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# Energy for Growth

## Case study: Energi Coast

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## Energy for Growth

The North East Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)'s [Energy for Growth](#) strategy sets out areas of opportunity where the North East can contribute towards national energy and net zero goals at scale, while driving economic growth and delivering more and better jobs in the region.

The Energy for Growth programme is focussed across three key workstreams, led by the LEP's energy for growth team: supporting growth in energy sectors such as electrification, batteries, offshore energy and low carbon heat; uniting the region's energy innovation and demonstration assets via the North East Energy Catalyst; and accelerating delivery of regional energy projects at scale, such as heat networks.



## Supporting regional energy projects

**Through the Local Growth Fund, the North East LEP's Energy for Growth programme was able to support cross-sector partners to develop and deliver a pipeline of projects in these areas of opportunity via grant funding.**

In 2019, funding was made available via an open call for projects which aligned to the Energy for Growth strategy, particularly focussed on offshore energy, innovation and demonstration, and low carbon heat.

Over £1.2m was ultimately made available via:

- **Energy for Growth grants:** Grants of up to £150,000 to support capital projects, or revenue support of detailed project development and feasibility studies.
- **Energy Innovation Challenge:** Run by the North East Energy Catalyst, a series of three challenges for SMEs aimed to identify solutions to energy issues which can be scaled up nationally or globally, leveraging the strengths of North East businesses. The programme supported 35 SMEs to bring forward new products or services which have the potential to help solve energy challenges on a global scale.

The total value of the Energy for Growth LGF programme has reached over £6m, including public and private match to the LGF grant funding. The programme is expected to support the creation of more than 200 jobs, provide over 100 enterprises with non-financial support, catalyse nearly 50 engagements between enterprises and research institutions, and over 3,500 SME engagements.

## Case study: Energi Coast

### Background

Energi Coast is North East England's offshore wind cluster. Developed and delivered by national business development organisation, NOF, the group exists to raise the profile of the offshore wind sector and supply chain in the region and capitalise on opportunities to bring economic growth to the North East. The North East LEP is a proud member of Energi Coast, alongside Tees Valley Combined Authority, and member of its management group.

### Investment in operations

Energi Coast received a £105,000 Energy for Growth grant to strengthen its team, in order to support increased marketing, events and supply chain development. Plans also include input into regional skills events to promote the sector to schools, colleges and universities and the creation of supply chain leads with an interest in investing in the region. This activity would support the region's already advanced offshore wind cluster to further develop and deliver economic growth for the North East.

### Outcomes

A new website and North East England Offshore Wind Directory has been launched, allowing investors to easily find supply chain businesses across the sector. Additional resource has been added to the team to allow for increased marketing of the cluster along with a Cluster Manager and identification of industry spokespeople. In-person events have resumed (after lockdowns due to the pandemic) and, so far, 25 introductions have been made between potential investors and North East England's offshore wind sector companies.

Funding received:  
**£150,000 Energy for Growth grant**

New jobs created: **1**

Events delivered: **20**

Websites launched: **1**

Supply chain mapping project: **1**

Cluster meetings held: **18**

Referrals generated: **8**

Business engagements: **1,500**

"The Energy for Growth funding allowed NOF to restructure and reconstitute Energi Coast as North East England's offshore wind cluster to support the UK offshore wind sector deal ambitions. "Energi Coast is widely recognised as the leading offshore wind cluster in the UK and is a platform to showcase the region's strategic location to support projects, attract investment and profile its strong supply chain. Key achievements include a comprehensive supply chain mapping study, launch of an online regional offshore wind supply chain directory, creation of sub-groups focused on Skills and Innovation and the ongoing development of a long-term strategy for the cluster. In 2022 Energi Coast will continue the excellent work to profile the region as the place to be for offshore wind." **Joanne Leng MBE, Chief Executive, NOF and Energi Coast Management Group**

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