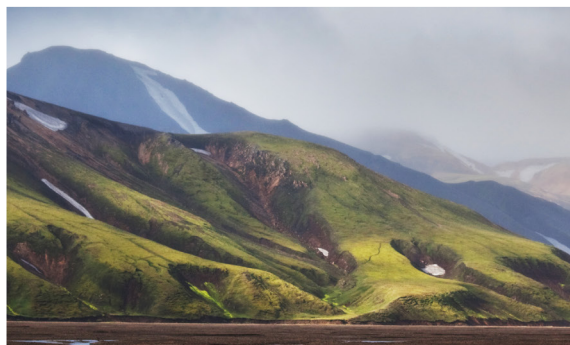




FREE BUSINESS SUPPORT IN THE SOUTH EAST

SOLIDSOLUTIONS
SUPPORTING EXCELLENCE

Grants for businesses of up to £20,000 as well as training workshops and fully funded events for companies who offer “green” or low carbon goods and services.



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WHAT IS LoCASE AND HOW CAN MY BUSINESS BENEFIT?

The Low Carbon Across the South East (LoCASE) programme is supported by the European Regional Development Fund to provide a free business support programme in the South East. Its aim is to help businesses become more competitive and profitable while protecting the environment and encouraging low carbon solutions and we at Solid Solutions have seen a number of customers benefit from this funding and getting their SOLIDWORKS journey started.

LoCASE provides grants for businesses of up to £20,000 as well as training workshops and fully funded events. Targeted business support is on offer for companies who offer “green” or low carbon goods and services. Further information can be found on the services page of just how this works - <http://locase.co.uk/partners-and-services/>

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WHAT IS LoCASE DOING & HOW IS IT RELEVANT TO ME?

Since the end of October 2017, the programme has supported over 320 businesses with grant awards worth over £2 million. This is set to generate over £4.5M of private sector spend, largely through local supply chains within the South East. More than £800,000 has already been claimed by grant applicants, allowing them to save money, develop their business and become more competitive. Projects include new product launches, software development, upgraded machinery and several building refurbishments for new businesses.

The programme has targets to provide business support to 1,050 SMEs, cut carbon emissions by 6,510 tonnes of CO₂, support 77 new businesses, introduce 80 new products, assist knowledge transfer with 47 businesses, create 270 new jobs in the low carbon sector, create £18 million of investment in businesses and raise awareness of low carbon goods and services to 200,000+ people.

HOW WILL IT DO IT?

The LoCASE Programme brings together 3 key requirements for the growth of a low carbon economy – “Stimulating Demand”, “Supporting Supply” and “Transferring Knowledge”. This work will offer focused, individual support to SMEs (including social enterprises) across the South East Local Enterprise Partnership area, improving competitiveness and creating jobs through increased energy efficiency and new low carbon business. Achieving these ambitious targets means creating and encouraging collaboration of a range of stakeholders, sectors and supply chains across the South East.

This builds on the shared aims of linking the economy, environment and sustainability, bringing them into reality through best practice. Whether it be unlocking funding for an energy efficiency upgrade to their operations, to develop or improve their ‘green’ product/service or simply assisting them to streamline or innovate, LoCASE is here to support businesses.

WHERE IS LOCASE DELIVERED AND FOR HOW LONG?

LoCASE is being delivered from Spring 2016 until Spring 2019 across the entire South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) region which encompasses Kent, Medway, Essex, Thurrock, East Sussex and Southend-On-Sea. The programme is delivered by each of the Delivery Partners, utilising existing networks. SMEs are able to seamlessly access the programme through multiple routes including local authority or Growth Hub referral, engagement at awareness raising events and peer to peer recommendation.

If you've already benefitted or know someone that has, don't be afraid to share information about the programme by word of mouth – our funding is secure and available until Spring 2019 at a minimum.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO TO GET THE FUNDING?

If your company is located in the South East, you can complete a form to check your eligibility for the programme at the LoCASE website:
<http://locase.co.uk/register-here/#contact>

If you have any questions or need guidance signing up to this programme, contact your sales area manager to find out more by calling **01926 333777**.