



PROJECT OUTLINE

EPM was commissioned by the University of Portsmouth to undertake the evaluation of the ERDF Low Carbon Solent (LCS) Project worth £1.9m. Conducting a summative assessment to evaluate project performance against output targets and measure impact is a requirement of all ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) projects.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

LCS is an SME support project that aims to accelerate the creation, commercialisation and uptake of technologies in the Solent LEP region. The main project activities include: bespoke Challenge Led Innovation workshops, short-term postgraduate student projects and Innovation Grants up to £25k.

EPM'S EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

Our approach consists of:

- A comprehensive review of project documents
- Surveying and interviewing project beneficiaries
- Facilitating interviews with beneficiaries and wider stakeholders
- Project management workshop
- Data analysis, benchmarking and reporting
- Recommendations

KEY RESULTS

The interim assessment has highlighted the following impact of the project so far.

- 80% of beneficiaries reporting being very satisfied or satisfied with the services.
- 78.9% of SMEs reported making progress towards bringing to market a new-to-firm product or service.
- LCS is now part of the low carbon package of Services that LEPs and Local Authorities offer in support to the private sector.
- Successful synergy between the innovation grant and postgraduate student projects.
- LCS has adapted well to COVID, and the project secured an extension recently until March 2023.

Interim Summative Assessment of the Low Carbon Solent (LCS) Project



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LCS BENEFICIARY TESTIMONIALS

Prior to joining the LCS project, Airhead was seeking funding to support the market launch of its innovative pollution mask. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the angel investment industry became even more difficult to tap into and so the company sought grant funds to support the next stage of its R&D collaboration with University of Brighton.

LCS provided Airhead with:

- an innovation grant
- a webinar on marketing
- collaboration with academics at University of Brighton

The University helped the company conduct airflow tests to decide on the best filter material to incorporate in the mask.



airhead

For more information about the LCS project:
www.greentechsouth.com/lowcarbonsolent



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



**UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH**

“The LCS team is super friendly, I can’t fault them. They were really helpful when it came to preparing me for my grant panel meeting. I’ve recommended LCS to lots of other start-ups I know from the Natwest Accelerator scheme.”

– Alex Smith. Co-Founder and Head of Product Development

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