

Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Sector Study 2024: Local Authority Short Report for Ashfield District Council

Commissioned by the Midlands Net Zero Hub, this report provides 2024 data of the LCEGS sector, updating the 2021 study.

1. Introduction

This document has been prepared to provide an overview summary of the LCEGS sector within this Local Authority. Reports on the wider picture of the MNZH region and the East Midlands Combined County Authority, including skills forecasts relevant to this Local Authority, and datasets are available [here](#). Additional detailed data is available from kMatrix; and further recommendations and details on areas of focus are available through the Climate Action Benchmarking study.

2. Current Activity Supporting the Growth of the Sector

Activity at the EMCCA level relevant to the wider geographical region:

- [Sustainable East Midlands](#) is a business support programme provided by East Midlands Chamber that gathers information and resources to help businesses in the region decarbonise, including networks, expert support, funding and grants.
- The [Low Carbon Business Network](#) hosted by Derby University offers fully funded support to accelerate business growth in the low carbon sector, as well as connecting SMEs to larger organisations and supply chains to help decarbonise industry.
- The [East Midlands Manufacturing Network](#) is a cluster of manufacturing businesses across the region, allowing businesses to share knowledge and best practice, including ways to decarbonise.
- A prototype STEP fusion powerplant is planned for construction in West Burton, Bassetlaw, with the area acting as a hub for fusion-related engineering and commercial progress, generating thousands of jobs in the industry.

- The EMCCA is home to number of key businesses in the automotive, aerospace and advanced manufacturing industries, which bring great opportunities to decarbonise and grow the LCEGS sector.

3. Recommendations

Recommendations for Ashfield District Council are:

- Investigate possibilities for cross sector collaboration between key industries and LCEGS, for example where innovations in the aerospace sector could be used to develop low carbon technology.
- Work with nearby local authorities to develop a strategy to better collaborate with local skills providers, education institutions and LCEGS businesses to ensure training and apprenticeships are available that address the specific skills gaps in the area. This work could include pooling funding.
- Review procurement processes within local authorities and the wider public sector to prioritize local LCEGS businesses, encouraging sustainable practices across the supply chain. Shift focus from solely cost-driven decisions to those considering long-term environmental and social benefits.
- Contact the Midlands Net Zero Hub and request the supplementary booklet of additional data to provide further information and context to the LCEGS sector in your area.
- Large sub-sectors which saw stronger 3-year growth in Ashfield than the UK average and are considered strengths are:

- Recovery & Recycling
- Waste Management
- Water Supply & Waste Water Treatment
- Alternative Fuel Vehicle
- Alternative Fuels
- Building Technologies
- Energy Management

These are the same strengths as the wider EMCCA, whose report and dataset includes details of the skills gaps across EMCCA for each sub-sector, providing evidence to feed into local skills plans, ideally formed in collaboration with neighbouring councils.

4. Headline Figures for Ashfield

The headline figures for the Ashfield District Council area are:

- The LCEGS sector in Ashfield was worth £349m in 2023/24 and is forecast to grow to £458m over the next 5 years
- The LCEGS sector accounts for 8.1% of GVA, 3.4% of employment, and sales accounts for 8.8% of GDP in Ashfield
- Ashfield’s LCEGS Sales generates 1.1% of the LCEGS Sales in the MNZH region, in line with its 1.1% of total GDP contribution
- Ashfield’s LCEGS GVA generated 1.1% of the MNZH’s LCEGS GVA, slightly higher than the 1.0% total GVA contribution
- Ashfield’s LCEGS employment accounts for 1.0% of MNZH’s LCEGS employment, lower than its 1.2% of economically active people in the MNZH

5. Ashfield’s LCEGS Sector Key Metrics

Key metrics in Ashfield for each financial year from 2019/20 to 2023/24, with growth between years:

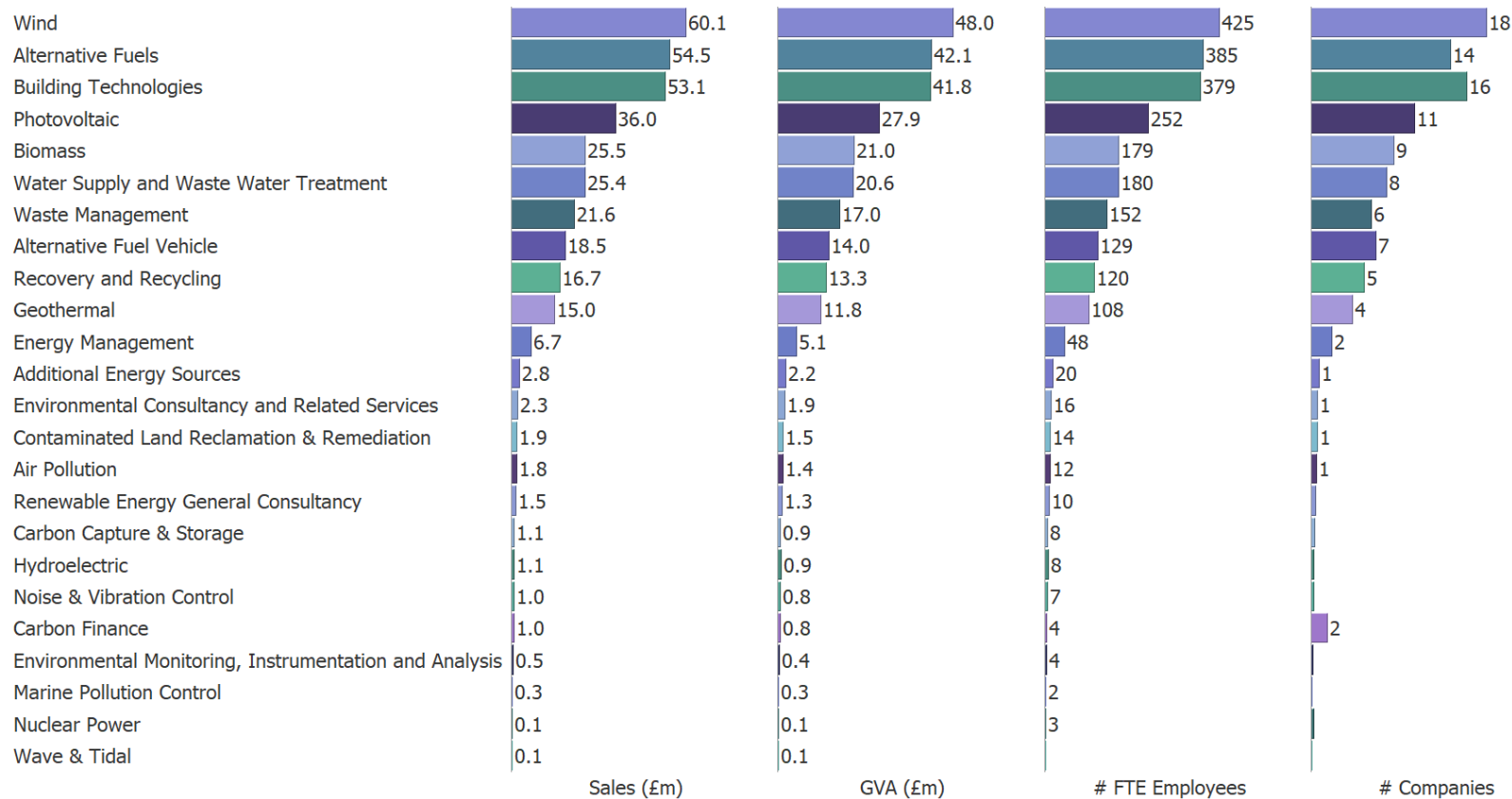
Ashfield	2019/20	% growth	2020/21	% growth	2021/22	% growth	2022/23	% growth	2023/24
Sales	£302.9m	-7.1%	£281.5m	5.2%	£296.1m	7.1%	£317.0m	9.9%	£348.6m
GVA	£239.0m	-7.0%	£222.3m	5.1%	£233.8m	7.2%	£250.7m	9.7%	£274.9m
# FTE Employees	2,087	-4.8%	1,986	5.2%	2,089	7.2%	2,239	10.1%	2,465
# Companies	91	-6.9%	85	7.1%	91	6.8%	97	9.6%	106

All metrics have recovered from the pandemic in 2020 and saw growth across the reporting period from 2021/22 to 2023/24.

6. Ashfield’s Sub-sectors Key Metrics

All twenty-four sub-sectors of the LCEGS sector have activity in Ashfield, with the 2023/24 values for Sales, GVA, FTE Employees and number of companies in figure 1.

Figure 1: Sales, GVA, FTE Employees and number of companies in Ashfield in 2023/24 by sub-sector



The largest eleven sub-sectors account for 96% of sales, 96% of GVA, 96% of employment and 94% of companies in the LCEGS sector. These eleven sub-sectors are Wind; Alternative Fuels; Building Technologies; Photovoltaic; Biomass; Water Supply & Waste Water Treatment; Waste Management; Alternative Fuel Vehicle; Recovery & Recycling; Geothermal and Energy Management.

7. Ashfield’s Sub-sector Growth Compared with the UK

Sub-sectors that saw stronger growth in sales than the UK average between 2021/22 and 2023/24 for Ashfield include:

Sub-sector	Ashfield Sales 2023/24	Ashfield Growth 2021/22 to 2023/24	UK Growth 2021/22 to 2023/24
Air Pollution	£1.8m	17%	7%
Contaminated Land Reclamation & Remediation	£1.9m	19%	9%
Environmental Consultancy and Related Services	£2.3m	16%	11%
Recovery and Recycling	£16.7m	17%	11%
Waste Management	£21.6m	18%	8%
Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment	£25.4m	17%	5%
Additional Energy Sources	£2.8m	17%	10%
Alternative Fuel Vehicle	£18.5m	20%	12%
Alternative Fuels	£54.5m	18%	14%
Building Technologies	£53.1m	18%	16%
Energy Management	£6.7m	18%	10%

Only sub-sectors contributing more than 1% of the total Sales in Ashfield have been included in this table.

Of the eleven sub-sectors that grew stronger than the UK, Recovery & Recycling; Waste Management; Water Supply & Waste Water Treatment; Alternative Fuel Vehicle; Alternative Fuels; Building Technologies; and Energy Management are also large sub-sectors and should be considered a strength of Ashfield.

8. MNZH Regional summary

Headline figures for the MNZH area are:

- The LCEGS sector in MNZH Region was worth £31.0bn in 2023/24 and is forecast to grow to £46.6bn over the next 5 years
- The LCEGS sector accounts for 7.4% of GVA, 4.2% of employment, and sales accounts for 8.3% of GDP in MNZH Region
- MNZH Region's LCEGS Sales generates 11.9% of the LCEGS Sales in the UK, slightly lower than the 12.4% of total GDP contribution
- MNZH Region's LCEGs employment accounts for 15.5% of the UK's LCEGS employment, lower than its 16.8% of economically active people in the UK
- Net Zero 2030 targets are expected to require between 30,192 and 146,162 FTE employees in addition to those employed now in the MNZH region
- Net Zero 2050 targets are expected to require between 263,907 and 727,184 FTE employees in addition to those employed now in the MNZH region
- The MNZH region's LCEGS sector could generate up to 727,184 jobs between 2023/24 and 2050*
- Between 2019/20 and 2023/24, Investment in R&D for the LCEGS sector has varied, but is now similar, shrinking slightly from £2.2bn to £2.1bn for Private Equity Investment; being £3.6bn for Venture Capital Investment for both years; and increasing slightly from £4.9bn to £5.2bn for Other Investment.
- Exports in the LCEGS sector for MNZH Region have increased from £2.8bn in 2019/20 to £3.2bn in 2023/24.

*The majority of increase from 2030 targets due to additional 20 years of wider economic growth

9. EMCCA East Midlands Combined County Authority summary

Headline figures for the EMCCA area are:

- The LCEGS sector in EMCCA was worth £6.0bn in 2023/24 and is forecast to grow to £8.7bn over the next 5 years
- The LCEGS sector accounts for 7.3% of GVA, 3.3% of employment, and sales accounts for 8.0% of GDP in EMCCA
- EMCCA's LCEGS Sales generates 19.8% of the LCEGS Sales in the MNZH region, slightly lower than the 20.5% of total GDP contribution
- EMCCA's LCEGS GVA generated 19.8% of the MNZH's LCEGS GVA, slightly lower than the 20.3% total GVA contribution
- EMCCA's LCEGS employment accounts for 16.8% of MNZH's LCEGS employment, lower than its 21.5% of economically active people in the MNZH
- Net Zero 2030 targets are expected to require between 3,099 and 23,125 FTE employees in addition to those employed now in EMCCA
- Net Zero 2050 targets are expected to require between 52,760 and 125,327 FTE employees in addition to those employed now in EMCCA
- EMCCA's LCEGS sector could generate up to 125,327 jobs between 2023/24 and 2050 *
- Investment in R&D for the LCEGS sector in 2019/20 was very high due to unusual investment in the Nuclear Power sub-sector with over £1.1bn in Private Equity; £1.4bn in Venture Capital Investment; and £1.7bn in Other Investment in that year. Nuclear Power is still the largest sub-sector in terms of investment in the EMCCA, but for this comparison we have used the 2020/21 data, which represents more 'usual' investment. Between 2020/21 and 2023/24, Investment in R&D for the LCEGS sector has grown from £296m to £438m for Private Equity Investment; £534m to £712m for Venture Capital Investment; and £771m to £1,016m for Other Investment.
- Exports in the LCEGS sector for EMCCA have increased from £572m in 2019/20 to £656m in 2023/24.

*The majority of increase from 2030 targets due to additional 20 years of wider economic growth

10. Example Companies in Ashfield

Examples companies in Ashfield.

Note: Some or all of the company's activity and employment are either currently in the LCEGS sector or have the potential to be. In some cases, turnover and/or employment may include activity in other locations.

Company Name:	Recresco Limited
Web:	https://recresco.com/
Turnover:	£69.3m (UK total)
Employees:	107 (UK total)
SIC Codes:	Recovery of sorted materials
Additional Products and Services:	Glass Recycling
About the company:	“We use the latest technology and equipment, and highly efficient PLC controlled sorting systems. Our huge investment in some of the most exciting, cutting-edge technology shows our commitment to making recycling a viable, important alternative to throwing things away or using raw materials.”

Company Name:	A F Switchgear Limited
Web:	https://www.afswitchgear.co.uk/
Turnover:	£50.1m (UK total)
Employees:	179 (UK total)
SIC Codes:	Manufacture of electronic components Manufacture of electricity distribution and control apparatus

Additional Products and Services: Switchgear and power distribution

About the company:

“AF Switchgear design and manufacture power distribution systems to satisfy the demands of every sector of modern working life. Our designs incorporate the latest components, manufacturing techniques, monitoring systems and energy management technology.”