



About Better Futures

GREATER
LONDON
AUTHORITY



London is already Europe's leading tech hub but now we're investing more in our CleanTech industry - who produce technologies, goods and services that **reduce negative impacts on our environment**.

Now in our 4th year, we are working with partners to give over 150 small businesses the boost they need to be successful in London, and create a hub for low-carbon and circular industries in our city.

Despite the Covid-19 outbreak, we continue to deliver the programme remotely and without interruption.

If your business is selected **you'll get fantastic support to grow**, including:

- Investment readiness and growth support with innovation advisers
- Access to new supply chains and markets, including new international markets
- Innovation vouchers for academic collaboration projects
- Paid short term internships
- Marketing support
- Innovation and commercialisation of research & development
- Process improvement, quality assurance and technology verification
- Product development
- Management / Leadership support
- Understanding organisational corporate and social responsibility
- Public and Private funding support
- Resource efficiency
- Intellectual Property support
- Access to co-working space
- Events, workshops and masterclasses

The programme is currently in high demand. We assess new companies for the programme every 6 weeks. Depending on the volume of companies in the pipeline at any given time, those accepted on the programme would look to begin support within 3-6 months from acceptance.

[Express your interest](#)

Emergency Grant Funds

Thanks to the Green New Deal funding from the Mayor of London, the Better Futures+ and Advance London business support programmes are offering emergency grant funding for London-based, small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), that have been negatively impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic and have registered with either of the two programmes prior to February 2021.

These grants are designed to provide immediate relief to low carbon, circular and cleantech SMEs with the aim of maintaining and growing London's diverse ecosystem of low carbon, circular businesses and promote a green recovery post-Covid-19.

These grants are part of the Mayor's £10 million investment in green projects that will support around 1,000 green jobs to boost London's economic recovery and tackle the twin dangers of air pollution and the climate emergency. For more information click [here](#) or click [here](#) to apply.

[Better Futures+](#)

Tender opportunities

As part of the Better Futures project, companies can access up to £5,000 worth of innovation vouchers for academic collaboration projects. We have the following tender opportunity if you'd like to work with some of our exciting entrepreneurs:

Opportunity Reference P01244:Chemical/process engineer to support in preparation of the engineering documentation of the process and benchmarking of technology against industrial KPIs and current industrial process regarding improving the industrial process of lead recycling by

Related articles



CleanTech News

Find out about the project, industry news, funding announcements and more, and sign up to our newsletter.



Better Futures events

Book onto one of our upcoming business and CleanTech industry events.



Meet the entrepreneurs

Find out how Better Futures support has enabled CleanTech businesses to thrive in the capital.



Delivery partners

We are working with partners to help London's small businesses working in the low-carbon, CleanTech sector.

and current industrial process regarding innovating the industrial process of lead recycling by replacing pyrometallurgical smelting with a low-temperature and solvent-based chemical process.

Opportunity Reference P011499: Expert advice to a start-up company on linking front-end and back-end development. Suitable for someone with expertise and experience in databases and information matching.

Opportunity Reference P011865: Electrochemical expert to provide advice on the feasibility of proof-of-concept idea of electricity generation using differential pH of the ocean.

Opportunity Reference P012107: Low carbon energy systems expert to advise on the development of a Big Data artificial intelligence platform to assist the hospitality SME sector to achieve a green recovery from COVID-19 by reducing energy consumption, identifying wastage, controlling costs and becoming more resilient.

For more detailed information on the project, and to find out tender information, you'll need to go through our open tender platform, Compete For. All you need to do is [Register as a Supplier](#) and search for our opportunities using the reference numbers above.

Gender equality in CleanTech

Gender parity is still a problem in our society and in the business community, so we want to take this opportunity to lead by example on this important issue.

We are working with the [London Sustainable Development Commission \(LSDC\)](#) to look at the role of women in the CleanTech industry. We're really excited to introduce our Women in CleanTech project and celebrate the role of female entrepreneurs in London.

Get involved

We want to develop ways of ensuring that women enter and stay in the exciting field of clean technology. Your input is important and we want to hear what you have to say, and an action plan has been created to take forward our learning on how to increase women's participation in the Cleantech

To get involved, email BetterFutures@london.gov.uk to register your interest.

Contact us

Not sure about something? Check our [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

If you can't find what you're looking for, please get in touch with us at BetterFutures@london.gov.uk.

Further information

Better Futures is funded by the [ERDF](#) (European Regional Development Fund), and was created in collaboration with [our partners](#).

Details of projects funded by ERDF in London are available [to read](#), including an [interactive ESIF funding map](#), highlighting ESF and ERDF-funded projects that are currently under way.

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Related documents

Better Futures Launch Release	92 KB
Better Futures Press Release - Nov 20	185 KB

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PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 22/06/17

INCUBATOR LAUNCHED FOR LONDON'S LOW CARBON SME SECTOR

LOW carbon businesses in London can now increase their chances of commercial success thanks to the launch of the Better Futures initiative.

Better Futures, a new EU-funded programme, will provide access to co-working space and tailored innovation support to improve the success rate of clean tech startup firms.

The three-year project aims to support 100 business across the capital with access to academic experts, technical networks, finance advise and support and mentoring advice to help them take their fledgling enterprises to full commercial scale.

Ultimately the Better Futures project will act as a flag bearer for the rapidly growing low carbon sector and spearhead the decarbonising of London's economy by reducing carbon emissions and reducing resource consumption.

The £1.6 million project is being led by a group of delivery partners; the Greater London Authority, Imperial College, Sustainable Bridges, The Old Oak Common and Park Royal Development Corporation and ICON, with funding from the European Regional Development Fund.

Better Futures is now open to applications from Low Carbon businesses across the capital. The GLA led project is looking to implement a recommendation from the London Sustainable Development Commission's Better Futures Report and will form the start of the development of a Cleantech Cluster for London.

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan said: "Technology is essential to solving many of the biggest economic, social and environmental challenges we face.

"Better Futures will give tomorrow's big businesses the help they need today to take their ideas from the lab to the commercial marketplace. I look forward to seeing the first group of businesses make the most of this brilliant opportunity."

Professor Richard Timpler, of Imperial College and a Better Futures spokesperson, said the low carbon sector was now attracting serious financial investment and the accelerator would help businesses exploit that.



He said: “The successful companies will not only get access to leading academic experts at Imperial College who can review their technology, we can also open the door to financial networks here in London who are keen to make serious investments in clean tech businesses.

“It can take a long time to access these resources without a mentor or someone who has been there before.

“With the threats posed by climate change growing by the day decarbonising the economy is an urgent priority and I’m confident that Better Futures businesses will be leading that vanguard.”

For more information about the Better Futures programme and to find out how you can apply for your business go to www.london.gov.uk/better-futures

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NOTES TO EDITORS

1. Better Futures Delivery Partners:
 - GLA – lead partner
 - The Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) – strategic support and developing links to OPDC businesses and potential space
 - Sustainable Bridges (SB) – main delivery partner
 - Imperial College London (IC) – strategic support and technology verification and internships
 - Imperial Consultants (ICON) – technology vouchers to SMEs linking to academics
 - Haringey Council as a Strategic Partner to facilitate links to market via the Haringey innovation hub

3. The project has received £823,522 of funding from the England European Regional Development Fund as part of the European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Department for Communities and Local



Government (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) is the Managing Authority for European Regional Development Fund.

Established by the European Union, the European Regional Development Fund helps local areas stimulate their economic development by investing in projects which will support innovation, businesses, create jobs and local community regenerations. For more information visit <https://www.gov.uk/european-growth-funding>.”

4. The project will look to stimulate innovation activity in 100 London based SMEs who are in the low carbon sector or have the potential to deliver new low carbon solutions to the market; support 50 enterprises to develop innovations which have the potential to save green-house gas emissions; stimulate collaborations between 20 SMEs and research institutions leading to new low carbon product or service development; support 25 enterprises to design, develop and introduce new products to the firm; and trial up to 10 new innovations, with the potential to save 1000MTCO₂e.
5. The project also helps to contribute to various mayoral manifesto commitments including: Establish a tech talent pipeline and develop a city wide STEM strategy; Diversification of London’s economic base including manufacturing; Commit London to an ambitious target of becoming a zero carbon city by 2050; Work in partnership with industry to deliver skills, infrastructure and growth to achieve economic fairness and inclusion.
6. The project will work intensively with 50 enterprises who will be recruited through an open recruitment process to determine their suitability, delivering CO₂ reductions and job growth.
7. The experience of running the CT incubator will be used to develop a scaled, sustainable model for such hubs as a key component of developing a Cleantech Cluster in London.
8. Specific Project Deliverables:
 - To stimulate innovation activity in 100 London based SMEs who are in the low carbon sector or have the potential to deliver new low carbon solutions to the market;
 - To support 50 enterprises to develop innovations and services which have the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
 - To stimulate collaboration between 20 SMEs and research institutions leading to new low carbon product or service development;
 - To support 25 enterprises to design, develop and introduce new products to the SMEs;



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

- To trial up to 10 new innovations or services, and to calculate potential lifetime GHG savings arising from those innovations.
9. The LSDC was appointed in 2002 to promote sustainable development in London and advise on the sustainability of city-wide strategies. Further information on the work of the Commission can be found here: www.londonsdc.org The Better futures report can be found at: <http://www.londonsdc.org/clean-tech-innovation-default/default-Copy.aspx>



PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 23/11/20

LONDON'S LOW-CARBON SMEs GET A £900K BOOST FROM MAYOR'S GREEN NEW DEAL

AN INITIATIVE to support low-carbon and cleantech businesses across the capital has received a £900,000 funding boost as part of the Mayor's Green New Deal.

The Better Futures Programme, which launched in 2017, has already helped more than 150 businesses create hundreds of green-collar jobs in the low-carbon and circular industries here in London.

The new funding, which is part of the Mayor's £10m commitment to support 1,000 green jobs to boost London's economic recovery from COVID-19, will help nurture some of the most exciting new green businesses in the capital.

[Better Futures](#) is a £4.2m ERDF part-funded business support project run by a partnership led by the GLA and includes Imperial College, Sustainable Ventures, Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation and West London Business.

The new funding will mean Better Futures can:

- Support an additional 60-80 businesses over the next year.
- Help entrepreneurs access academic and industry expertise from Imperial College London to help them improve their businesses.
- Work with commercialisation experts at [Sustainable Ventures](#) to prepare their businesses for growth through product development, strategic planning and investment readiness.
- Provide small grants to low carbon, circular economy SMEs that have been hit hard by the economic impact of COVID-19.
- Provide additional support and mentoring to the 150 low-carbon businesses that have already benefited from the Better Futures Programme.
- Expand the availability of paid internships to hard to reach and diverse groups across the capital, including college students.
- Prioritise support for low carbon businesses led by women and members of the BAME community

LSDC Commissioner Professor Richard Templer, who is also the Hofmann Professor and Director of Innovation at Imperial College London's Grantham Institute for Climate Change and the Environment, said the additional funding was great news for London's low carbon business community.

He said: "Low carbon, cleantech and circular businesses are the future of London's growth so it's vital that they can access as much high quality support as possible when they are at the start of their commercial life.



“Supporting businesses that will help tackle climate change, air pollution and create jobs in a post-COVID world is no longer a ‘nice to have’, it is essential. If you think your business would benefit from grants, world-leading academic input and funding support please do apply.”

One of the businesses that has already benefited from Better Futures is [CauliBox](#).

Co-founder Josephine Liang said: “As the UK's first tech-enabled reusable lunchbox scheme, CauliBox has benefited tremendously from the Better Futures Programme, including accessing a wide range of resources such as intern funding, events and webinars, innovation and business advice.

“The support we get has been vital for our growth, particularly during this Pandemic and economic downturn, to continue cutting single-use food packaging in the takeaway sector, as we prepare to launch the much-anticipated delivery trial in London.”

Shirley Rodrigues, Deputy Mayor, Environment and Energy, said: “Better Futures provides direct support to businesses that are driving the Mayor of London’s Green New Deal. This investment will help entrepreneurs and innovators who will create green jobs, tackle the climate emergency and address inequalities across London. We are proud to support Better Futures and look forward to seeing these companies flourish in the coming years as we rebuild our economy and society post-COVID so that it is cleaner, greener and fairer.”

To find out more about the Better Future Programme and how to apply [please go here](#).

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Notes to Editors

- Better Futures is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund to accelerate the growth of London's cleantech industry. The programme offers London's cleantech entrepreneurs the opportunity to work with specialist Innovation Advisers to help develop their businesses.
- The Better Futures project launched in February 2017 and aims to work with and support the growth of London-based businesses who produce technologies, goods and services that reduce negative impacts on our environment.
- By growing London’s cleantech sector, Better Futures contributes to the Mayoral mandate of achieving zero carbon emissions for London by 2050.
- Now in its 4th year, Better Futures is working with partners to provide over 150 SMEs the boost they need to be successful in London and create a hub for low-carbon and circular industries in our city.

Better Futures Delivery Partners:

- GLA – lead partner



- The Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation (OPDC) – strategic support and developing links to OPDC businesses and potential space
- Sustainable Ventures (SV) – main delivery partner
- Imperial College London (IC) – strategic support and technology verification and internships
- Imperial Consultants (ICON) – technology vouchers to SMEs linking to academics
- West London Business – the UN SDGs aligned business leadership forum