

The Green BELLE project can help firms cut their carbon emissions and energy bills

SMEs in Leicester and Leicestershire can now receive grants and support for energy efficiency, following the official launch of the Green BELLE project on Wednesday, March 15 at Phoenix Cinema and Arts.

The launch event introduced Green BELLE to a range of local businesses, contractors and business support organisations.

Speakers at the event included Councillor Adam Clarke (Leicester's Assistant Mayor for Energy & Sustainability, Leicester City Council), Councillor Pam Posnett (Lead Member for Equalities, Environment and Communities, Leicestershire County Council) and Jonathon Little (Economic Growth & Investment Officer (Business), LLEP).

The Green BELLE delivery team were also in attendance to introduce the project.

The following organisations and projects assisting local businesses also exhibited at the event:

- Go Travel Solutions
- Harborough Energy
- INTERREG SET-UP

Mr Little said: "The LLEP is a strong supporter of the process of helping business make the leap to a more energy efficient way of generating profit.

"We believe that this ERDF-funded programme significantly meets a need identified in our Low Carbon Sector Growth Plan and we look forward to working with Green BELLE through the Business Gateway to help small businesses succeed."

The event marks the official launch of the Green BELLE and the brand new project website.

What is Green BELLE?

Green BELLE is a project supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

Grants of £1,000 to £10,000 available

Grants are available for energy efficiency and low carbon measures. The grant is fixed at a rate of 50% of the cost of the



works, requiring a 50% match funding contribution from the SME.

There are a wide range of measures that SMEs can apply for, including heating, lighting, insulation and renewable energy (e.g. solar PV). Measures are assessed according to a business's premises and their needs.

Why not contact Green BELLE to see if you could save 50% on supply and installation for low carbon technology, and reduce your business' energy bills long-term?

SMEs are already receiving grants!

Five grant applications from local SMEs had already been approved by the Green BELLE grant panel before the official launch.

These SMEs have been awarded grants totalling over £35,000 and your business could be next! The approved grants include LED lighting, double glazing, suspended ceiling insulation and more.

All of these measures will help to cut both carbon emissions and energy bills for the SMEs.

Green BELLE allows participants to apply for the measures that will suit their business.

Projects can focus on a single energy efficiency measure, or take a whole-building approach, including multiple measures.

There are also many SMEs at other stages of Green BELLE; submitting expressions of interest, receiving site visits and putting in applications of their own.

SMEs assisted so far have included engineering firms, printing companies and textile manufacturers.

If your business meets all three criteria below, then you too could be eligible for a Green BELLE grant:

- A small or medium-sized enterprise (SME).
- Located in Leicester or Leicestershire.
- Trading business-to-business.

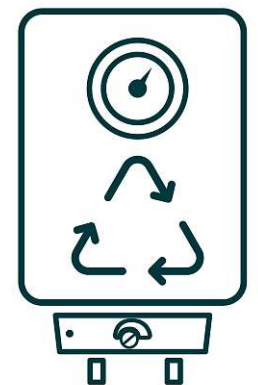
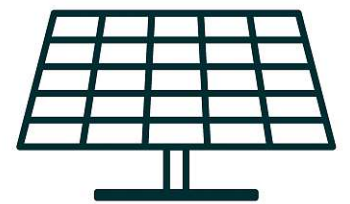
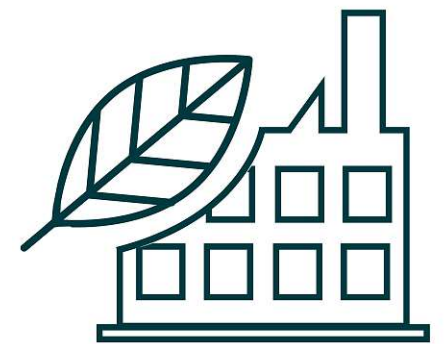
Green BELLE is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

Why should my SME apply?

Your business could benefit from a grant of up to £10,000 to improve its energy efficiency. This will reduce your energy bills in the long term, boosting your profitability.

Increasing your energy efficiency will improve your green credentials, which are an increasingly important factor in securing new business and contracts.

Green BELLE is a unique project in Leicester and Leicestershire, and provides



a great opportunity to engage with the low carbon agenda.

The grant is offered on a first-come first-served basis, so apply soon to make sure you don't miss out!

How to apply to Green BELLE

SMEs are invited to contact the Green BELLE team for further information.

If an SME has a project already in mind, they are encouraged to submit an Expression of Interest.

To submit an enquiry or Expression of Interest, please visit:

www.greenbelle.org.uk.

The Green BELLE team can also be contacted on 0116 454 2700 or at:

energygrant@leicester.gov.uk

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