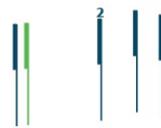
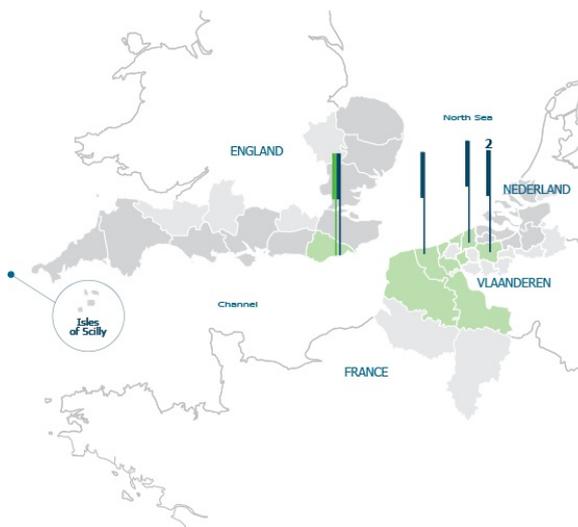


ACE



Answers to the Carbon Economy

■ Project summary



The ACE project responds to current environmental issues and the growing awareness regarding the need to develop a more sustainable economic growth model for businesses, including mitigation and adaptation to climate change, following three key objectives: - Achieve reductions against CO₂ targets - Diversify the traditional structure of the economy - Be resilient to climate and economic change The ACE project will enable partners to share their knowledge

and find solutions based on three target groups: individual businesses, business to business (B2B) relationships and Business Parks. These new technical solutions will be within legal, financial and operational frameworks, as well as the "culture" of business relationships. The ACE project does not only focus on attracting businesses in the clean technology and renewable energy sectors but also on supporting existing businesses to make the transition to the low carbon economy. As a lot of businesses in the 2 Seas area are SMEs and micro businesses, they will hugely benefit from this support to integrate low carbon principles in to their facilities management, processes and daily work.

■ Activities

What was the project trying to achieve?

The Answers to the Carbon Economy (ACE) project developed a response to carbon reduction from an individual business, business to business and Business Park's perspective focusing on low carbon initiatives and renewable energy and turned the CO₂ 20:20:20 reduction targets into business opportunities in order to place the 2 Seas area at the forefront of global competitiveness. The project objectives were divided into five distinct Activities: 1. Business Level - applied low carbon technical solutions (eg energy efficiency, rational energy use and renewables) as well as legal and financial instruments at the level of individual businesses and buildings. 2. Business to Business Level - Encouraged and enabled greater competitiveness through low-carbon solutions, reducing resource consumption and waste by facilitating informal and business to business trading links and networks through e.g. integrating industrial ecology systems. 3. Business Park Level - Facilitated low carbon approaches to master planning, financing, designing, infrastructure, development and marketing of business parks; and to their

ongoing management post occupancy. ACE worked with at least 19 separate business parks in the 2 Seas Area. 4. Publicity and Awareness Raising - Coordinated the common project communication and publicity as well as implement awareness raising actions for the target group 'businesses on business parks' 5. Project Management - Achieved good management of the project content and finances with the lead partner coordinating input from all project partners.

What were the activities implemented?

Partners worked on 3 themes: Individual businesses and premises, business to business relationships and business park level. Project Management was undertaken by LP who provided Secretariat, financial management, FLC checks, liaison with JTS, Claims and reports process. Master forecasts were created by LP to support partners in monitoring budgets towards Claim 6, 7 and close out, to avoid over or underage. Forecasts were produced at partner and project level, and discussed face to face at PSG in June. Variances reported to partners and JTS, and corrective action taken if required. Project Communications-Joint communication strategy developed and agreed. PP5 set up and disseminated through ACE website, coordinated the Manual, Press Releases, 3 Partner Conferences, 2 seminars, digital newsletters, brochures, ACE movie. Activity 1 LP lead-Investment in low carbon Refurbishment of Council-owned units. Theaklen Drive units Refurbishment work included Insulation of state of the art solar tubes, rapid opening shutters to improve air tightness, replacement doors and windows with energy efficient double glazed units, insulating the perimeter plinth of the building to reduce heat loss, insulating the roof, making the roof pv ready, smart meters, rapid roller shutters, light reflective painting, LED lighting, upgraded resource efficient facilities. Activity 2 PP2 Industrial ecology at BP level. Synergies explored at business to business level. Collective energy network a core aim. Organisation of various waste collections; implementing ECOPAL services within companies; business solicitations on optimising their waste management. Activity 3 PP4 Highest level to perform collective actions to obtain CO2N is BP. Objective- present pilot parks that attempt CO2N and even sustainability. Sustainability ambition and selling conditions developed and implemented for BP Wiedauwkaai.

■ Results

What were the key results of the project?

1 Manual in English/ French/Dutch printed and online 1 Executive Summary 1 Policy Recommendations 3 Conferences including Final Conference in Ostend 2 Seminars 2 Network events PP4 to promote Manual (UNIZO and VOKA) 1 leaflet 1 Launch Brochure Digital newsletter twice a year 1 ACE movie 1 movie West @Work (PP3) 1 website www.ace-low-carbon-economy.eu (monthly monitoring Google analytics) 1 Sustainability Measuring Tool in English 1 CO2N website 1 CO2N plan implemented at BP level 1 Refurbishment of existing units 12-14 and 30-36 Theaklen Drive 1 Creating Green Buildings and Agreements study Development of industrial ecology at BP and business level, waste and recycling systems established 1 Climate Plan and SEAP Feasibility Studies for heat exchange Sustainable business park master plan Approximately 150 businesses impacted directly and indirectly Estimated CO2 reductions from these individual activities range from 10-40% and up to 80% when assessing localised collective recycling/ re use. 15 businesses recruited (target 15) (Gent) who are making CO2 reductions of

at least 10% each. 1 LinkedIn account active 1 twitter account active 127 followers Monthly internal newsletter issued SAFE-ICE Cluster member 19 business parks worked with including: Ugent- BP De Spie, Sappenleen, Greenbridge.HBC-Ponswood, Castleham and Churchfields.SeaChange- Bexhill Enterprise Park. Gent-BP Wiedauwkaai, BP Eiland Zwijnaarde, BP Gent Zuid, BP The Loop, Port of Ghent. wvi-Veurne, Roeselare, De Spie.

Did all partners and territories benefit from the results?

The target beneficiaries were businesses and stakeholders who would be directly and indirectly impacted by the project. Longer term, the final beneficiaries are citizens due to lower CO2 emissions and lower energy usage, meaning a healthier environment and conservation of energy resources. Each territory benefitted from exchange of good practice and exposure to different solutions and ways of working on common issues. Comment from wvi (BE): The project results are very satisfying and will be implemented if not done yet, like implementation of the heat network studies in Roeselare and Veurne. Wvi saw that other actors work on energy issues and started thinking about going further than our usual way of working with regard to business park development and management. Gent City's work on the City's Climate Plan and SEAP has been drawn from ACE experience, and 15 businesses directly received coaching to support their energy audit implementation. UK territorial benefits included the development of a template for retrofit which acted as a blueprint for future retrofits. The direct impact of the ACE retrofit was energy efficiency improved by 25% and CO2 saving of 40% for 12 businesses. In addition, design of the new Business Parks in Hastings and Bexhill has been influenced by ACE principles. France territorial benefits- through ECOPAL's work on industrial ecology and the circular economy on Business Parks, pooling of waste and recycling systems plus information database has impacted on over 100 businesses. All partners have learned more about this aspect of the project. Becoming a partner in the SAFE-ICE cluster also influenced this change of mindset.

What were the effects / outcomes for the territories involved?

France: Coordinated pooling of waste streams, savings of up to 80% on businesses carbon footprint. Energy and carbon saving advice to businesses. Better understanding of benefits of recycling and reuse by businesses. Belgium: Heat exchange, renewable feasibility studies and mapping on business parks The Loop, Wiedauwkaai, and at Algist Bruggemen and BEE. Energy scans for businesses. Improved understanding of benefits of energy saving by businesses. Energy appraisals and improvement programme for 15 businesses who made CO2 reductions of at least 10% each. Guidance project resulted in reduction of 1820 tons of CO2 a year and saved as much as 360000 EURO. ACE experience has been used to develop the City of Gent's Climate Plan and SEAP. Energy concepts and monitoring systems devised with partners. UK: Business to business events, promoting understanding of benefits of energy saving/ low carbon design, master planning and design incorporating low carbon techniques for new build Business Parks. Blueprint for retrofit of existing FLEX building plus pilot retrofits of Units, now leased to businesses. Building energy efficiency improved by 28% and CO2 savings around 40%. Benefits passed to businesses. Green Lease report published.

■ Distinctiveness

What was the real added-value of doing this cross-border project?

Greater understanding of resource efficiency, circular economy concepts from PP2. Motivation, evidence etc for pushing forward local actions based on the benefits/success of the implementation from other partners. Development of an organisation/ partnership which has exposed all staff involved to different perspectives and ways of working. For example, Regeneration staff at HBC, have shared and received knowledge which has led to a broader outlook, and a more receptive attitude to new opportunities. Relevant good practice has been quickly shared which has also saved time and cost for the partner requiring support. wvi-partners influenced wvi results and ways of working. Concrete results that would not have been achieved without this project and co operation of partners include: cross border manual based on all partners experiences. wvi energy strategy 2014-2019 including guidance for individual businesses. The energy study at the sugar factory site. UGent cooperation with energy planning Brugge De Spie. New opportunities have been created around the Low Carbon agenda.

Have any synergies been developed with other projects or networks?

Yes, SAFE-ICE partners (2 Seas) Future Cities (NWE) ECOFAB (FCE) Fusion (2 Seas) ACE for Energy (NWE)

What are the key messages , key lessons learned you would like to share?

We have all learned from each other, different ways of working, and different solutions to common problems. We have experienced good practice and also been involved with high level research which we would not have been able to do without the project. This has enabled us to see the future possibilities of this work and how it can fit into future projects and future organisations. It has broadened our horizons externally as we have worked with colleagues from different disciplines. Share with people doing similar project work. Avoid 'shared costs'. Work with partners who have complementary strengths to yours. Experiences shared enabled partners to understand the activities of others and confirm similar problems and solutions. This has also increased the depth of understanding of cultural and territorial differences, strengthening the cross border relationship. Partner synergy and output needs to be confirmed at the outset (preparation stage), activities should not be the same but should not be wildly different or it is difficult to see how they fit together.

■ Project Information

Title	Answers to the Carbon Economy
Total project budget	€ 4 077 725
ERDF	€ 2 038 862
Priority & objective	Priority 2 c. Stimulate energy efficiency and development of renewable energies
Timeframe	2009-08-01 - 2014-09-30
Lead partner	Hastings Borough Council
Project Coordinator	Kevin Stower(.isycamore@hastings.gov.uk)

