

Key business sector opportunities in the environmental technology & services industry in the South East of England

offshore wind

The UK has Europe's largest offshore wind resource. The Government has set an ambitious target to develop some 30GW of offshore wind by 2020. The South East region has a legacy of world-class offshore engineering and logistics expertise plus a strong manufacturing base, high-level engineering skills, excellent R&D facilities and ports infrastructure. It is the ideal location to develop a major offshore wind energy manufacturing cluster and supply chain. Several South East ports will play an important role in offshore windfarm development and offer associated site opportunities for supply chain investment.

'the Government has set an ambitious target to develop some 30GW of offshore wind by 2020'

wave & tidal energy

The South East has a strong marine engineering industry and significant expertise in marine energy R&D which offers transferable application to renewable energy. The region is set to grow a cluster for marine renewables, centred on Southampton, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. In the Solent area, Qinetiq and the University of Southampton have large tanks for early stage testing of devices.

low carbon vehicles

South East England is home to several major auto manufacturers involved in developing low-carbon vehicles (eg BMW Mini, Mercedes). It has a number of its Universities (Oxford, Southampton, Surrey, Oxford Brookes) with expertise in low-carbon vehicle infrastructure, including fuel cells and low-weight materials and related fields. Several cities, including Oxford and Milton Keynes, are developing electric vehicle charging infrastructure and electric vehicle trials (eg. BMW Mini E) are happening across the region. The region is home to several companies leading the way in low-carbon vehicle innovation (eg. Ricardo) and charging infrastructure development (eg Elektromotive, Park and Power).



sustainable construction

Progressive national standards will require all new homes in the UK to be zero-carbon by 2016. The South East has a number of designated growth areas (Ebbsfleet and Ashford in North Kent and Milton Keynes and Aylesbury Vale in Buckinghamshire) offering considerable opportunities for sustainable construction. These include retrofit of existing buildings to improve energy efficiency and low-carbon performance. SEEDA is supporting an ambitious programme to retrofit public buildings, an area-based housing retrofit programme in North Kent is in development.

The London 2012 Olympics programme has adopted key sustainable design principles, and offers significant opportunities for sustainable construction.

The South East has significant sustainable construction research expertise, including the University of Reading Research Institute for the Built Environment and the Centre for Sustainability of the Built Environment at Brighton University.

SEEDA's partner organisation, the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) supports the construction sector in the region, including supply chain and market development.

sustainable design

The UK has a strong reputation in design and, increasingly, in sustainable design and eco-innovation. The Centre for Sustainable Design (University for the Creative Arts) based in Surrey, works with a wide range of organisations to develop products and services with reduced carbon and ecological footprint.

water treatment

South East England faces potentially acute water supply issues. The region offers considerable demand and opportunity for innovation in water management and quality maintenance. Water companies in the region are expanding their use of renewable energy and factoring climate change adaptation measures into their forward plans.

Several South East universities have developed and commercialised innovations in desalination, membranes for water filtration and low energy use in the water supply chain.

advanced waste treatment technologies

Restrictions on the amount of waste going to landfill and dwindling landfill capacity, have stimulated innovation and the adoption of improved resource management and advanced waste treatment technologies. The region has a number of waste-to-energy schemes and is encouraging localised opportunities for anaerobic digestion technology equipment.

'The London 2012 Olympics offers significant opportunities for sustainable construction'



carbon finance and carbon offset

London is the carbon trading capital of the world and the finance skills from the City are attracting companies to the adjoining South East region. For example, Pinpoint, a large solar PV farm developer operating in Africa, has established a presence in the South East to provide good access to London's financial resources and expertise.

environmental technology consultancy

Environmental technology consulting has a strong presence in the South East economy. A wide range of expertise and experience is based here, including environmental impact analysis, ecological survey, and technology and life-cycle assessment. The region is also home to a significant number of oil and gas consultancies, along with a number of major consulting firms (Mott MacDonald, Arup, Atkins, RPS) – they are actively developing the large infrastructure projects that are key to a sustainable future.



Mainstream sectors driving demand for environmental technologies and services

aerospace and defence

The South East has a large number of companies in aerospace and defence, including supply chains with precision engineering and high technology capabilities. These are ready to be redeployed for opportunities in the Environmental Technologies and Services sector. For example, SEEDA and EnviroBusiness are already working with BAE Systems and Qinetiq to address the needs of the Offshore Wind sector. Roke Manor Research is looking at using its own IT and telecoms expertise in various environmental markets such as intelligent transport and energy management.

IT hardware and software

There are several geographical clusters of IT companies in the South East (digital media in Brighton, hardware in M4 corridor, software around Oxford) with the capability to exploit new opportunities in areas such as the Smart Grid, Energy Management and Environmental Monitoring. These markets are not fully developed so offer considerable growth opportunities.

logistics

Milton Keynes is a recognised UK centre for the logistics industry, and it is already taking steps to reduce its own environmental footprint. For instance, DHL has a comprehensive programme to integrate electric vehicles, use biofuels and reduce the energy consumption of its warehouses. Invest Milton Keynes has earmarked a substantial investment to develop low carbon buildings and transport within the city.

The South East of England is a dynamic, successful and thriving economic region

It has:

A GDP of **£188 billion**

750,000 businesses, including market leading engineering design, consulting and construction companies

A high-tech research intensive economy supported by **25 universities and HEIs**

A highly educated workforce of **4.3 million** with the largest engineering talent pool (450,000) outside London

Two major international airports (Heathrow and Gatwick) and four of the largest UK passenger and freight ports

An excellent motorway network and **high speed rail** access to London and Continental Europe

Market opportunities in the South East of England:

Opportunities for growth - environmental technologies and services

The South East region of the UK offers significant opportunities for environmental technology companies in a fast-growing market for low-carbon solutions.

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) works with EnviroBusiness to offer support to foreign-owned companies who want to set up in the UK. We also support supply chain development in the region.

SEEDA invites you to South East England

The South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) works to achieve sustainable economic growth and prosperity in the South East region through expert intervention, expert deal-making and expert advice.

We operate at a local, national and international level to attract inward investment, to help South East businesses reach their full potential and to access practical support from a range of partners.

SEEDA will help establish your business in a choice of strategic locations and:

- Provide you with comprehensive information on business opportunities in the UK's South East.
- Provide tailor-made information and practical advice on setting up a business in the UK.
- Provide key members of your management team with advice on immigration, housing, education and relocation.
- Identify suitable property options, for current and future needs.

- Arrange and accompany you on your personal visit to the region.
- Provide effective access to world class research taking place in the region's 24 universities and higher education institutes.
- Identify suitable sub-contractors, utility providers, component and service suppliers.
- Signpost you to a wealth of business support to help you maintain your competitiveness.
- Introduce you to professional service providers such as accountants, lawyers, bankers and recruitment specialists.
- Provide advice on trading with profitable overseas markets.

SEEDA will also broker local relationships, with relevant agencies, on your behalf.

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Environmental Technologies



Opportunities in South East England