

Innovation and Investment

Growing Your Low Carbon Business

Wednesday 15 September, 13:30 – 18:30
Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University, LA1 4YQ



Register online for this **FREE** event at
www.lec.lancs.ac.uk



Lancashire County Council welcomes you to

Innovation & Investment: *Growing Your Low Carbon Business*

Whether you are an established provider or a business entering this expanding market Growth in the Low Carbon Goods and Services market means increased competition and opportunity for your company.

The Lancashire Low Carbon Goods and Services sector holds 22.1% of the North West market, valued at £10.6 billion. The GVA value of the LCEGS sector in Lancashire is calculated to be £770 million. By 2015 the sector is forecasted to employ an additional 2,500 people, adding to the current workforce of 21,750. While businesses in Lancashire's Low Carbon companies are typically small and medium size businesses, Lancashire is home to a larger than average number of Head Offices. Traditional environmental goods & services and the emerging low carbon sector lead the sector, followed by encouraging start up of further renewable energy companies.

Lancashire is Open for Business

Lancashire, Cradle of the Industrial Revolution in the C19th aims to run at the forefront of a Low Carbon, Low Energy Business Revolution in C21st. We have world class companies, world class universities and a world class workforce, all in a fantastic setting. We have strong University – Business partnerships, a growing network of strategic development sites for business expansion, and a unique offer in Business Finance investment together with a rich heritage in Advanced Manufacturing.

Lancashire County Council - a Beacon Council for developing Economic Prosperity through Partnerships - has launched a new vision to work alongside the private sector to create stronger wealth generating businesses and jobs for the County.

We believe that strong and inclusive civic leadership, underpinned by strategic economic partnerships and frameworks that command the support and confidence of private sector partners, will enable Lancashire to reclaim its rightful position, as one of the UK's most important economic centres, over the next 10 years.

Lancashire's economy supports a growing number of world class companies in different sectors. We must all do more to support them and exploit their continued success to attract new, high growth sectors, whilst also promoting innovation-led growth within the local business-base.

We also have University assets that only Manchester can match or better in the North of England, and will ensure that these centres of learning and research continue to contribute to the growth of Lancashire and the wider region.

We need to grow and attract the higher-value growth sectors where Lancashire has real competitive strengths or potential, including aerospace, nuclear, energy & environmental technologies, creative & digital, and business & professional services, and will work hard to retain our graduate talent and develop our high-skilled resident-base.

"Growth in the UK low carbon goods and services sector means increased opportunities for Lancashire companies. We want to bring these companies together to share top expertise and look at ideas to develop their businesses. If we can help these companies to develop, then we also help the Lancashire economy to grow which is good news all round. This sector is involved in some very exciting work and is an example of the ingenuity and innovation we have within Lancashire business."

Lancashire County Councillor Michael Green,
Cabinet Member for Environment and Planning

Lancashire's leading employers are working closely with our Universities to invest in energy saving research and application, to generate immediate business benefits and we also recognise the significant contribution to our economic future that the nuclear industry will generate for Lancashire based on global trade. Given our heritage, our research and development expertise, our manufacturing know-how, and strong business support offer, there is no reason why there shouldn't be many more companies taking advantage of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead for the Low Carbon Goods and Services sector.

Although Lancashire County Council is only one player in this agenda, we do recognise that our role can be extremely influential in stimulating new environmental technology businesses. We have already developed a pioneering private sector partnership with Global Renewables Ltd to manage the County's waste stream, with state of the art Waste Recovery Centre at Thornton and Farrington and programmes to encourage recycling businesses. We already have a unique Business Finance offer in Rosebud, which works hand in hand with the Banking Sector and Venture Capital funds – so even in these difficult economic conditions no good business plan should be held back by lack of investment. We also recognise that our leading employers are working closely with Universities to invest in energy saving research and development to generate immediate business benefits.

So our vision for the future Lancashire Economy is to see strong growth in the environmental technology sector and alongside all the other high growth sectors we are hoping to attract an extra 15,000 jobs over the next 10 years.

Today Lancashire County Council and Lancaster University, along with other key partners, can showcase some of our existing business successes.

Importantly, we also want to hear from you about new ideas, about any barriers that we can help to overcome and about further success stories which we can help to showcase in Lancashire's future.

Lancaster University

Lancaster is the top university in the North West in all the major national league tables and this year enters the Times Good University Guide 2011 top 10 for the first time, a rise of 13 places.

The latest *Guardian University guide*, published in June 2010, ranks Lancaster 6th out of 117 universities, and top in the North and the Times Higher Education publication has short-listed Lancaster for the award of University of the Year 2010.

“We are very pleased to be working with Lancashire County Council and to be hosting this event. While our short term economic future remains unclear, we should not lose sight of the long-term opportunities for businesses from all sectors to more effectively exploit the burgeoning global markets created by climate change. Effective working with the regional knowledge base – both via the provision of technology, knowledge and highly skilled people forms part of the strategy to help Lancashire businesses get their fair share of these markets – which is why I’m very happy to be working with Lancashire County Council on this new initiative”

Dr Mark Bacon, Lancaster Environment Centre



Your hosts: Lancaster Environment Centre

The Lancaster Environment Centre (LEC) is one of the UK's largest centres for environmental research and accounts for over 40% of environmental research carried out in the north west of England.

An established programme of support to businesses, is led by LEC, including the North West Eco-Innovation Programme, funded by the European Union and North West Regional Development Agency to provide support to over 480 businesses within the region, to help them better exploit the markets being created by climate change and the mainstream demand for more sustainable products.

LEC also provides facilities for over 20 companies to locate directly within the research centre and gain access to the knowledge, expertise and facilities created by over £30 million in investment since 2004.

Innovation & Investment – Presentations

- 14:30 **Welcome**
County Councillor Michael Welsh,
Chairman Lancashire County Developments Ltd
- 14:35 **Lancashire is Open for Business**
Ged Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, Lancashire County Council
- 14:45 **Prospects and Opportunities for the Nuclear Sector in the North West**
Dave Mills, AP1000 Delivery Team, Westinghouse UK
- 15:00 **Sustainable Utilities Development and Supply Chain Opportunities**
Steve Whipp, Standards & Innovation Manager, United Utilities
- 15:15 **Universities as a Resource for the Low Carbon Sector**
Martin Gilmore, Deputy Director - Enterprise & Business Partnerships,
Lancaster Environment Centre
- 15:30 Break & Refreshments
- 15:50 **Commercialising Intellectual Property**
Arnold Black, Manager – Special Projects, C-Tech Innovation
- 16:05 **Innovation and Growth**
Lois Ricketts, Research Consultant, Stopford Energy & Environment Ltd
- 16:20 **The North West Fund**
Andy Leach, Chief Executive Officer, North West Business Finance Limited
- 16:35 **Investing in Growth in Small and Medium-sized Businesses**
Steve Dean, Managing Director, Lancashire County Developments Ltd

Richard Garth Jones, Managing Director, The Low Carbon Energy Company

Paul Hindle, Managing Director, Lumenata
- 16:55 **Closing Remarks**
County Councillor Michael Welsh,
Chairman Lancashire County Developments Ltd

Innovation & Investment – speaker profiles

Ged Fitzgerald, Lancashire County Council

Ged has worked in Local Government since 1983, first in Merseyside and later including Chief Executive roles in both Rotherham and Sunderland. He has been Chief Executive at Lancashire County Council since 2008 and is a lead figure in a number of local and regional partnerships aiming to improve prosperity and wellbeing.

Dave Mills, Westinghouse UK

Dave is a member of the Delivery Team for the AP1000 in the UK. He is a commercial specialist who has experience in complex commercial contracts such as those associated with the provision of a new nuclear power station. Dave has worked in the nuclear industry for 25 years, the last 10 of which have been in a commercial role. He was a key member of the contracts team associated with the transfer of ownership of the BNFL nuclear sites to the NDA and was the negotiating lead for the deal for Westinghouse to purchase Springfields Fuels Limited from the NDA and to gain long term control of the Springfields Nuclear Site. Dave is a Chemical Engineer, who also has an MBA from the University of Pittsburgh. Dave lives in Preston and is married with one daughter.

Steve Whipp, United Utilities

Steve Whipp is the Head of Innovation at United Utilities. Steve studied Civil Engineering at Salford University and then trained with the City Engineer's department in Manchester. He is a Chartered Civil and Municipal Engineer with 30 years experience. Steve worked in international water and wastewater related research at WRc for 15 years. He joined UU when it was North West Water and initially was responsible for water supply for Lancashire. He has undertaken a number of roles but has retained interest in technology development and manages United Utilities' research and development portfolio. Steve also chairs the US Water Research Foundation's research advisory committee for Infrastructure and sits on its expert panel for its Climate Change strategic initiative. Steve is a Board member of the Environmental KTN as well as Envirolink Northwest.

Arnold Black, C-Tech Innovation

Arnold is currently the working on the new Environmental Sustainability KTN and supporting the North West Eco Innovation programme. As Manager - Special Projects at C-Tech Innovation he has worked on numerous innovation projects. His current expertise is in sustainable materials recovery/renewable energy and is a co-inventor of a patented novel Aqueous de-nitrification process. Arnold is an accomplished speaker and presenter with many conference performances to his credit including the OECD, ETAP, the House of Lords Select committees and the European Parliament on resource issues and various technical presentations to smaller groups of MP's and Industry leaders.

Lois Ricketts, Stopford Energy & Environmental Ltd

Lois has worked with Stopford since graduating from Lancaster University with a first class bachelor's degree in Environmental Science in 2008. Lois leads Stopford's waste team providing regulatory, recycling, waste re-use, waste treatment and waste disposal consultancy to our clients. As Stopford's Research Consultant, Lois is also involved in a number of R&D projects primarily in the waste technologies arena with her expertise spanning project development, chemicals analysis, data interpretation

and technical reporting. Lois is an Affiliate member of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management and an Associate member of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Stephen Dean, Lancashire County Developments Ltd

Stephen Dean is Managing Director of Lancashire County Developments Limited (LCDL). This is the County Council's £50M asset based economic development company. Stephen was Chairman of Business Link Lancashire for 5 years and is currently Chairman of Lancashire Education Business Partnership (LEBP) and a Director of Lancashire and Blackpool Tourist Board. He has worked for Lancashire County Council for ten years joining from the private sector. Stephen's private sector experience includes manufacturing, transport and distribution; he has also set up and run his own business.

Richard Garth Jones, Low Carbon Company Ltd

Richard Garth Jones is Managing Director of The Low Carbon Renewable Energy Company. Richard has been a dedicated environmentalist for 25 years. A graduate of Askham Bryan Agricultural College (1984), he spent 10 years travelling, volunteering and campaigning in Asia and Australasia. On return, he led environmental regeneration programmes including the BURA award winning Offshoots Permaculture Project. From 2004, as Executive Director, Richard managed Groundwork East Lancashire's extensive £2 million per annum portfolio of environmental projects. In 2007, within a collaborative senior management team, he led the Trust through a merger with two other Trusts to create Groundwork Pennine Lancashire. In 2008 Richard set up Ensign Energy with partner Gerrard Ennis.

Lancashire County Councillor Michael Welsh Chairman Lancashire County Developments Ltd

Michael Welsh has been a County Councillor since 1997, representing Preston North East. Previous engagements: Director, Action Centre for Europe Ltd 1994 – 2001; Chairman Chorley and South Ribble NHS Trust 1994 – 98; MEP Lancashire Central 1979 – 94, Chairman EP Social Affairs and Employment Committee 1984-87; Levi Strauss & Co Europe SA 1969 – 79, Director of Market Development; Proprietors of Hay's Wharf 1963-69, General Manager, Channel Road Services Ltd 1966-68; Lincoln College, Oxford 1960 -63, BA Hons Jurisprudence

Innovation & Investment - Event Exhibitors

Blackpool & Fylde College

Blackpool & Fylde College provide a growing portfolio of vocation training and development course including the Foundation Degree in Eco- Technologies. The college is interested to make contact with any businesses who would be able to offer student work placements.

Representative: Michelle Riley www.blackpool.ac.uk/

Business Link North West - Innovation Service

Business Link North West's Innovation Service provides advice and support for businesses undertaking change through innovation involving product, service or process projects. Our team of specialist advisers provide support through a long term strategic engagement with the business, to assist in the commercial application and successful exploitation of the project.

Representative: Michael Holroyd www.businesslink.gov.uk/northwest

Business Venture Group Ltd

Business Venture Group works with Lancashire County Developments Ltd to provide the Kickstart Loan Fund aimed at supporting fledgling businesses with growth potential. The loan is from £2000 - £10,000. We are also a provider of FREE Business Support and Advice surrounding all aspects of starting a business, individual Mentoring to business owners and flexible property rental services.

Representative: Andrew Atkinson www.bvg.org.uk

C-Tech Innovation

C-Tech Innovation is a leading UK-based, internationally focused, innovation management and technology development company. We are currently delivery partners on the North West Eco-innovation Programme, which is a Solutions for Business specialist delivery programme funded by the Northwest Regional Development Agency and European Regional Development Fund. The aim of the programme is to support businesses in improving their performance by better exploiting market demand for sustainable products and services and low carbon solutions. Business mentoring is provided alongside support from Lancaster University's Lancaster Environment Centre and Lancaster Product Development Unit.

Representative: Darren Hill

www.ctechinnovation.com/innovation-management/eco-innovation.html

Enterprise Europe Network

The Enterprise Europe Network provides free and confidential services to NW SME's including:-

- Information & enquiry services relating to European legislation and trade.
- Access to 'TED' (Tender Alert service)
- 'Technology Watch' services
- Knowledge Transfer Network
- Business Collaboration Partnership Network
- Business and Technical offers / requests.
- Innovation and Intellectual Property advice

Representative: Dr. Mike Hacker www.enterprise-europe-network.ec.europa.eu
www.business-support-solutions.co.uk

Envirolink Northwest

Our renewable advice ranges from choosing the right type of energy generation system to identifying when planning permission is required and how to go about obtaining it. We can advise on how to connect to the electricity grid and on options for financing your project. Our recycling and waste specialists support businesses to improve their competitiveness by developing sustainable waste management practices. By helping you to engage with the Northwest recycling and waste supply chain, to procure local services, we can help you to optimize growth whilst improving sustainability. Members of the Buy Recycled Code are realising the benefits of adopting more sustainable procurement practices, through cost savings, differentiating from competitors, or working with their supply chain.

Representative: Alex Forrest www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

Federation of Small Businesses

The Federation of Small Businesses is the UK's largest campaigning pressure group promoting and protecting the interests of the self-employed and owners of small firms. The Lancashire & Cumbria FSB covers a huge area, from Carlisle in the north to Preston and Leyland in the south; from Accrington in the east to Blackpool in the west. We have about 7,800 members.

Representative: Steve Pye [http://www.fsb.org.uk/](http://www.fsb.org.uk)

Lancashire Business Environment Association (LancsBEA)

LancsBEA is a division of Groundwork Pennine Lancashire. We have environmental professionals with the experience, knowledge and resources to help you grow your business responsibly and sustainably, with minimum impact on the environment. The LancsBEA team offers practical support, advice and information, and professional training on a wide range of environmental business issues. Several of our programmes are funded so we can offer practical advice at no cost to your business. Because Groundwork Pennine Lancashire is a social enterprise, there are no shareholders to distribute profits to. Instead, we offer social dividends to support the local community in a variety of innovative ways. Our purpose is to serve businesses and the community by improving the environment of both. If saving money, improving your company's environmental performance and investing in the local community is important to you, talk to LancsBEA now.

Representative: Mark Stevenson [www.penninelancs.groundworknw.org.uk/](http://www.penninelancs.groundworknw.org.uk)

Low Carbon Energy Company

The Low Carbon Energy Company provides an end-to-end service for domestic, commercial, public sector and agricultural clients, from consultation to installation and after-care. We offer a bespoke service which means clients receive a service tailored exclusively to their needs. With over thirty years of experience in related industries, the founding members, Richard Garth Jones and Gerrard Ennis are still very much a part of the day to day running the business. Our service offer covers three key areas: 1. Electricity generation through solar photovoltaics and wind turbines; 2. Heating water using solar thermal; 3. Heating and cooling using heat pumps. The Low Carbon Energy Company is an MCS (Micro-generation Certification Scheme) accredited installer of solar photovoltaic panels, solar thermal heating, air source heat pumps and ground source heat pumps.

Representative: Richard Garth Jones www.lowcarbonenergycompany.com

The Manufacturing Advisory Service

The Manufacturing Advisory Service offers manufacturing companies with practical, hands-on support in all aspects of manufacturing to help achieve improvements in productivity and competitiveness.

The service includes:

- A direct helpline
- A free manufacturing review
- A programme of factory visits and networking events
- Subsidised consultancy support
- Links in to other support organisations

Representative: Jenny Sanderson www.mas-nw.co.uk/

North & Western Lancashire Chamber of Commerce*

We offer businesses representation, both nationally and locally. We organise events, networks and seminars where businesses can meet other businesses. Specialist advisory services, HR and legal are available to members. Import/export help and advice available complete with documentation and certification on exportation. Business information and advice, marketing support and database availability

Representative: Carl Rogers www.lancschamber.co.uk

** North West Lancashire Chamber of Commerce also work closely with Lancaster Chamber of Commerce to provide a similar service in the Lancaster and Morecambe area.*

North West Fund

Please see page 12 for further details.

Stopford Energy & Environmental Ltd

Stopford Energy and Environment is a multidisciplinary energy and environment consultancy with engineering, design and project management expertise.

Specialising in green technology development, Stopford offers its clients expert services throughout the whole lifecycle of projects, ranging from lab-based proof of concept studies, feasibility studies, market analysis, regulatory review and financial assessment to front-end engineering design, multidisciplinary engineering, construction and build. We are a company devoted to the development of innovative solutions throughout the industries we serve and have gained a reputation for the professionalism and quality of our work.

Representative: Lois Ricketts www.stopford.co.uk

Summit Skills

SummitSkills is the Sector Skills Council for the building services engineering sector. We have been created by employers, for employers, to address six key objectives:

- Employer engagement
- Offering expertise, safeguarding standards
- Enhancing quality and delivery
- Raising ambition
- Effectiveness and evolution
- Partnership approach

The employer-led approach of SummitSkills gives businesses in the sector a key role in increasing their own and the country's productivity and profitability. Through the establishment of Sector Skills Councils, employers now have a direct route to influence strategic planning relating to skills and training.

Representatives: Howard Sharples and Dave Yarwood www.summitskills.org.uk

UKTI

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) is the government organisation that provides integrated support services for UK companies engaged in overseas trade and foreign enterprises seeking to locate in the UK. It brings together the work of teams in British embassies and FCO posts overseas and government departments across Whitehall.

In England, international trade support is coordinated by nine International Trade Directors working in partnership with each Regional Development Agency. UK Trade & Investment services are delivered locally through a network of International Trade Teams. In the North West the International Trade Team is managed under a single delivery contract by Chamberlink Ltd on behalf of North West Chambers of Commerce and aligned to the business support framework of Business Link North West.

Representative: Paul Wilcox www.ukti.gov.uk/home.html

United Utilities

United Utilities is the UK's largest listed water company. We own, operate and maintain utility assets, including water, wastewater and gas. We're a FTSE 100 company with a turnover of £2 billion and are the UK's market leader in utility outsourcing. We are the only FTSE 100 company headquartered in the North West. Our seven million customers can rely on us to turn complex processes into something as simple as turning on a tap or flushing a toilet. Developing new technologies and processes we're planning for future generations and helping new and existing communities to grow. Being the stewards of precious natural resources such as water and energy, it is important for us to use our rich legacy of engineering and planning skills to build the essential backbone of thriving communities in the North West of England.

Representative: Steve Whipp www.unitedutilities.com/AboutUnitedUtilities.aspx

Westinghouse UK

Westinghouse Electric Company provides fuel, services, technology, plant design, and equipment for the commercial nuclear electric power industry. Westinghouse nuclear technology will help provide future generations with safe, clean and reliable electricity.

Representative: Dave Mills
www.westinghousenuclear.com; www.ukap1000application.com

Investment for Growth - Loans

"Rosebud is an award-winning investment product providing loans and equity for Lancashire businesses for over 20 years. Rosebud will now refocus towards investment in high growth sectors including the low carbon environmental goods and services industry."

Lancashire County Councillor Michael Welsh
Chair of Lancashire County Developments Ltd

Rosebud

Lancashire County Council has offered business loans and equity through *Rosebud* over the last 20 years. The award winning *Rosebud* product has helped nearly 700 businesses across Lancashire. We aim to support businesses whether they are starting up or expanding especially where projections demonstrate ambition, growth and innovation. The finance is available to those located, or thinking of relocating, to Lancashire County Council administrative areas. *Rosebud* is not just finance. It also offers support and advice from mentors, non-executive directors and other professionals.

Rosebud is a complete financial solution whether as a loan or equity based investment. The normal offer involves loan repayments over a 5 year period at commercially agreed interest rates. Lancashire County Council offers *Rosebud* through LCDL, its economic development company with each business submission being independently assessed by EV Group as Managing Agent. Following the County Council's new Economic Strategy, additional strands are being added to *Rosebud* to focus investment on high growth sectors including the Low Carbon Goods and Services sector. *Rosebud* works hand in hand with organisations such as North West Business Link and NW Business Finance Ltd (see below) as well as leveraging funds from Banks. So really there is no upper or lower limit to the *Rosebud* offer – if you have a stronger business proposal which needs investment, we want to hear from you.

For further details: www.lancashire.gov.uk/corporate/lcdl/money/index.asp

Carbon Trust Interest Free Loans 0% business loans of £3,000 - £100,000 are available from the Carbon Trust to help organisations finance and invest in energy saving projects. www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/products-services/business-loans/pages/loans.aspx

Chorley Climate Change Business Grants' scheme This Chorley Borough Council scheme provides financial support to businesses in Chorley district to facilitate investment in energy efficiency measures and/or renewable technologies. Companies may apply for up to 50% of the total eligible project costs, up to a maximum of £10,000. www.chorley.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=73

Enhanced Capital Allowances The ECA scheme provides businesses with 100% first year tax relief on their qualifying capital expenditure. The scheme allows businesses to write off the whole cost of the equipment against taxable profits in the year of purchase. This can provide a cash flow boost and an incentive to invest in energy-saving equipment which normally carries a price premium when compared to less efficient alternatives.

www.carbontrust.co.uk/cut-carbon-reduce-costs/products-services/pages/eca.aspx

The North West Fund provides debt and equity finance from £50,000 to £2 million to small and medium sized businesses based in, or relocating to, the North West of England to start, develop and grow. Managed by North West Business Finance Limited, an independent private sector company, this is one of the largest public sector funds of its kind in Europe and the largest in the UK. The Fund comprises six specific product funds designed to provide tailored support to meet individual business needs. Each product fund is managed by an experienced Fund Manager. The six product funds are:

Venture Capital The North West Fund for Venture Capital provides risk capital from £50,000 to £2million for new and early-stage start-up companies, in return for an equity share. The selected Fund Manager for this fund is Enterprise Ventures. To find out more contact ry@evgroup.uk.com.

Development Capital The North West Fund for Development Capital provides investment capital from £50,000 to £2million to support business expansion in circumstances where a business is already generating trading income and cash flow, in return for an equity share. The selected Fund Manager for this fund is YFM Equity. To find out more contact thenorthwestfund@yfmprivateequityco.uk.

Business Loans The North West Fund for Business Loans provides debt investment from £50,000 to £250,000 for growing businesses. The selected Fund Manager for this fund is FW Capital. To find out more contact gary.quest@fwcapital.co.uk.

Energy & Environmental The North West Fund for Energy & Environmental provides finance from £50,000 to £2million for growth oriented businesses operating within the Energy & Environmental sector. The selected Fund Manager for this fund is CT Investment Partners. To find out more contact thenorthwestfund@carbontrust.co.uk.

Biomedical The North West Fund for Biomedical provides finance from £50,000 to £2million for growth oriented businesses operating within the Biomedical Sector. The selected Fund Manager for this fund is Spark Impact. To find out more contact louise.clancy@sparkventures.com.

Digital & Creative The North West Fund for Digital & Creative provides finance from £50,000 to £2million for growth oriented businesses operating within the Digital & Creative sector. The selected Fund Manager for this fund is AXM Venture Capital. To find out more contact info@axmvc.co.uk.

The North West Fund is financed by the European Regional Development Fund and the European Investment Bank.

Investment for Growth - Subsidy

Feed In Tariff (FITs)

The Government FITs that were launched on 1st April 2010 will pay a fee (for example 26.7p per kWh for a 11kw wind turbine) for all electricity generated, guaranteed for 20 years, with a further payment for any electricity that is fed back into the grid. In order to benefit from the (FITs), both your equipment, and your chosen installer must be 'Microgeneration Certification Scheme' (MCS) accredited. Details of MCS can be found here: www.microgenerationcertification.org/

Small-scale low-carbon electricity technologies eligible for FITs are:

- Wind
- Solar photovoltaics (PV)

- Hydro
- Anaerobic digestion
- Domestic scale microCHP (with a capacity of 2kW or less)

www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/renewable/fee_din_tariff/feedin_tariff.aspx

Investment for Growth - Awards

Shell Springboard Awards

Small firms with eco-friendly business ideas have the chance to win grants of up to £40,000, following the launch of the 2010 Shell Springboard awards. Shell offer a financial boost of up to £40,000 for a small number of UK businesses who submit the most compelling plans for a product or service which helps combat climate change.

www.shellspringboard.org/home

The Rushlight Awards

The Rushlight Awards are open to entries from UK and Ireland-based businesses, research establishments, public sector bodies and community groups that have developed a technology or process that “will have a significantly beneficial impact on the environment”. Backed by a host of household names including the Department of Energy and Climate Change, the Carbon Trust, the Environment Agency and the Technology Strategy Board, the competition aims to highlight the year’s cleantech movers and shakers. Prizes are on offer across 30 different categories spanning energy efficiency, clean fuels, environmental management and waste reduction. There is also a reward up for grabs for one Rushlight Awards overall champion. For the first time ever, competition organisers are in the process of putting together a cash prize pool for winning entries. They have also promised a whole host of free consultancy and other support for successful organisations.

www.rushlightawards.co.uk/

Carbon Reduction Demonstrator Awards

The Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) is offering Small to Medium sized enterprises (SMEs) the chance to access a £2 million of Grant funding to develop and demonstrate innovative technologies that reduce carbon emissions. Working alongside Envirolink Northwest, the Grant funds for carbon reduction technologies will be available to companies working in a number of categories including waste treatment and recycling, water pollution, air pollution, land remediation and energy generation and efficiency.

www.nwdabusinessfinance.co.uk/news/press/nwda-provide-2-million-to-develop-innovative-carbon-reducing-technologies

Innovate 10

Innovation support organisation Stopford has teamed up with Envirolink Northwest and the Environmental Sustainability KTN to launch their environmental technology competition *Innovate 10*. The annual awards contest gives inventors and companies the chance to win a comprehensive package of free consultancy to help them turn their innovative ideas into reality. One winner will net £10,000 worth of free advice and support in areas such as technology development, market assessments, accessing grant funding, and meeting legislative requirements.

www.stopford.co.uk/innovate/