

Low Carbon Environmental Goods and Services Sector Study 2024: Local Authority Short Report for Harborough 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 Leicester County & Rutland County, 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 Leicester County & Rutland County 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.
- [Leicestershire Collaborate to Accelerate Net Zero \(LCAN\)](#) is a demonstrator project run by Leicestershire County Council to decrease the areas emissions and enable businesses and communities to increase sustainability. This includes identifying opportunities for decarbonisation, implementing cross-sector collaboration structures and implementing an advisory service to signpost available funding schemes, all of which drive activity in the LCEGS sector.
- Three universities in the region (Leicester, Loughborough and De Montfort) have sustainability hubs, offering support to LCEGS businesses, trialling green innovation and improving low carbon knowledge and skills.

- Funding has been secured to run skills [bootcamps](#) across 4 areas of green skills, including solar, agricultural skills, land management and green leadership. Local colleges have also gained funding to run short courses around emerging needs for employers, such as hydrogen technology, electric vehicles and sustainability leadership.

3. Recommendations

Recommendations for Harborough District Council are:

- Work with nearby local authorities to develop a strategy to better work 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.
- Promote sustainable practices within the region's agricultural sector, focusing on evidence-based solutions such as AD, [BioChar](#) and Agri-Tech innovation. Recommendations can be taken from projects in surrounding regions, such as the work done by UK Food Valley in Lincolnshire to create low carbon agrifood clusters.
- Review procurement processes within local authorities and the wider public sector to prioritise 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 Harborough 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 similar strengths to the wider Leicestershire & Rutland area, which also includes Nuclear Power. The Leicestershire County & Rutland County report and dataset includes details of the skills gaps across Leicestershire & Rutland for each sub-sector, providing evidence to feed into local skills plans, ideally formed in collaboration with neighbouring councils.

4. Headline Figures for Harborough

The headline figures for the Harborough District Council area are:

- The LCEGS sector in Harborough was worth £277m in 2023/24 and is forecast to grow to £372m over the next 5 years
- The LCEGS sector accounts for 7.7% of GVA, 3.2% of employment, and sales accounts for 8.5% of GDP in Harborough
- Harborough’s LCEGS Sales generates 0.9% of the LCEGS Sales in the MNZH region, in line with its 0.9% of total GDP contribution
- Harborough’s LCEGS GVA generated 0.9% of the MNZH’s LCEGS GVA, in line with its 0.9% total GVA contribution
- Harborough’s LCEGS employment accounts for 0.8% of MNZH’s LCEGS employment, lower than its 1.0% of economically active people in the MNZH

5. Harborough’s LCEGS Sector Key Metrics

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

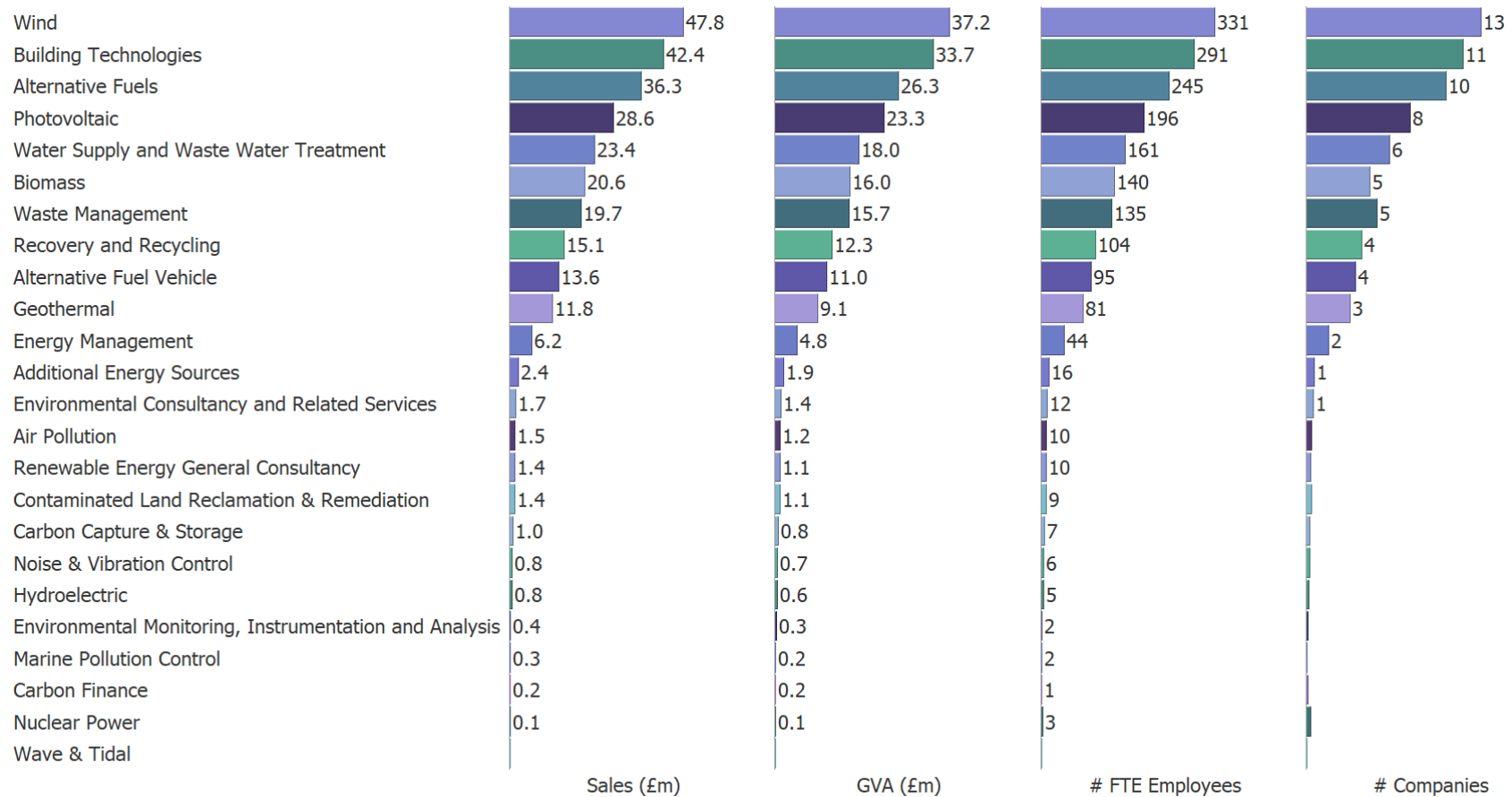
Harborough	2019/20	% growth	2020/21	% growth	2021/22	% growth	2022/23	% growth	2023/24
Sales	£239.1m	-7.9%	£220.3m	5.6%	£232.6m	7.6%	£250.3m	10.8%	£277.3m
GVA	£187.7m	-7.8%	£173.0m	5.6%	£182.7m	7.5%	£196.4m	10.4%	£216.8m
# FTE Employees	1,597	-5.1%	1,516	5.7%	1,602	7.4%	1,720	10.8%	1,906
# Companies	63	-7.9%	58	6.1%	62	7.5%	67	11.0%	74

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

6. Harborough's Sub-sectors Key Metrics

All twenty-four sub-sectors of the LCEGS sector have activity in Harborough, 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 Harborough in 2023/24 by sub-sector



The largest eleven sub-sectors account for 96% of sales, 96% of GVA, 96% of employment and 95% of companies in the LCEGS sector. These eleven sub-sectors are Wind; Building Technologies; Alternative Fuels; Photovoltaic; Water Supply & Waste Water Treatment; Biomass; Waste Management; Recovery & Recycling; Alternative Fuel Vehicle; Geothermal and Energy Management.

7. Harborough’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 Harborough include:

Sub-sector	Harborough Sales 2023/24	Harborough Growth 2021/22 to 2023/34	UK Growth 2021/22 to 2023/34
Air Pollution	£1.5m	19%	7%
Environmental Consultancy and Related Services	£1.7m	17%	11%
Recovery and Recycling	£15.1m	19%	11%
Waste Management	£19.7m	20%	8%
Water Supply and Waste Water Treatment	£23.4m	21%	5%
Additional Energy Sources	£2.4m	19%	10%
Alternative Fuel Vehicle	£13.6m	16%	12%
Alternative Fuels	£36.3m	16%	14%
Building Technologies	£42.4m	20%	16%
Energy Management	£6.2m	18%	10%
Renewable Energy General Consultancy	£1.4m	21%	7%

Only sub-sectors contributing more than 1% of the total Sales in Harborough 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 Harborough.

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. Leicestershire County & Rutland County summary

Headline figures for Leicestershire County and Rutland County are:

- The LCEGS sector in Leicestershire & Rutland was worth £3.3bn in 2023/24 and is forecast to grow to £5.0bn over the next 5 years
- The LCEGS sector accounts for 7.1.% of GVA, 4.3% of employment, and sales accounts for 8.1% of GDP in Leicester & Leicestershire
- Leicestershire & Rutland's LCEGS Sales generates 11.0% of the LCEGS Sales in the MNZH region, slightly lower than the 11.3% of total GDP contribution
- Leicestershire & Rutland's LCEGS GVA generated 11.0% of the MNZH's LCEGS GVA, slightly lower than the 11.4% total GVA contribution
- Leicestershire & Rutland's LCEGS employment accounts for 10.8% of MNZH's LCEGS employment, lower than its 11.0% of economically active people in the MNZH
- Net Zero 2030 targets are expected to require between 1,835 and 14,290 FTE employees in addition to those employed now in Leicestershire & Rutland
- Net Zero 2050 targets are expected to require between 35,845 and 77,992 FTE employees in addition to those employed now in Leicestershire & Rutland
- Leicestershire & Rutland's LCEGS sector could generate up to 77,992 jobs between 2023/24 and 2050*
- Between 2019/20 and 2023/24, Investment in R&D for the LCEGS sector has grown from £167m to £245m for Private Equity Investment; £299m to £397m for Venture Capital Investment; and £451m to £569m for Other Investment.
- Exports in the LCEGS sector for Leicestershire & Rutland have increased from £318m in 2019/20 to £361m in 2023/24.

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

10. Example Companies in Harborough

Examples companies in Harborough.

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: **Thermo-Floor UK Ltd**
Web: <https://thermo-floor.co.uk/index.html>
Employees: twenty
SIC Codes: Plumbing, heat and air-conditioning installation
Additional Products and Services: Air source heat pump installation
Ground Source Heat Pump installation.
Solar panel installation
About the company: “Thermo-Floor is one of the largest providers of energy efficient underfloor heating, underfloor cooling systems, heat pumps and renewable energy systems to domestic and commercial properties. For over 30 years Thermo-Floor has offered expert, professional and personable services for the design, supply and installation of our unique underfloor heating and underfloor cooling systems.”

Company Name: **GreenMatch**
Web: <https://www.greenmatch.co.uk/>
SIC Codes: Other information technology service activities
Additional Products and Services: Sustainable energy solutions provider

About the company:

“GreenMatch is owned by Leads.io and was founded in 2014 with a vision of creating a more sustainable and transparent market for consumers. Because of that, it has been our mission to help consumers with getting quotes on heat pumps, solar panels, boiler upgrades, and double-glazed windows for the last 9 years.”