

Jane Ollis - Sustainable Business Manager, Business Support Kent

Suggested themes and questions

1. Could you please tell us about BSK and the ways in which you seek to support Kent businesses.
2. Could you tell us about Energy Grant £500, its take up and whether there are any data on the way in which the grant has been used by businesses. Are there any measures of success in terms of increased energy efficiency or benefits arising from increased awareness?
3. Could you gauge from your dealings with Kent businesspeople how they perceive the pressure on businesses to respond to the demands of carbon reduction and sustainability, and how seriously companies are taking this challenge. What new practices are being (or could be) implemented to deal with these demands.
4. Are any of the businesses you work with themselves providers of services in relation to energy efficiency or renewable energy – and if so what are the issues pertinent to them? For example, according to the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) “The demand for electrical microgeneration has been unprecedented” – are you aware of the impact on suppliers of the closure of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme scheme to electrical technologies in February, and the switch to Feed-in Tariffs?
5. KCC are leading on the SE Business Carbon Hub Online project with yourselves, the Environment Agency, Fire and Police Services – could you kindly tell us more about this project and its aims.
 - How is this project funded?
 - What will be the benefits to business of the Hub in terms of best practice, accreditation and so on?
 - How could KCC and its partners support businesses who achieve measures of sustainable practice as evidenced by any accreditation?
 - Could the public sector make use of the Hub in order to achieve financial and energy savings while meeting carbon reduction aims e.g. schools? What are the criteria for its use? Could, for example, GP practices benefit from it?
6. Could you tell us about the Kent Excellence in Business Awards. Currently there would seem to be no category linked directly to the county’s aims to make the transition towards a low carbon economy – would there be any value in encouraging businesses to strive for greater energy efficiency, for example, in order to raise awareness and promote best practice in this area?

