



Innovate  
UK

Net Zero Living:  
Fast Followers



# Co-County Carbon Coordination End of Project Report



## Contents

Executive Summary .....	3
Project Overview .....	4
Impact .....	8
Challenges Faced .....	15
Next Steps.....	16
Key Learnings .....	17
What Could Others Use or Replicate .....	19
Conclusion .....	21
Glossary .....	22
Index of Appendices.....	23

## Executive Summary

The Co-County Carbon Coordination project was an innovative regional initiative aimed at accelerating the pace, scale, and coordination of net zero efforts across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Led by a coalition of local authorities, the project tackled non-technical barriers to climate action through strategic planning, stakeholder engagement, and innovative tools.

Key achievements include the development of a co-county project pipeline, the launch of online renewable technology guides and the implementation of a unified Communication and Engagement Strategy. The Green Rewards platform was significantly enhanced and trialled in new areas, while the Solar Wizard tool was procured to support community-scale solar projects. A series of well-attended public events fostered community engagement and cross-sector collaboration, reaching diverse audiences including schools, businesses, and residents from all socioeconomic backgrounds.

Despite challenges such as resource constraints, governance hurdles, and shifting political landscapes, the project succeeded in laying the groundwork for future regional climate action. It enabled the procurement of nine Local Area Energy Plans and facilitated successful bids for additional investment, including £824k for LAEP development and £700k for a solar farm project.

The project demonstrated the power of collaboration, innovation, and strategic alignment in overcoming barriers to net zero. Its outputs are replicable and scalable, offering valuable resources for other regions and organisations pursuing climate goals.

The core membership of the project group was made up of representatives from the East Midlands Combined County Authority area and included:

- Derbyshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Derby City Council
- Nottingham City Council
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Gedling Borough Council
- Rushcliffe Borough Council

Additionally the Midlands Net Zero Hub, which is hosted by Nottingham City Council, has provided support throughout the project.

## Project Overview

### The Problem

The core problem that the project sought to improve upon is the pace, scale and coordination of net zero efforts across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Although there was existing collaboration and a number of initiatives in place, some key issues were identified as hindering progress:

- Lack of coordinated energy planning and strategic project pipelines.
- Insufficient public and business engagement in sustainable behaviours.
- Limited resources and capacity within local authorities to drive collaborative climate action.
- Inconsistent messaging and education around low carbon technologies.
- Gaps in data quality and availability to inform decision-making.

### Non-Technical Barriers



## Vision

To create a **co-ordinated, scalable, and inclusive approach** to achieving net zero across the D2N2 region (Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire), by embedding behaviour change, strategic planning, and collaborative delivery.

## Approach

1. Recruit a Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer to lead and coordinate efforts.
2. Develop a regional energy master plan and a co-county project pipeline.
3. Develop and implement a stakeholder engagement strategy focused on behaviour change.
4. Share best practices (e.g., Green Rewards platform, Renewable Energy Planning).
5. Use data-driven tools to support place-based decision-making.

Four broad objectives were established:

1. Take a co-county approach to energy planning
2. Develop a project pipeline that will enable the co-ordination of net zero activity at scale, attracting investment and creating local jobs
3. To create an engagement and communications plan that that brings citizens and businesses on the journey to net zero
4. Explore the lessons learned from Notts Green Rewards and identify opportunities for development across the combined county area, to support behavioural change

To deliver against these objectives, the project was divided into 7 interacting work packages:

### Work Package 1: Project Set-up\*

Key deliverables: Project documentation, completion of training

### Work Package 2: Data Collection

Key deliverables: Gather project data, gather consumption data,

### Work Package 3: Engagement Plan

Key deliverables: Engagement & Communications Strategy, 6x Local events, 2x Regional Events

## **Work Package 4: Strategy & Energy Planning**

Key deliverables: co-ordinate Local Area Energy Planning; bespoke end-user guides, support regional energy projects

## **Work Package 5: Green Rewards**

Key deliverable: increased uptake and engagement from pre-project baseline

## **Work Package 6: Project Management\***

Key deliverables: Project documentation, co-ordination of project partners' activity

## **Work Package 7: Attendance of local energy/environment forums and events\***

\*background activities

## **Resourcing**

A Net-Zero Innovation and Delivery Officer was appointed by the lead bidder (Nottingham City Council) to work full time on the project, whilst each participating council put forward a lead officer who contributed some of their time as match-funding-in-kind. Various aspects of the project were subcontracted to third parties using the grant funding provided by Innovate UK, as will be detailed later in this report.

Building a project team with a broad range of skills and experience and combining this with the ability to access external support – both by commissioning work and by accessing the support provided by Innovate UK through the Future Ready programme was the main way in which the project sought to address the 'Capability & Skills' barrier.

## **Innovation**

The innovation in this project lies in its collaborative, region-wide approach to tackling non-technical barriers to net zero, which has not previously been implemented at this scale across the region. Key innovative aspects include:

- **Consistent Regional Messaging:** The project developed a shared Communication and Engagement strategy to ensure consistent communication across the region. This addresses the confusion caused by mixed messaging and supports both residents and businesses in adopting low carbon technologies effectively.
- **Addressing Knowledge Gaps:** A major barrier identified was the lack of understanding among citizens and businesses about low carbon technologies and how to use them. A number of topic/audience focussed events sought to improve this, along with the web-based technology guides.

- **Co-ordinated Energy Planning:** The creation of region wide Local Area Energy Plan and a co-county project pipeline represents a strategic approach to aligning local authority efforts which, while not unique, is rare at this scale. This will enable more efficient, data-driven decision-making and project delivery.
- **Behaviour Change Through Gamification:** Developing the innovative Green Rewards platform and trialling the new features developed with Derbyshire local authorities, aiming to kickstart adoption across the county so that citizens in both counties can access it.

The project was very broad and as such touched on a number of non-technical barriers, including:

Communities & People, Social Equity & Inclusion, Capability & Skills, Digitalisation and Data and Permitting and Planning.

Although governance was not specifically identified as a barrier, perhaps because it is ever-present in Local Authority work, the project has required some work in this area in relation to procurement and joint working, particularly in respect of digital information sharing.

**Work Package 2** covered all of the identified barriers to some extent by gathering, collating and analysing various data to underpin subsequent actions and decisions.

**Work Package 3** aimed to address *Communities & People* and *Social Equity & Inclusion* by setting out and then enacting engagement activities with a diverse range of stakeholders.

**Work Package 4** aimed to address *Capability & Skills* by improving access to information, and building the basis for energy projects in the region; *Digitalisation and Data* and *Permitting and Planning* through Local Area Energy Planning with associated Digital Twin

**Work Package 5** addressed *Digitalisation and Data* and *Communities and People* by building on the Green Rewards App and opening up opportunities for communities to benefit from ward level prizes.

## Impact

The project delivered a number of outputs, including:

### **Project Dashboard**

A collated list of all ongoing and potential LA led net zero related projects in the region, with an analytical dashboard (see appendix 4)

**Communication and Engagement Strategy**, developed for the project but useable on an ongoing basis by project partners (appendix 1)

### **A web based Renewable Energy Guide**

<https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/knowledge-hub/renewable-energy-guide/>

One of the expected project outputs was what were termed 'Technology Guides' – short written guidance aimed at people who had either had renewable energy measures installed as part of a grant funded scheme or that might consider installing them independently. In researching content for these it quickly became apparent that writing new guidance would be a duplication of effort as there was already good guidance available on the technologies and subjects identified, so the focus moved to identifying the best guidance from trustworthy sources and building a web based tool to help users navigate to the information they need.

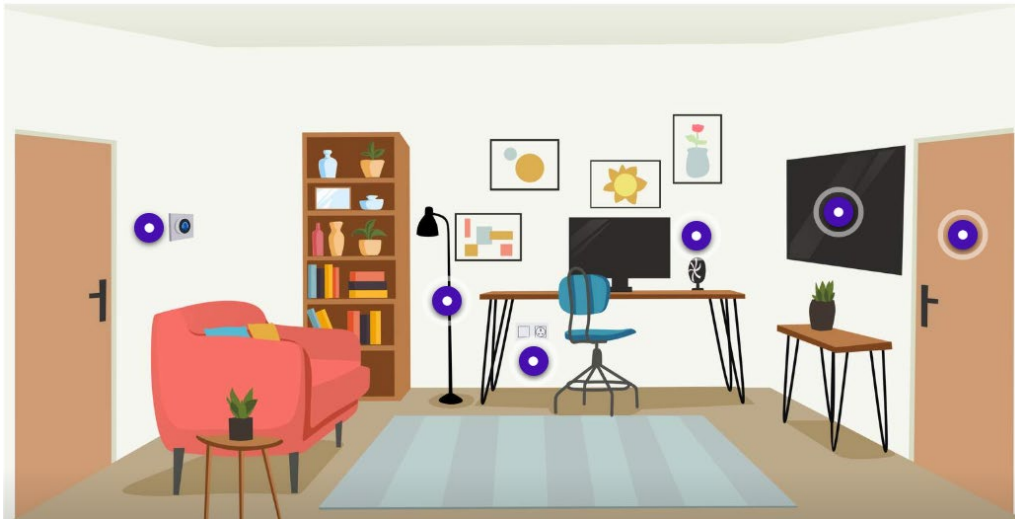
### **Development of the Green Rewards App**

Two innovative new features for the app were developed through this project and roll out for trial with two new (to the app) councils in Derbyshire. The features are:

1. **Interactive House (Green Home Guide):**  
A gamified, interactive tool that lets residents explore different areas of a virtual home to learn how to reduce environmental impact. It includes quizzes, drag-and-drop activities, and actionable tips, rewarding users with points for completing sections.
2. **Personalisation Feature:**  
Allows residents to choose a topic of interest—biodiversity, food waste, or home energy efficiency—upon registration. This customizes their experience by showing relevant activities, aiming to deepen engagement and empower residents through choice.



*Green Home Guide – house level*



*Green Home Guide – room level*

**Thermostat**

**Impact:**  
Lowering your [thermostat](#) by just 1°C can save £90 annually and reduce CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions by 300 kg.

**Did You Know?**  
The lowest comfortable temperature for most people is 18°C and 21°C.

Use Smart thermostats and heating controls to get greater flexibility and control over your energy use.

**Solutions:**

1. Buy a smart thermostat for £1000 (Green?)

*Green Home Guide – interactive information panels*

**A programme of events:**

*Derby Home Energy Advice Event, March 2024*



Walk in event hosted in a Derby city centre shopping centre

Stalls for fuel poverty charities local groups and businesses

Several visitors able to get help with billing issues and access to grants

**Fast Forward to Net Zero – A route to Net Zero for our region, Nottingham, July 2024.**  
Hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council



Speakers: MNZH, EMCCA, UoN, IUK BC

Impact: stronger relationship between council and organisations represented

~100 attendees

**Community Energy Event**, Derby, February 2025. Hosted by Derbyshire County Council



Presentations from EMCCA, Regen, Mott Macdonald (LAEP)

Workshops on: bidding & fundjng, building decarb., group set up, transport

98 attendees (oversubscribed)

**Broxtowe Climate Change Forum**, Beeston, March 2025. Hosted by Broxtowe Borough Council



Climate Change Event featuring presentations, workshops and stalls

Impact: Facilitated session on school climate action plans + LAEP engagement



138 attendees, including schools, business and community group representatives

**Our Future for a Cleaner, Greener Gedling**, Arnold, June 2025. Hosted by Gedling Borough Council



Event hosted in local cinema/theatre, featured a mix of short films and talks



Local and locally active businesses and charities heavily involved



Short films made will be a legacy of the project for Gedling Borough Council

**Technology Showcase**, British Geological Survey, Keyworth, June 2025. Hosted by Rushcliffe Borough Council



Technology focussed event hosted at the British Geological Survey HQ



Opportunity to see large scale renewable installations in situ



Talks, workshops, stalls and tour. Opportunities for in depth enquiries

**Climate Ambassadors Primary Schools Event**, Nottinghamshire, June 2025. Hosted by Nottinghamshire County Council



Activity based climate change event aimed at primary schools

Impact: Pilot event for potential roll-out of Climate Ambassador scheme to primaries



Hands on activities and opportunities for children to learn about climate change and share their views

## Solar Wizard

Solar Wizard is an online tool developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy to assess the solar PV potential of individual buildings across Great Britain. The free version allows homeowners and communities to input an individual address and receive quick, impartial estimates of solar output, installation costs, and savings. The paid-for version, designed for local authorities and partners, includes a map-based interface with advanced features like bulk building analysis, financial modelling, and data export. This version supports strategic planning and community-scale solar project

Project team members from the city and county councils collaborated on a successful bid for Midlands Net Zero Hub funds to obtain licences for the paid-for version of the Solar Wizard tool for themselves and the district and borough councils in both counties. Participating councils can use the tool themselves or allow access to community groups

In terms of social benefits, the activities in the communication & engagement strategy has had a multi-generational reach, including engagement with schools which has historically been very difficult for project partners to achieve. People from a wide range of socioeconomic backgrounds have attended our events, from those in fuel poverty through to those considered able-to-pay.

Engagement with community groups and particularly community energy groups has been strong throughout the later stages of the project. One of these groups has secured Community Energy Fund funding to progress their project and will be an immediate beneficiary of the Solar Wizard tool which project partners collaborated to procure, using funding they were able to secure from the Midlands Net Zero Hub.

This project coincided with something of a breakthrough in engaging with schools on climate change and net zero, which in the years since academisation had been very hard to achieve. We were able to support this through the events programme – with a workshop for schools to develop their Climate Action Plans forming part of the Broxtowe Climate Change Forum and Nottinghamshire County Council’s support of the Climate Ambassadors programme – including this project funding an event to kickstart extending its reach into primary schools.

Quantitative environmental outcomes are difficult to measure in a project like this, but with the Green Rewards project (Work Package 5) by JUMP’s estimation In the first three months of the programme, residents logged 4,607 actions which resulted in an estimated:

- 10,009 kg CO2e avoided
- 551 plant-based days
- 11,293kWh energy avoided through switching off
- 5,160 kg waste avoided by recycling and avoiding disposables

### **Expected future impact**

This project enabled the start of a programme of nine Local Area Energy Plans across the region which, when complete, will inform immediate future priorities and projects both for the individual local authorities involved and for the region via the combined authority.

For Broxtowe, the Citizen Visioning project they were able to run with resourcing from the Net Zero Living programme has provided policy recommendations for future responses to and action to prevent flooding. It has also provided them with a Green champions network which is more representative of the borough than previous forums made up only of those with a pre-existing interest in climate action.

Across the region, community groups have been energised by meeting and interacting with each other and with the project and will likely be in a position to expand their membership and the scope of their activities as a result. New groups may even emerge, and Nottinghamshire County Council is planning to strengthen their offer to Community Group having seen the scale of activity happening in Derbyshire.

### **Follow on funding**

#### **LAEP Funding**

The project provided the funding and capacity to enable the procurement of consultants to begin a Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP) for the region, along with covering associated legal costs and the purchase of proprietary data sets. Originally the LAEP contract was to be funded by contributions from all of the local authorities within the project area, but with this project having brought it to readiness concurrently with the formation of a new strategic authority – the East Midlands Combined County Authority- project team members were able to successfully make the case for funding to be included in the devolution settlement,

leveraging an additional £824k (excluding VAT) to ensure LAEP could proceed. This in turn will provide the evidence base for the combined authority to set out its priorities and, hopefully, bring in large amounts of funding for the energy transition in the region.

### **Mayoral Renewable Fund**

The collation of the regional projects list, which formed part of work package 2, enabled a rapid response to the opportunity for Strategic Mayoral Authorities to bid for funding from Great British Energy for renewable energy projects that arose in March 2025. There were very tight timescales for this funding and specific criteria in terms of project readiness. The data structuring undertaken as part of this project made it very easy to identify a small number of suitable projects and one of these – a solar farm on a former colliery site in Derbyshire – was successful in securing £700k from this fund.

### **Derby Pocket Parks**

Supplementing the ‘ward prize’ aspect of Green Rewards, Derby City council will be directing some of its Transforming Cities Funding to rewarding the highest scoring ward in the city with a new ‘Pocket Park’

## **Challenges Faced**

The first and perhaps biggest challenge was the change in project team members between the bidding and delivery phases, which when combined with the breadth and relatively loose definition of the project’s aims mean that it took some time to come to a shared understanding firstly of what the project was about and what it aimed to deliver and then what each person’s role would be in this. In some ways the relatively open framing was helpful in that it left space for those joining the project post-bid to input into better defining the aims and priorities.

Limitations in project team member capacity were expected, as many were balancing this work alongside other responsibilities and team sizes vary considerably. In consequence engagement across the region was inconsistent, with some areas showing strong participation while others were at times less responsive.

As the project progressed, the team shared expertise and materials across the partnership to reduce duplication and maintain consistency. Project partners supported each other’s events and activities, to ensure they happened and ran smoothly. We also played to the strengths of individuals, assigning tasks based on capacity and expertise. In-person engagement - both within the project team and at public events - helped build relationships and improve communication.

Governance challenges were expected to some degree, particularly the extended timescales that can arise when working with local authority legal, procurement and IT teams.

This issue was compounded by Nottingham City Council's section 114 declaration, which added an intense level of scrutiny and additional administrative burdens not just to the project but to all of the above departments that needed to be involved. The use of external solicitors, facilitated by the project budget, was a major help in keeping the project moving.

Beyond the initial set-up of a project Teams channel and Sharepoint, the use of internal IT teams was minimised by making use of the technical support offered by Zühlke, favouring existing tools and by opting for externally managed, web-based solutions where possible. Where the use of the internal IT team was unavoidable, response times and support levels did present significant problems, to the extent that the completion of aspects of the project within the agreed timescales was in jeopardy and this, understandably, led to frustration of project team members and reduced engagement.

Procurement was another known challenge. Identifying a compliant route for commissioning private sector partners we knew we wanted to work with, most notably Jump – developer of the Green Rewards app – was difficult. Demonstrating best value when a product or service is very niche and has no or very few competitors is a problem that frequently arises with Climate Change and Net Zero projects.

Business engagement was also difficult to secure, partly due to the broad nature of the project, which made it harder to communicate clear outcomes or benefits. Previous experience of project participants was that businesses will only engage if there is some potential financial benefit to them. In this respect getting support from businesses for the events was easier as they represented a promotional opportunity so there was mutual benefit.

A shift in the local political landscape late in the project introduced uncertainty, particularly for county councils, where new administrations brought changing priorities. In response to political changes, county councils agreed to revisit their ongoing involvement beyond this project once the new administration's priorities become clearer.

## **Next Steps**

Learning from the project will be sustained and embedded through continued and newly established regional engagement. Channels for sharing information and engaging businesses will be maintained and developed. The combined authority's priorities should soon be clarified through a suite of policies and opportunities for aspects of this project to continue or be built upon will hopefully emerge. The ultimate outcomes of LAEP will be the obvious aspect that the combined authority will run with, but other project outputs that may be taken forward include the project dashboard tool and potentially a region-wide roll out of Green Rewards.

Dissemination of learning will be carried out through a range of activities. These include independent repetition of events, such as the Broxtowe Climate Change Forum (2026), presentations on aspects of the project to local networks – for example presenting the outcomes of Broxtowe's Citizen Visioning to the Local Authority Energy Partnership and Green Rewards to the Urban Development Exchange.

## Key Learnings

One key learning was that there was a lot more net zero related activity happening in the region than any individual project team member was aware of. In conducting a gap analysis for the region, with a view to refining the projects aims and targeting resource, it emerged that there were initiatives and activity happening somewhere in the region for any given area of activity. This led to a slight adjustment in focus, to try to enable regional spread of locally focussed best practice and to bolster communication of existing activities.

A high level of interest and activity among community groups emerged as the project progressed, and the team were pleasantly surprised not just by the interest but by the breadth of activity and the depth of understanding on show.

Internally, both opportunities and challenges were encountered by project partners when working across departments such as Planning, Housing, Public Health, and Economic Development. Whilst undoubtedly difficult to achieve, breaking down siloed working improves outcomes. Having a nexus of focus such as LAEP helped to encourage this internal engagement where a generalised ambition might have failed.

### What worked well

Strong collaboration between the project partners and across the wider area was achieved. The programme of events in particular brought out the best of this collaboration. They were successfully organised and run, well received and helped bring people together around shared goals.

Work package 5 – Green Rewards significantly exceeded early expectations, which were just that the benefits of participating and the best practice in Nottinghamshire would be communicated, in the hope of encouraging Derbyshire councils to join the programme. Whilst the budget available through this project could have potentially simply funded this expansion, the requirement for innovation meant that instead the platform was significantly developed, to include features that Nottinghamshire project partners were keen to have, and that two Derbyshire councils were able to roll out the newly updated platform on a trial basis.

Similarly, while the ambition of the project was to lay the groundwork for LAEP, there was insufficient funding and resource to actually undertake the work so this was not in the scope. Nevertheless, through a combination of fortuitous timing and the tenacity of the original project lead, full funding was obtained from the newly formed combined authority. This project was instrumental to being ready to proceed at that key moment and the relationships already established have been a significant help in maintaining progress.

### What didn't work so well and why?

Other than the lead council, Nottingham, participating councils did not make a financial claim through the project for resourcing, instead pledging officer time as match funding in-kind and this meant that the project had to be delivered alongside existing responsibilities. Team sizes within each council also varied, and the county councils contributed more resource to

reflect this. Some project partners found that they needed to spend considerably more time than they had originally anticipated at some points in the project and at other times, other work had to take priority. This meant that engagement levels and priorities varied across partners and over time, which made coordination more difficult.

An ambition of the project was to launch joint energy projects, collaborating on aspects such as procurement and legals to make efficiencies for individual project partners. This was achieved in the LAEP, Green Rewards, and Solar Wizard, however two of those three were covered by other work packages and project objectives. It proved difficult to identify other projects that were compatible with the time and money available and that were also not being undertaken by others

Finding a suitable digital platform for a shared regional project dashboard proved difficult. This is detailed in appendix 4

Although the events that were delivered through the project were well received and well attended, it is likely that a broader demographic could have been reached if they were run on a weekend, however this would have significantly increased venue costs and would have made it difficult for the majority of project team members to support due to caring responsibilities outside of work.

If the project were to be repeated, a more realistic approach to time and resource planning would be taken. Greater effort would be made to align priorities early on and improve internal coordination. For others looking to build on this work, it is recommended that time be spent understanding existing local activity and its impact. Flexibility and regular communication should be prioritised to support collaboration and progress.

## What Could Others Use or Replicate

### Project outputs that can be used by others

- Renewable Technology Guides: <https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/knowledge-hub/renewable-energy-guide/>
- Case Study Videos (Gedling) – these videos were developed for the Gedling Borough Council Event ‘Our Future for a Cleaner, Greener Gedling’ covering the topics of:
  - Living in a new-build low carbon home
  - Living with an EV
  - Decarbonising a small business
  - A homeowner’s deep retrofit journey
  - Active travel

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hs5KTKk98Ys&list=PLxe2bml9ra7sXtRTCyhicKfJPZ6X9DWLJ>

- The project Communication & Engagement Strategy (appendix 1) could be adapted to suit other projects or indeed a local authority’s climate related activity
- The Citizen Visioning model could be adapted to suit any form of local authority engagement. See details on Broxtowe Borough Council’s website here: <https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/for-you/climate-change/citizen-visioning/>
- The project data structure developed for the Project Dashboard tool could be used by others, and any of the platforms explored may be suitable to different circumstances.

### Useful Tools and sources of information

- Census Data—get an awareness of your demographics to help to target your activities <https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/customprofiles/>
- Solar Wizard – solar potential mapping tool developed by the Centre for Sustainable Energy. Project partners collaborated through this project to secure funding for the paid-for version of the tool. This is intended to provide a resource for community groups and other organisations to help them to look for opportunities to set up solar projects in a given area, as well as to support the work of the local authority itself. A free version which can be used to look at individual buildings is available here: <https://solarwizard.org.uk/>

- Energy Saving Trust's Home Analytics data set forms the basis of Local Area Energy Planning and any council planning LAEP should factor in the cost of acquiring it
- Extensive guidance on LAEP, among many other topics, can be found on Energy Systems Catapult's website <https://es.catapult.org.uk/>

**We worked with the following organisations and would be happy to recommend them to others:**

- Jump (Green Rewards) <https://teamjump.co.uk/>
- Nottingham Energy Partnership <https://www.nottenergy.com/>
- Marches Energy Agency <https://mea.org.uk/>
- Midlands Net Zero Hub <https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/>
- Involve UK (Citizen Visioning) <https://www.involve.org.uk/>
- Energy Saving Trust <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/>
- Regen <https://www.regen.co.uk/>
- Centre for Sustainable Energy <https://www.cse.org.uk/>
- Local Authority Energy Partnership (Local Organisation)

*Since it was established in 1996, the LAEP has become a successful partnership of all 20 local authorities in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire with a proven track record of joint working on climate change and energy efficiency schemes. Based within the Carbon and Energy Management Team, the LAEP Manager is hosted by Derbyshire County Council*

## Conclusion

The Co-County Carbon Coordination project has played a valuable role in advancing the region's net zero ambitions by improving collaboration, strategic planning, and community engagement across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. While not without its challenges, the project delivered a range of practical outputs—from enhanced digital tools and engagement strategies to the groundwork for Local Area Energy Plans—that will support ongoing and future climate action.

The funding enabled participating councils to trial new approaches, share learning, and build capacity in areas that had previously lacked coordination. Although some ambitions proved difficult to realise within the project's timeframe and resources, the initiative has laid a solid foundation for more integrated and effective regional climate work.

As the East Midlands Combined County Authority begins to define its strategic direction, the tools, relationships, and insights developed through this project offer a useful starting point for shaping future priorities and investment in the transition to net zero.

## Glossary

**Carbon neutral** – The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere is equal to the amount removed from the atmosphere. This differs from ‘net zero’ in that it only includes carbon dioxide, and not other greenhouse gases. Carbon neutrality relies more on offsetting emissions, rather than focusing on carbon emissions reduction first.

**CSE** – Centre for Sustainable Energy

**D2N2** – Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire – regional economic area and former Local Enterprise Partnership – now subsumed by EMCCA

**EMCCA** – East Midlands Combined County Authority

**ESC** – Energy Systems Catapult

**EST** – Energy Saving Trust

**EVs** – Electric Vehicles

**IUK BC** – Innovate UK Business Connect

**Jump** – Developer of Green Rewards app

**LAEP** – Local Area Energy Plan(ning)

**MEA** – Marches Energy Agency

**MNZH** – Midlands Net Zero Hub

**NEP** – Nottingham Energy Partnership

**Net Zero** - The amount of greenhouse gas emissions emitted into the atmosphere by human activity is equal to the amount removed from the atmosphere. Net zero focuses on reduction of emissions as much as possible before offsetting.

**SMEs** – Small to medium sized enterprises

**UoN** – University of Nottingham

**Zühlke** – Zühlke Engineering – technical partner

## **Index of Appendices**

1. Co-county Carbon Coordination Communication and Engagement Strategy (p1-25)
2. An Introduction to Green Rewards for Local Authorities (p26-36)
3. Green Rewards Project Report (p37-52)
4. Project Dashboard Development (p53-65)