

e-workshop: Championing sustainable energy in SMEs  
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# SME Power Good Practice- BEEP 2 (Business Energy Efficiency Project)



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## Origins of BEEP/Background



**Durham recognised the need to reduce business carbon emissions to achieve carbon targets**

**County Durham:**

- **Approx 530,000 people**
- **Rural with a few large towns/small city**
- **Areas of off-gas houses/businesses**
- **History of industry/mines regenerated with business parks**
- **Large proportion of smaller SMEs**

**Challenge**

**Getting smaller businesses engaged with energy efficiency.**



## Business Energy Efficiency Project 2



Followed on from BEEP

We improved the bid, learning from our first ERDF PA4b energy project:

- More targeting of support to areas of need
- Better communications and engagement
- Utilising existing tools and skills
- Budget: £1,730,017
- Timescales 2019-2022
- Key Objectives: engage with 324 SMEs, and save 2,633 tonnes of carbon
- Resources: 5 staff, website, social media





## Key features:

### Free consultation, audit and report

- **Delivered by in-house professional energy officers (staff employed specifically for BEEP)**
- **Usually between 1 and 4 hours to deliver on site, plus analysis, research and report writing/feedback**
- **Each business has their own named energy officer**
- **Audit covers:**
  - Premises (insulation, heating, lighting, renewables)
  - Production technology (e.g. compressors)
  - Transport and broader sustainability aspects
- **Grant support for improvements- scaled between 20% and 40% up to project value of £24,999**
- **Simple application process. Staff already know about the SME and improvements/savings**
- **Fact sheets and online resources to support and build capacity in SME energy management**



**Measures implemented into BEEP 2 to help engage with smaller SMEs**

- **Part time Engagement Officer**
- **One quotation for work**
- **20% standard for LED upgrades**
- **Flexible with grants depending on technology**
- **Closer relationship with businesses**
- **Grants changed back from GBER to de minimus to avoid having to refuse 'Undertakings in Difficulty'**



## **Key Features that makes BEEP 2 successful**

- **Easy for SME's to engage with**
- **No upfront costs to SMEs for audits**
- **On-going support and long term engagement**
- **Independent audit**
- **Trusted delivery body (local authority)**
- **Grants scaled to match priorities and paybacks**



## Challenges

- Risk of delivery/clawback sits with Durham
- Likely to be more expensive per tonne of carbon
- Covid- model works best with engagement, but the team have overcome this and continued to deliver



## Advantages

- Reaches SMEs who would not normally have resources to apply for ERDF
- Improves reputation of local authority
- Develops in-house skilled team of auditors – improved recommendations over time
- Improves business performance and the carbon footprint of County Durham and the SME



# Thank you!

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<https://www.interregeurope.eu/smeportfolio/good-practices/>

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