

Skills for Clean Growth: Evaluation - call for quotes

Introduction

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol), in collaboration with NatWest and West of England Combined Authority (WECA), are offering bespoke support for SMEs through the Skills for Clean Growth (SCG) programme.

SCG is a free business support programme for SMEs in the West of England to help drive the region's ambitions for [clean and inclusive growth](#), as part of the [Workforce for the Future](#) programme.

The programme, funded by the [European Social Fund \(ESF\)](#), will provide the skills and workforce development needed to support businesses in their transition to a low carbon economy. This includes access to a range of skills development, training and CPD – including the leadership skills needed to build a clean growth strategy; and the knowledge and tools to achieve sustainability.

We are looking for an external consultant to undertake an evaluation of this project, reviewing the successes, learnings and outcomes from the project.

Project Activity

Workstream A: WoE Clean Growth ecosystem and skills network

The Programme will engage 100 SMEs (and an average of 3 employees per SMEs) from a range of sectors looking to develop clean growth skills in their business. All SMEs will receive:

1. 1:1 support and guidance from the Business Development Manager
 - Clean growth skills analysis and support identifying skills needs (bespoke skills action plan)
 - Information and advice on skills support available through this Programme, from other parts of the WFTF Programme, and signposting to a range of skills, innovation and enterprise support for low carbon initiatives available from other providers across the region
2. Access to online resources including, such as:
 - West of England low carbon skills and innovation ecosystem map
 - Templates and how-to guides for low carbon governance and compliance
 - Industry insights - including case studies and expert blogs
3. Membership of the Clean Growth Skills Network, hosted by UWE Bristol and NatWest
 - Facilitated online peer networking to share challenges and ideas (sector/cluster based)
 - Invitation to Skills for Clean Growth events.

Workstream B: WoE Clean Growth skills programme

Meaningful project completed with an SME (R9)

75 SMEs will complete a meaningful project with the Programme. The analysis support to SMEs will determine the content of workshops but this is likely to include:

- Workshops -
 - **Leadership Skills for a green economy and clean growth** will help SMEs develop the capability and knowledge needed to create a vision and build a clean growth strategy

- **Clean Growth Toolkit** will help SMEs achieve and demonstrate clean growth credibility within their business. It will be aimed at SMEs wanting to develop capacity and capability around compliance, products and services.
- free online skills modules (e.g. MOOCs)
- industry expert case studies
- access to UWE Bristol modules.

Workstream C: Evaluation

- Evaluation – March 2022 to June 2023.

Project Outputs

This project started in September 2021 will end on 31 May 2023.

The project has a number of contracted output targets:

- 100 x 1:1 diagnostic sessions (online and in person) with SMEs to include skills assessments
- 100 x action plans developed that provide a roadmap for SMEs' development towards clean growth, leadership capacity and employee upskilling
- 75 learners attending leadership and practical skills training
- 25 learners accessing advanced level training
- 300 x learners invited to join the Clean Growth Skills Network

We are asking the appointed consultant to review the following areas, in addition to any others they may find appropriate:

- appropriateness of initial design
- progress against targets
- delivery and management
- outcomes and impact
- value for money
- lessons learnt

The project team will work alongside the consultant to identify all appropriate data and contact beneficiaries.

There is limited guidance, with the focus being on using the best evaluation technique for the funded project. We are looking for potential consultants to approach us with innovative ideas and have a particular focus on our target groups of SMEs.

Applications

Applicants must demonstrate knowledge of evaluating government funded projects, particularly projects working with our key target participants.

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

1. Experience of:

- a. working with SMEs
 - b. evaluating schemes targeting support for SMEs
 - c. Working with government funding such as ERDF, ESF or similar
2. Delivery plan
 3. Value for money

This information will need to be compiled into one document and submitted prior to the deadline. Please also provide us with your proposed fee for delivery of the above contract. There is a maximum budget of £19,000 committed for this work.

Please email this to cleangrowth@uwe.ac.uk no later than 17:00 on 21st March 2022.