GREENSME

Low Carbon Innovation in NWE SMEs

What challenge or problem are you addressing? What is the need for the project?

The COP Conference in Paris provided a clear target & two key activities were prioritized; 1) Identify tested low carbon products and services and export, translate and scale into other markets and countries to accelerate the displacement of higher carbon products and services; 2) Research, trial and launch new low carbon products and services to solve existing challenges through strong research-innovation partnerships.
There are many challenges in the translation, transference and scaling of proven low carbon solutions including financial, legal, cultural as well as entrepreneurial aspiration. Developing suitable and strong partnerships organically is a slow and often unsuccessful process. The role of individual and organizational knowledge brokers through a centralized funded project partnership is key to addressing these challenges identified by COP.

Objective of the project: What your project wants to achieve/change

Enhance sustainable economic development in NW Europe through accelerating the impact of low carbon products and services developed by SMEs across the Interreg NW region. Create an effective and integrated support service to meet the Challenges stated above working with SMEs to accelerate the development - scaling of low carbon services and research partnerships in NW Europe. The project wants to see greater number of new and existing low carbon products and services, accessing different markets, displacing higher carbon competitors. Key sector of interest include: Blue Economy; Circular Economy; Smart Mobility; Smart Cities.

Why do you need transnational cooperation?

The University of Edinburgh through ECCI (Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation) have strong experience of this activity and an award winning (Guardian Sustainability Awards 2016) Project supported through ERDF funding. The project assisted over 1000 and supported over 200 SMEs in Scotland creating and accelerating hundreds of products and services and creating effective academic partnerships for over 30% of SMEs supported. We would like transnational cooperation to improve the support service, establish fit for purpose support partnerships within our partner regions and provide local support that can be transnationally integrated and provide effective market access in the NW region to SME services.

What kind or partners are you looking for?

Ideally, organisations engaging with SMEs supporting economic development, innovation and low carbon services. Universities, local authorities, chambers and enterprise agencies.

Your contact details

Name	Ed Craig
Organisation	ECCI University of Edinburgh
Region	Scotland
Telephone number	07500951069
Email	Ed.craig@ed.ac.uk
Website	www.edinburghcentre.org (search 'LCI' Project under Innovation)