What role can decision makers play?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leadership</th>
<th>Councils can play a leadership role through declaring a climate emergency and developing a plan to encourage and support low carbon businesses.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partnership</td>
<td>Councils can work with different partners to encourage coordinated action. Organisations like LEPs and Chambers of Commerce can be key partners in delivering initiatives to support the low carbon economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicating</td>
<td>Councillors can explain the opportunities that the low carbon economy presents e.g. by raising awareness of growth in this sector and the sorts of skills needed to capitalise on opportunities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Councils can use planning powers to create designated low carbon enterprise zones and provide the necessary infrastructure for low carbon growth, including electric vehicle charging points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Metro mayors can use their newly devolved powers in relation to skills to focus on providing the training and upskilling needed by a low carbon economy and to help ensure that those with a history of working in carbon intensive industries are not left behind in the transition.</td>
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Opportunities for action

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Economic opportunity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Procurement</strong></td>
<td>• Where possible, include social value clauses relating to supporting local R&amp;D at higher education establishments on new and innovative ways of generating energy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Provide opportunities for local SMEs to respond to council tenders for de-carbonisation work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Delivering services</strong></td>
<td>• Use procurement to drive decarbonisation through strong procurement criteria and requirements on suppliers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Transport plan to include provision for low carbon transport which can reduce congestion thus creating a better place to do business.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In plans and strategies</strong></td>
<td>• Put development of the low carbon economy at the heart of the council’s local economic strategy and Local Plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ensure skills and training are in place to support the transition to a low carbon economy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Support local businesses in the change towards a clean economy e.g. EVs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>In partnership</strong></td>
<td>• Work with local transport authorities and others to create a better place to do business through sustainable transport and tackling congestion.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Work with LEP to nurture low carbon businesses and with education providers to ensure skills and training are provided.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Work with community energy providers to encourage/enable development of community energy schemes that generate local employment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skills</strong></td>
<td>• Work with local employment agencies to raise awareness of new opportunities and ensure referral to low carbon training opportunities.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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4. See: [https://www.ukpublicspending.co.uk/local_spending](https://www.ukpublicspending.co.uk/local_spending)
11. See: [https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/articles/howisthewelfarebudgetspent/2016-03-16](https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/governmentpublicsectorandtaxes/publicsectorfinance/articles/howisthewelfarebudgetspent/2016-03-16)
12. See: [http://retrofitworks.co.uk/schemes/](http://retrofitworks.co.uk/schemes/)
13. See: [https://www.zedify.co.uk/](https://www.zedify.co.uk/)
16. See: [https://www.ashden.org/winners/q-bot](https://www.ashden.org/winners/q-bot)
17. See: [https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42948259](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42948259)
3 Climate action co-benefits – economic opportunity and job creation

See: http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/


See: http://www.energylocal.co.uk/

See: https://www.abundanceinvestment.com/

See: https://baumaninstitute.leeds.ac.uk/research/financing-for-society/


See: https://www.repowering.org.uk/


See: https://www.orbisenergy.co.uk/news/3sun-group-leads-pioneering-training-flow-skilled-offshore-wind-workers/


See: https://www.mlei.co.uk/projects/school-programme/