



Priority Axis 4: Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy in All Sectors

Low carbon technology - research and innovation



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Welcome

- Introductions
- Purpose of event

Format:

- Strategic overview of European Structural & Investment Fund (ESIF)
- Key detail outlined in the Call
- European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and how to apply
- The outline application form – and things to consider

- Housekeeping



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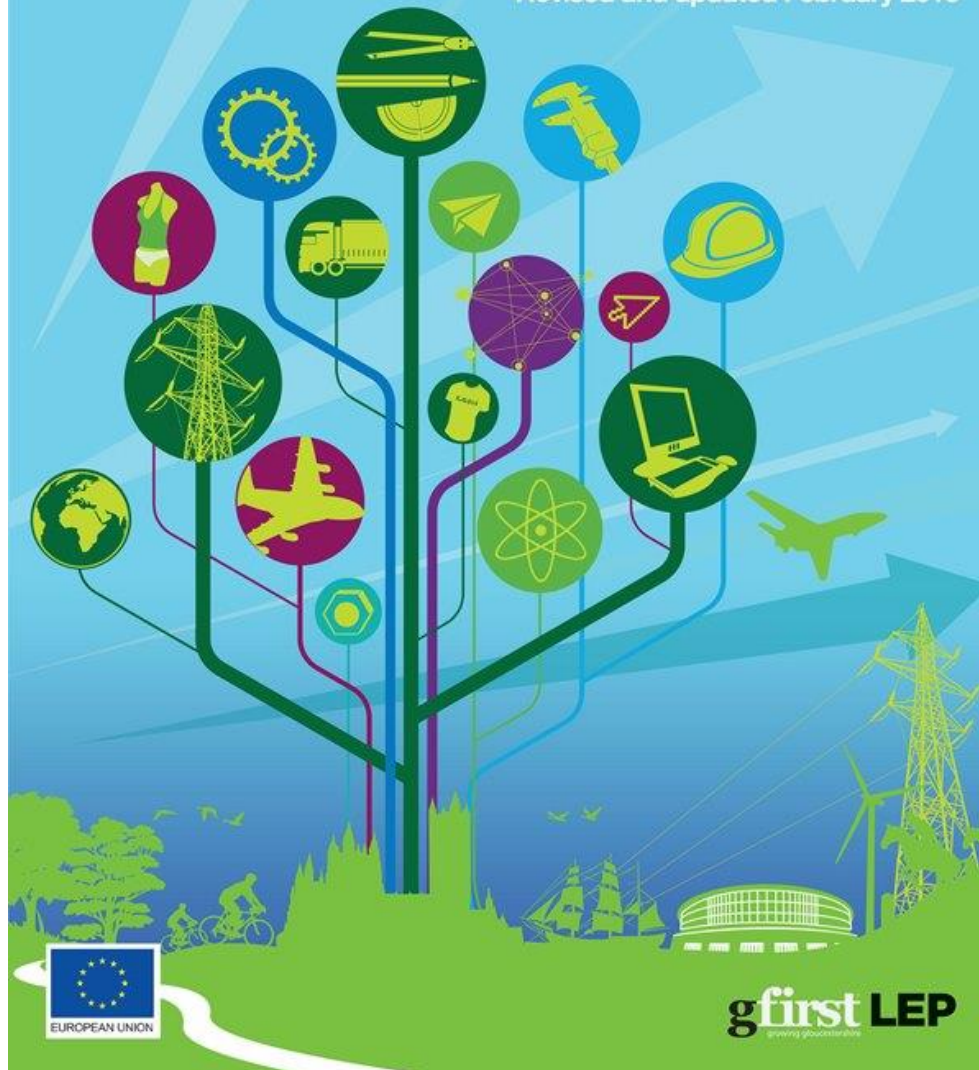


EU Structural and Investment Fund Strategy

Gloucestershire

2014 - 2020

Revised and updated February 2016



Gloucestershire European Structural & Investment Fund Strategy

- Thematic objective 4, within section 4
- Innovation is a key driver for economic growth and productivity.
- Gloucestershire aims to become a national centre of excellence for innovation and learning in the energy sector.
- Support for energy conservation and low carbon generation is a key priority.
- Environments, locations and key businesses & home to innovation-strong research institutions – to test, refine and prepare for market innovative low carbon ideas.



Detail In The Call

- £1,000,000 ERDF (£2M total budget)
- Investment for activities that capitalise on the county's location and current innovation, environment and business assets to promote research and innovation in and the adoption of low carbon technologies.
- Proposed activities should forge links with relevant research institutes to develop and introduce to market innovative low carbon technologies or environmental goods and services.



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Detail In The Call

Demonstration that proposed activities will deliver one or more of the following:

- stronger links between innovation-strong research or higher education institutions and Gloucestershire businesses;
 - business-to-business, low carbon / environmental goods and services specific innovation networks;
 - improved and/or new renewable and low carbon technologies and/or environmental goods and services;
 - specific research, development and implementation of innovative solar, wind or tidal energy technology;
 - support for businesses to develop new low carbon technologies / environmental goods and services, including access to facilities to trial and test new products;
 - development of the supply chain and local market.
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- Links with Growth Hub
 - Compliment other low carbon programmes and activities
 - County-wide access



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- The application process
- Priority Axis 4, Investment Priority 4f
- Top tips for a strong application



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The ERDF Process

- **Outline Application** (closing date – 8th September 2017)
Assessment - ESIF Sub Committee - Managing Authority decision
- **Full Application** (approximately 6 weeks)
Meeting - Appraisal (iterative) - ESIF Sub Committee - Managing Authority decision
- **Grant Funding Agreement (GFA)**
pre-GFA conditions - GFA completion – contract conditions
- **Project Inception Visit (PIV) and On the Spot Verification (OtSV)**
- **Project Management**
Claims – on-going compliance (potential audit checks / visits)





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ERDF - Priority Axis 4

Supporting the shift towards a low carbon economy in all sectors

- 5 Investment Priorities;
- Focus on production, efficiency and effective distribution of low carbon energy;
- Emphasis on small scale, demonstration and innovation *not* large scale deployment.



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ERDF – Investment Priority 4f

Promoting research and innovation in, and adoption of, low carbon strategies

Applications will need to reference how:

- the project is consistent with the priorities in the [England Smart Specialisation Strategy](#);
- the activity being undertaken will support the strategic framework, and the underpinning technology focus areas of the [Low Carbon Innovation Coordination Group](#).



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ERDF PA4 - IP4f outputs

C1	Number of enterprises receiving support
C5	Number of new enterprises supported (C5 is a subset of C1)
C26	Number of enterprises cooperating with research entities
C29	Number of enterprises supported to introduce new to the firm products
C34	Estimated annual decrease of greenhouse gases

Note: Where a project is working with an SME on a low carbon technology, the project may not be able to report CO₂e savings as they are working with business on the low carbon products and the saving generated by these cannot be evidenced.





Top Tips for a strong application

- Address the call; Operational Programme investment priorities, local need...
- Be realistic about outputs and deliverability
- As ERDF is the fund of last resort, ensure you demonstrate additionality
- Understand the difference between delivery, strategic and collaborative partners
- Understand where your match funding is coming from and how it will work
- Understand indirect and direct costs, inc.1720 simplified cost methodology
- Ensure that procurement processes are EU compliant, not just UK compliant
- Consider GBER (not just de minimus) when identifying state aid routes
- If invited to full application, think granular detail...



Summary of Key Points

- Detail in the call
- Detail in the ESIF Strategy
- Clear & concise application
- Don't be scared by the regulations – just needs good planning



Questions?

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