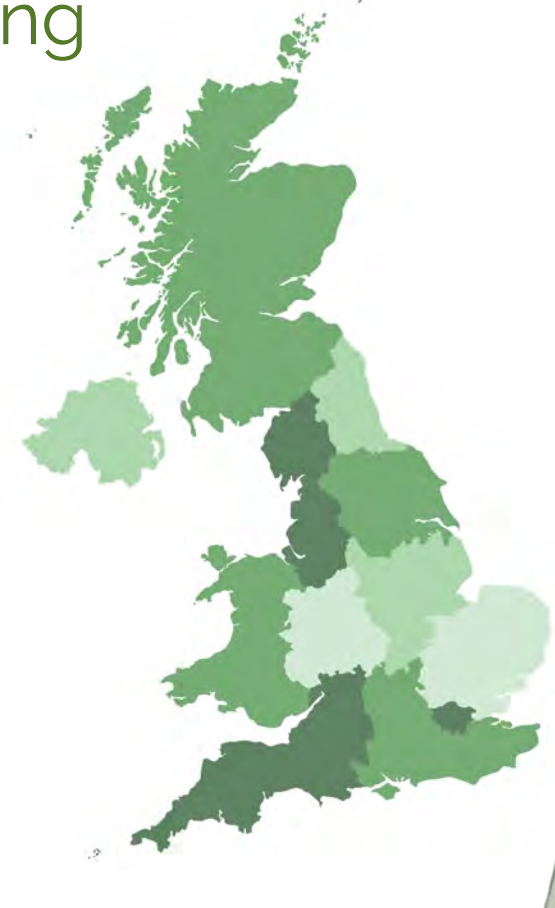
Part 1:

INSIGHTS REPORT

THE STATE OF **NET ZERO**

The Emergence of a Regional Disparity in Strategic Net Zero Funding



Insights Report:
The State of **Net Zero**

The Emergence of a Regional Disparity in Strategic Net Zero Funding.

Achieving national zero targets by 2050 is going to require an investment of £1.4 trillion, with at least 75% of that investment needing to be met by the private sector. With 82% of the UK's emissions falling within the scope of influence of local authorities, there is a real need for national strategic funding to focus on building their capabilities and skills of all local authorities in the country to accelerate the pace, scale and financing of local net zero delivery, whilst providing the resources to realise the transition.

Is this happening? This Insights Report explores the emergence of a regional disparity in the distribution of strategic net zero funding in England.

Who is this report for?

Local authorities

Local authorities within the current two-tier local government structure that are based within the East of England and South East who play a vital role in decarbonising places.

Policymakers

Those that can direct public funds towards key policy goals to ensure that a regional disparity in net zero funding is avoided, enabling the delivery of national net zero targets.

Private funders

Highlight to private investors, lenders and financial institutions that there are £ billions of investment opportunities in the East of England and South East.

Executive Summary

This insights report examines the current state of funding for net zero across the two-tier local government structure in the East of England and South East. It raises serious concerns around an emerging regional disparity in the distribution of key strategic funding for net zero delivery.

For local authorities located within the East of England and South East, the painful truth is that the 'levelling-up' agenda has had, and new plans to 'power-up' Britain will have, a detrimental impact upon their ability to build the necessary capabilities and skills to accelerate the pace, scale and financing of local net zero programmes. This report has undertaken a high-level analysis across six of the most recent key strategic funding programmes provided by central government to support net zero delivery:

- Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Phase 4 (£940 million)
- Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund, Strategic Wave 3 (£603.9 million)
- Green Heat Network Fund, May 2025 (£102 million)
- DESNZ"s Net Zero Accelerator Programme (£19 million)
- Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Demonstrator Projects (£25 million)
- GB Energy's investment in solar PV across 200 schools (£80 million)

The combined total of the six funding programmes stood at £1.77 billion. Of that total the East of England obtained £42,836,085 and the South East £112,681,838, which equates to just 2.42% and 6.36% respectively of the total funding that was made available through the six national programmes. The report has found an emerging regional disparity in how strategic funding for net zero delivery is being distributed in England, whilst local authorities that are based in the East of England and South East are far less likely to secure funding than those located in other parts of the country. The June 2025 Spending Review indicates that this could get worse, thanks to the government's plans for a "progressive redistribution' of central government funding.

Left unchecked, there is a very real risk that regional laggards in net zero delivery are created, local authorities that lack the capabilities, skills and resources to accelerate the pace, scale and financing of local net zero action, which in turn will lead to billions (£) of unrealised investment and the loss of other social and environmental benefits locally. Key strategic net zero funding programmes need a reset, with a focus on creating balanced investment programmes that enable all regions to contribute equally to national net zero targets.

Key Findings

This report undertook a high-level analysis of regional funding awarded across six of the government's most recent key strategic funding programmes for delivering net zero (i) Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 4); (ii) Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (Strategic Grants, Wave 3); (iii) Green Heat Network Fund (May 2025); (iv) DESNZ's Net Zero Accelerator Programme; (v) Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Demonstrator; and (vi) GB Energy's Solar PV investment in schools, with a combined value of £1.77 billion.

East of England - Allocation £42.8 million | 2.42%

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 4):	4.63%	DESNZ: Net Zero Accelerator Programme:	0%
Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Strategic Grants (Wave 3):	1.2%	**Innovate UK Net Zero Living Demonstrator:**	6.8%
Green Heat Network Fund (May 2025):	0%	GB Energy's Solar PV Investment in Schools:	5%

South East - Allocation £112.68 million | 6.36%

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 4):	5.67%	DESNZ: Net Zero Accelerator Programme:	0%
Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund Strategic Grants (Wave 3):	12.57%	**Innovate UK Net Zero Living Demonstrator:**	0%
Green Heat Network Fund (May 2025):	0%	GB Energy's Solar PV Investment in Schools:	5%

Why this matters

Progress on local net zero delivery for local authorities within the two-tier local government structure is almost entirely dependent upon successfully securing public funding that build the capabilities, skills and resources to decarbonise at scale, deploy new funding models and delivery mechanisms. Those that fail to secure funding are very unlikely to progress net zero delivery beyond a building-by-building / ad hoc approach and will fall well-short of achieving local decarbonisation targets.

Small | Under £1 million

- Capital Expenditure, Invest-to-Save Programmes
- Community Energy Investments
- Public Grants (namely, Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme;Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund)
- Other Grants (e.g., Foundations; Sport England; Arts Council England)

Small - Medium | £1 million - £5 million

- Public Grants (Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme; Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund; Innovate UK/UKRI; Government Departments)
- Other Grants (e.g., National Lottery; Ofgem, large foundations)
- Public Works Loan Board

Medium | £5 million - £20 million

- Strategic Public Grants (e.g., Net Zero Accelerator Programme, Green Heat Network Fund)
- National Wealth Fund
- Public Works Loan Board
- GB Energy

Large | Over £20 million

- Institutional Investors (pension funds, insurance companies, sovereign wealth funds)
- Private Equity (venture capital, growth equity, infrastructure funds)
- Debt Financing (green bonds, bank loans, project finance)
- Impact Investment (SRI funds, climate funds)
- UK Municipal Bonds Agency
- GB Energy

The costs of achieving net zero across the UK

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£1.4 trillion: investment need for achieving the UK's net zero target by 2050.

75% private

25% public

(Assumed that 3/4 of the funded need would come from private investment (OBR, 2021)).

Comm. Climate Change 2022

82% UK's of emissions within the scope of influence of local authorities.

Exerting influence **45+** key policy areas shaping net zero.

CO_2

UK Net Zero Strategy 2021

Local Net Zero Projects - those targeting emissions reductions within a local economy - require:

Investment **£544 billion** & **£25-50 billion** Development Costs

PwC/IUK 2023

Local Net Zero Projects include:

- Renewable Energy Generation
- Energy Storage & Flexibility Systems
- Energy Efficiency & Retrofits
- Electric Vehicle Infrastructure
- Private Wires & Heat Networks
- Public Transport & Mobility Services

£57 billion to decarbonise the UK's public estate (Energy Systems Catapult, 2025)... but could reach up to **£100bn** (Rapleys. 2022).

The costs of delivering local net zero action

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£46+ billion

Essex | Kent | Surrey | Brighton

of Local Net Zero Projects identified across just 4 local authorities in the East of England and South East.

Shift to Net Zero, 2024

Priority Investment: The decarbonisation of 2,000+ schools, costing up to £2.3 billion:

Investment	Investment
£768m - £1.5bn	**£524m - £813m**
Primary Schools	Secondary Schools

Ibex Earth 2025

Minimum of **£23+** billion

private capital to achieve net zero locally across Essex, Brighton, Kent & Surrey

+ **£1.15bn - £2.3bn** of Development Costs

0/40

Local authorities had engaged with private investors, lenders or financial institutions regarding net zero.

Net Zero Finance Summit 2025

> **A Britain that is better off cannot rely on a handful of places forging ahead of the rest of the country. Today, we are investing billions in transport projects across the North, Midlands and West of England.**
>
> **Rachel Reeves, Chancellor**

Creating a regional disparity?

In 2019, the Levelling Up agenda was introduced by the Conservative government, aimed at reducing regional inequalities across the UK, primarily through boosting investment and development in areas outside London and South East. The current government' have continued this approach through plans to 'Power up Britain', which seeks to see how it can better support regional equality. In recent months we have seen a record £15.6 billion invested in transport infrastructure, focusing on trams, trains, and buses in mayoral authorities across the North, Midlands, and West of England, and the planned relocation of thousands of civil servants outside of London to regional campuses in Birmingham, Leeds, Cardiff, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Darlington, Newcastle and Tyneside, Sheffield, Bristol, Manchester, Edinburgh, Belfast and York,

The East of England and South East have not featured in either scheme. The concern expressed in this report is that plans to 'Power up Britain' runs a very real risk of creating a disparity in how net zero programmes are both funded and delivered across different regions in England. We are already seeing a handful of places forging well ahead of the rest of the country, which is largely due to the allocation of key strategic public funds. Across the six key strategic funds reviews in this the report, the East of England secured just 2.42% of the total funding, whilst the South East obtained 6.36% of the £1.77 billion, despite having the largest regional population in the country.

For local authorities that do not receive the public funds, they will continue to lack the skills, capabilities and resources to scale-up and accelerate local net zero projects and fail to develop investable pipelines of projects that can mobilise private capital. Under existing grant schemes and the future direction of government funding programmes, regional net zero laggards will be located in the East of England and South East.

Methodology

Below outlines the methodology that was used to determine whether a regional disparity in the distribution of key strategic funding for net zero delivery is emerging. It reviewed six of the most recent central government grant funding programmes, with a total value of £1.77 billion.

Funding Programmes:

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Phase 4:
Details of the funding awarded through Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme was published on the DESNZ website in May 2025. It provided a regional breakdown in the funding that was allocated.

Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (Strategic Grants, Wave 3):
A review of the 17 partnerships that were awarded a Strategic Grant under Wave 3 of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund was undertaken. This included a review of associated press articles from successful local authorities and housing associations to identify the location of the projects. It did not review the location of the 127 projects that received funding through the Challenge Fund.

Green Heat Network Fund (May 2025):
In May 2025, DESNZ announced a series of projects that would share £102 million of funding through the Green Heat Network Fund. Analysis of project locations revealed that no funding was allocated across the East of England or South East.

DESNZ's Net Zero Accelerator Programme;
Whilst £19 million was made available by DESNZ for the delivery of the Net Zero Accelerator Programme, it was difficult to find an exact breakdown of the funding and how much was allocated to the successful applicants. Therefore, this figure was not included in the overall funding figure (see page 11.), but no funding was allocated to either the East of England or South East.

Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Demonstrator:
In December 2023, Innovate UK announced the winners of its Net Zero Living Programme that would share a combined £25 million in funding. The recipients of the funding are detailed on page 20.

GB Energy's Solar PV investment in schools:
In March 2025, GB Energy announced an £80 million investment in solar PV across schools in England. Just 10 sites were selected in both the East of England and South East, a total of 10% of total investment despite the regions having 26.9% of England's total schools (Department for Education, 2025).

Snapshot: The East of England & South East Net Zero Funding

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Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS):

Phases 1 & 2	Phase 3	Phase 4	Total:
£1.075bn	£1.425bn	£1.17bn	£3.67bn

£940m allocated in May 2025

East of England	South East
4.63%	5.67%

Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund:

£1.29 billion

Wave 3 Strategic Awards

March 2025

East of England	South East
1.2%	12.57%

(£603.9 million was allocated for 17 strategic partnership projects)

Green Heat Network Fund:

2025-2028

£485m

£102m allocated in May 2025

East of England	South East
0%	0%

Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Demonstrators Programme:

£25m

East of England	South East
£2,717,329 (10.9%)	0%

Snapshot: The East of England & South East Net Zero Funding

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DESNZ's Net Zero Accelerator:

East of England
0%

£19m

South East
0%

Total value of funding allocated by the 6 key strategic net zero funds:

£1.77bn

PSDS Phase 4	Warm Homes Strat. Wave 3	Green Heat Network Fund
£940m	£603.9m	£102m
Net Zero Living Demonstrators	Net Zero Accelerator	GB Energy Solar PV
£25m	£19m	£80m

GB Energy's Solar PV investment in schools:

£80m

~200 schools

10 Schools	10 Schools
East of England	South East

£16.3 billion to decarbonise **all** UK schools.
Ashden/GFI, 2025

Funding allocation:

East of England £42.8m
2.42%

South East £112.68m
6.36%

Overview of strategic net zero funding regional allocations

The table below details the regional allocation of funding across the six key strategic funding programmes that have been reviewed as part of this Insights Report. The total value of the funding allocated through these programmes was £1.77 billion.

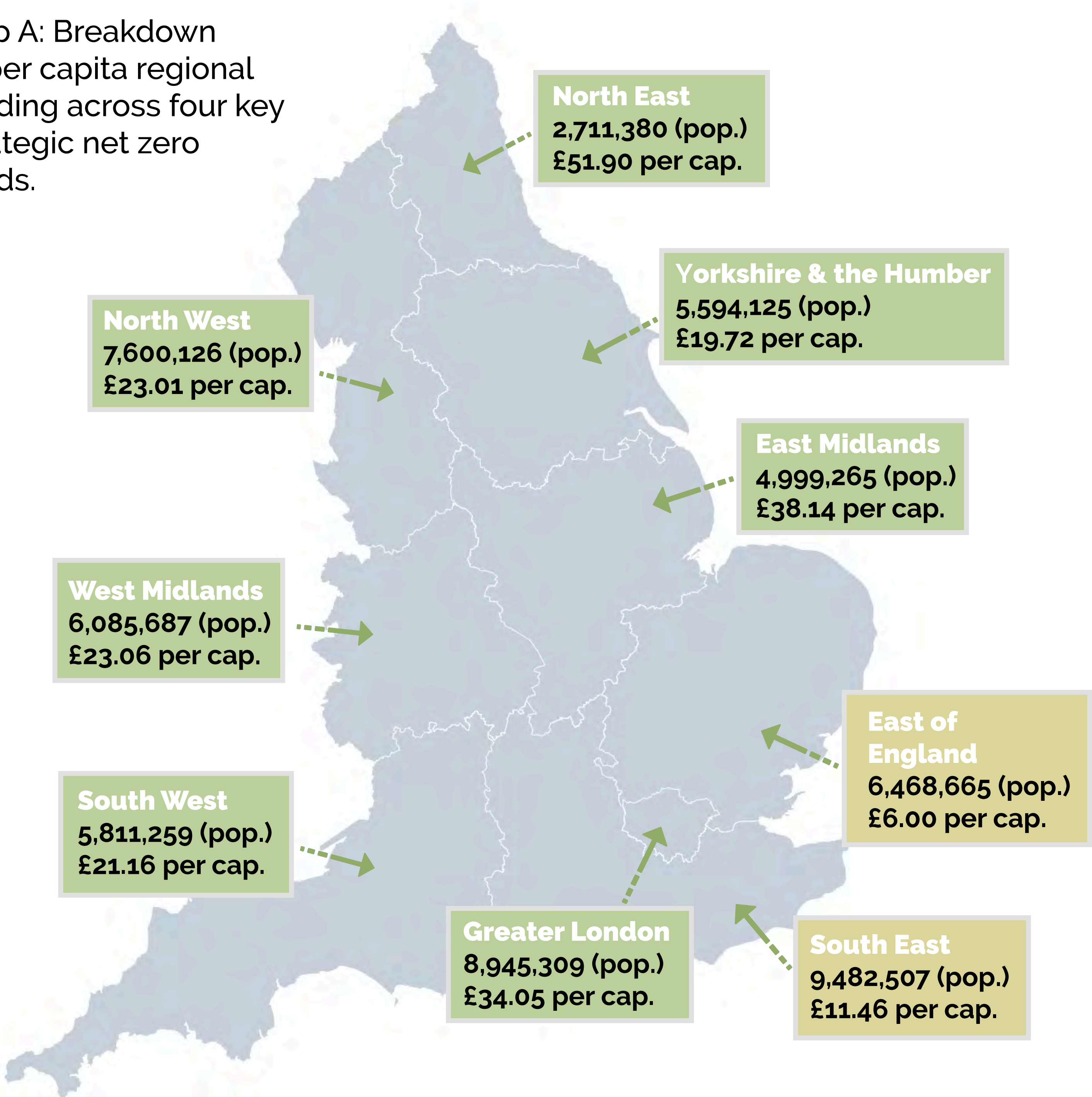
Region	Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 4)	Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (Strategic, Wave 3)	Green Heat Network Fund (May 2025)	DESNZ Local Net Zero Accelerator Programme	Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme: Demonstrators	GB Energy solar PV investment on school buildings
North East	£65,191,456	£72,238,517	£0	£0	£0	£17,600,000
Yorkshire and the Humber	£81,262,778	£25,683,461	£0	Share of £19m	£3,371,806	£4,000,000
North West	£116,815,617	£48,090,405	£7,478,890	Share of £19m	£3,296,990 | £2,522,373	£18,400,000
East Midlands	£73,495,602	£75,857,513	£38,748,000	£0	£2,565,883	£4,000,000
West Midlands	£84,306,700	£51,085,505	£4,939,421	Share of £19m	£0	£19.600,000
East of England	**£29,149,553**	**£6,969,203**	**£0**	**£0**	**£2,717,329**	**£4,000,000**
South East	**£35,720,404**	**£72,961,434**	**£0**	**£0**	**£0**	**£4,000,000**
South West	£30,002,246	£66,721,595	£21,300,000	£0	£4,964,208	£4,000,000
Greater London	£113,914,685	£160,854,841	£29,813,120	£0	£0	£4.400,000

Please note that pages 13-15 of this report have focused upon four of the funding programmes (Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund, Green Heat Network Fund and Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme, Demonstrator Projects. This is because it was hard to identify the full breakdown of funding allocation under DESNZ's Net Zero Accelerator Programme and the GB Energy spend of £80 million was an investment as opposed to a grant.

Key Findings

The East of England (£6.00 per capita) and South East (£11.46 per capita) received the lowest proportion of strategic net zero delivery funds across four key government funding programmes: (i) Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 4); (ii) Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (Strategic Grants, Wave 3); (iii) Green Heat Network Fund (May 2025); and (iv) Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Demonstrator. Comparatively, the North East secured £51.90 per capita, East Midlands £38.14 per capita and Greater London £34.05 per capita:

Map A: Breakdown of per capita regional funding across four key strategic net zero funds.



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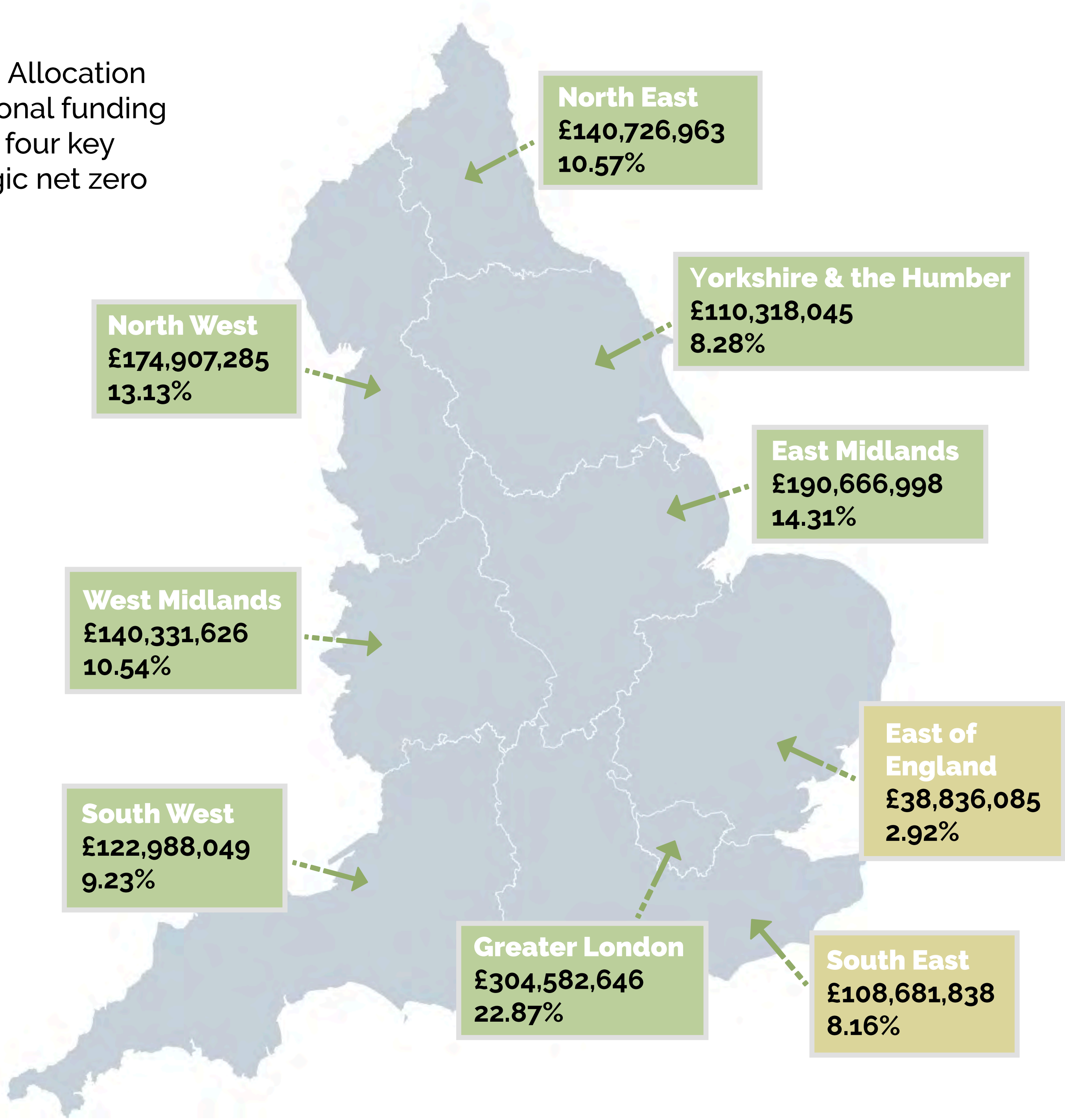
Regional Distribution of Funding

A key theme that emerged from engagement with local authorities during the Innovate UK funded 'Shift to Net Zero' project was that those based in the East of England and South East felt that it was far less likely that they would secure public funding when compared to other regions of England due to their geographic location *.

Map B: Allocation of regional funding across four key strategic net zero funds.



- Nb. DESNZ's Net Zero Accelerator Programme and GB Energy solar PV figures are not included in the map above since exact figures for NZA were not easily accessible and GB Energy was an investment.

Table A: Regional Distribution of Key Strategic Net Zero Grants (£ millions): Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (Phase 4); Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund (Strategic, Wave 3); Green Heat Network Fund (May, 2025) and IUK's Net Zero Living Programme (Demonstrators).

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, Phase 4 Awards

Applications for Phase 4 of the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme opened in October 2024, with approximately £940 million allocated for this phase. As of May 2025, the regional breakdown for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme Phase 4 funding was:

Region	Amount (£)	Percentage (%)
North East	£65,191,456	10.35%
Yorkshire and the Humber	£81,262,778	12.9%
North West	£116,815,617	18.55%
East Midlands	£73,495,602	11.65%
West Midlands	£84,306,700	13.39%
East of England	**£29,149,553**	**4.63%**
South East	**£35,720,404**	**5.67%**
South West	£30,002,246	4.76%
Greater London	£113,914,685	18.09%

From Phase 4 that the East of England (4.63%) and South East's (5.67%) allocation of funding has been significantly less than other regions of England (with the exception of the South West (4.76%).

IBEX EARTH

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The Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund, Wave 3 Strategic Awards

In March 2025, close to £1.3 billion was allocated to local authorities and social housing providers through Wave 3 of the Warms Homes: Social Housing Fund. The table below shows the regional distribution of funds under the scheme's strategic programme, which funded 17 strategic projects to the value of £603.9 million):

Region	Project(s)	Amount (£)	Percentage (%)
North East	Tees Valley Combined Authority & Home Group Limited	£72,238,517	12.45%
Yorkshire and the Humber	West Yorkshire Combined Authority	£25,683,461	4.43%
North West	Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	£48,090,405	8.28%
East Midlands	Nottingham City Council / Midlands Net Zero Hub	£75,857,513	13.07%
West Midlands	Citizen Housing Group & Sanctuary Housing	£51,085,505	8.8%
East of England	**Saffron Housing Trust**	**£6,969,203**	**1.2%**
South East	**Places for People Group, Abri Group & Stonewater Limited**	**£72,961,434**	**12.57%**
South West	West of England Combined Authority	£66,721,595	11.49%
Greater London	London Borough of Camden, Royal Borough of Greenwich, Sovereign Network Group & the Riverside Group	£160,854,841	27.71%

Please note that local authorities in both the East of England and South East secured significant sums outside of the strategic programme, including Basildon Council (£9.65m), Canterbury City Council (£6.6m). South Cambridgeshire District Council (£8.2m), Southend City Council (£3.47m) and Tandridge District Council (£3.2m).

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Green Heat Network Fund

In May 2025, the Green Heat Network Fund announced grants of over £102 million to support the commercialisation and construction of heat networks. Funding was not awarded to any project in the East of England or South East.

Region	Project(s)	Amount (£)	Percentage (%)
North East	None	£0	0%
Yorkshire and the Humber	None	£0	0%
North West	Trafford Civic Quarter Heat Network & Mersey Biochar Heat Network	£7,478,890	7.31%
East Midlands	Derby Energy Network & Lincoln	£38,748,000	37,88%
West Midlands	West Bromwich Heat Network	£4,939,421	4.83%
East of England	**None**	**£0**	**0%**
South East	**None**	**£0**	**0%**
South West	Bristol City Centre	£21,300,000	20.83%
Greater London	South Westminster Area Network & East London Energy	£29,813,120	29.15%

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Innovation Funding

Recent major grants, such as the £19 million Net Zero Accelerator (DESNZ 2023) and Innovate UK's £25 million Net Zero Living Demonstrator Projects (IUK 2023) have seen just 6.8% of funding landing in the East of England and South East (Peterborough City Council secured a bid worth £2,717,329). The Net Zero Accelerator awarded funding to Greater Manchester Combined Authority, West Midlands Combined Authority and the York and North Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Map C: Showing the locations of DESNZ's Net Zero Accelerator & IUK's Net Zero Living Demonstrators.

Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme: Demonstrators

In December 2023, Innovate UK announced the successful recipients of the Net Zero Living Programme's Demonstrator Call, which saw £25 million shared amongst seven successful consortiums, with six projects located in England and one in Scotland. For the purposes of this report, only the projects located in England are included.

Region	Project(s)	Amount (£)	Percentage (%)
North East	None	£0	0%
Yorkshire and the Humber	City of York Council	£3,371,806	4.43%
North West	New Resource Partners Ltd, Liverpool City Council | Rossendale Valley Energy Ltd, Rossendale Borough Council	£3,296,990 | £2,522,373	%
East Midlands	Leicestershire County Council	£2,565,883	%
West Midlands	None	£0	0%
East of England	**Peterborough City Council**	**£2,717,329**	**%**
South East	**None**	**£0**	**0%**
South West	Bristol City Council	£4,964,208	%
Greater London	None	£0	0%

> The government has made it clear that economic growth and more equal access to opportunity are key elements of its ambition to tackle regional disparities in the UK.
>
> **Jessica Corner, Executive Chair of Research England**

The direction of innovation funding

One area of concern that emerged during the writing of this report, was a growing reluctance from some local authorities to join and/or lead consortiums for UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) funding programmes, primarily Innovate UK. This was largely down to a perceived regional bias in funding allocation, which has meant local authorities are now struggling to justify committing the time and resources required to develop a funding application when "chances of success are far less due to where we are based". This was a common sentiment amongst local authorities. But is the feeling justified?

UKRI invested over £9.1 billion in the UK's research and innovation system in the 2023 to 2024 financial year. This is up from £8.4 billion in 2022 to 2023 and £7.8 billion in 2021 to 2022. All regions and nations received an increase in UKRI investment between the financial years 2021 to 2022 and 2023 to 2024 (although both London's and the South East was below inflation, so in reality both areas saw a funding drop in real terms). The greatest absolute increases in investment were seen in the North West, West Midlands and East Midlands. representing a cumulative additional £1.4 billion invested outside the Greater South East. It was the first time regions outside the Greater South East (£4.61 billion) received more than London, the East of England and South East (£4.55 billion).

The dilemma faced by UKRI is that there is simply not enough money to focus research policy to bolster the UK's economic centre (Greater South East) and strengthen the potential research of regions that have traditionally received less funding. The regional data shows that UKRI and government have chosen to pursue the latter. It does appear that it going to be harder for local authorities in the East of England and South East to secure funding in national competitions, such as, Innovate UK's Net Zero Living Programme in the future.

GB Energy Solar PV Investment in Schools

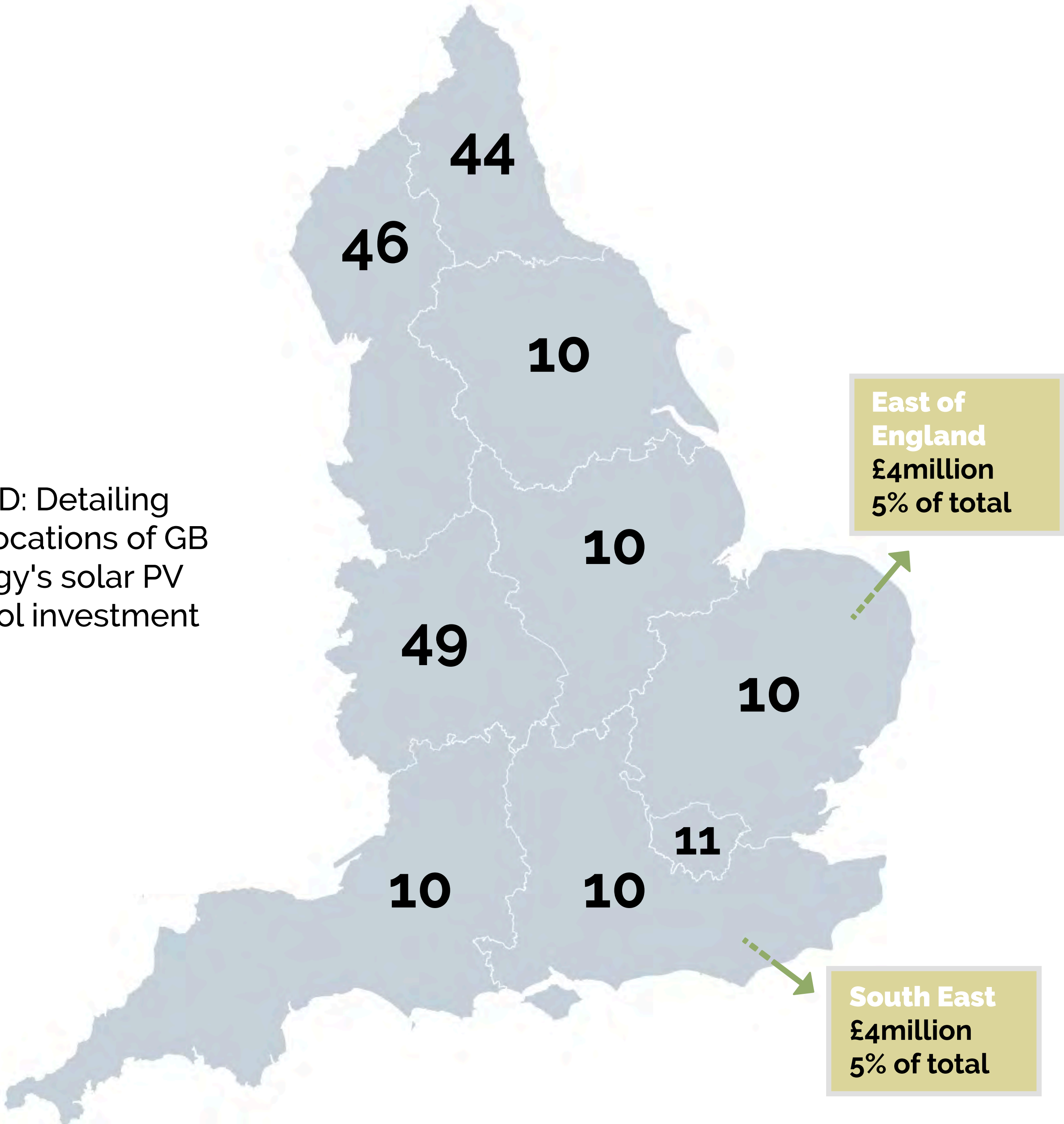
In March 2025, GB Energy announced that it would be investing £80 million in solar PV installations for the benefit of 200 schools in England, at an average cost of £400,000 per installation. The North East, North West and West Midlands were the 'winners' in terms of the initial wave of investments, with each nearly securing a quarter of the overall investment, comparatively other regions were provided enough funding to deliver solar PV projects across 10 school sites (Greater London 11 school sites).

Region	Amount (£)	No. of Schools (%)
North East	£17.6m	44 (22%)
Yorkshire and the Humber	£4m	10 (5%)
North West	£18.4m	46 (23%)
East Midlands	£4m	10 (5%)
West Midlands	£19.6m	49 (24.5%)
East of England	**£4m**	**10 (5%)**
South East	**£4m**	**10 (5%)**
South West	£4m	10 (5%)
Greater London	£4.4m	11 (5.5%)

GB Energy: Solar PV (Schools)

The East of England (5%) and South East (5%) received funding to deliver investments on a combined total of just 20 school buildings (approximately £8 million). This is despite the two regions being home to 6,597 schools, which equates to 26.9% of the total number of schools in England (24,479 schools in the 2024/2025 academic year).

Map D: Detailing the locations of GB Energy's solar PV school investment



Conclusion:

This report has identified a clear regional disparity in the distribution of key strategic funding to support the delivery of net zero. There is a very real risk that some regions, namely the East of England and South East, will be left behind in the low carbon transition if this disparity is not urgently addressed.

The allocation of £1.77 billion through the six key strategic funding programmes reviewed in this report reveals a stark regional imbalance. The East of England secured just 2.42% (£42.8 million) and the South East 6.36% (£112.68 million), despite these regions collectively representing over 25% of England's population (15.9 million people). Other parts of the country are forging well ahead in the low-carbon transition because they are securing the funding to build the necessary capabilities, skills and resources to do so. This emerging disparity in regional funding distribution highlights geographic location as a critical factor in securing strategic net zero grants.

The 'Levelling-Up' agenda and current government plans to 'Power up Britain' have both undoubtedly had a detrimental impact upon the East of England and South East's ability to obtain funding. As a result, local authorities withing these regions struggle to build the capabilities, skills and innovative finance mechanisms needed to accelerate net zero investments at the scale and pace required. They are not going to have the resources to move away from traditional approaches for decarbonising places and will not be able to design investable piplelines of projects that can attract private capital,

The disparity in the allocation of key strategic net zero funding runs a risk of creating 'net zero laggards' in the areas that do not receive adequate and proportionate funding in terms of the scale of the investments that are available to them. The 2024, Shift to Net Zero Project funded by Innovate UK, identified over £46 billion in potential local net zero projects across Essex, Kent, Surrey and Brighton & Hove. Yet, without securing sufficient funding to develop these projects into investable pipelines, these areas risk missing out on transformative investments that could deliver substantial economic, social and environmental benefits.

A strategic reset is essential to empower local authorities in the East of England and South East with the resources, capabilities and skills to develop robust, scalable, and financially attractive net zero pipelines. Only through balanced investment can England ensure every region contributes equally to national net zero targets.

Insights Report:
The State of **Net Zero**

About the Report:

This '**Insights** Report: The State of **Net Zero**' is the first in a series of publications by Ibex Earth's 'Creating Sustainable Cities' initiative that explores the current state of net zero delivery in England. The aim of the series is to highlight the need for central government to shift the focus of its strategic funding programmes for net zero delivery to one that develops the capabilities, skills and resources for all local authorities in England to develop investable pipelines of projects that attract private capital and help to remove the burden on the public purse to decarbonise our cities and towns.

About the Author:

A former city-lawyer, Chris Livemore is the founder of Ibex Earth and has close to two decades worth of experience in delivering sustainability programmes for his clients across the public, private, third and academic sectors.

An international award winning, not-for-profit sustainability consultancy, established in 2008 to instigate long-term, sustainable change for our planet. We support our clients achieve their environmental objectives.

An initiative that works with cities and towns in the UK to co-create and implement sustainable solutions to common urban challenges. Since 2018, the initiative has secured over £53 million of grant funding to help create more sustainable cities.

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It is getting harder and harder to secure innovation funding for our organisation - we aren't a geographic priority and cannot justify the time and resources it takes to write bids anymore..

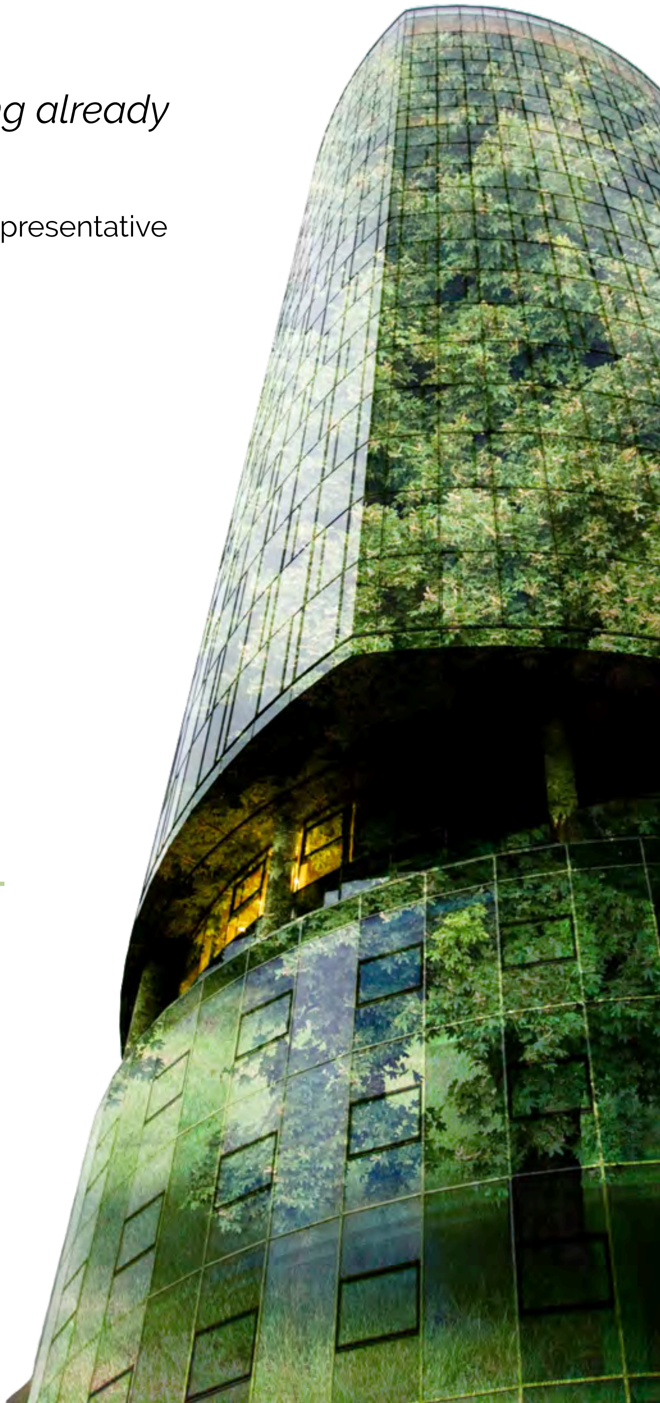
Local Authority Representative

We know where the money is going already and it isn't to the South East.

Academic Representative

Unfortunately, in this instance, we are not able to join the consortium because we are not in the right part of the country to be in with a chance of winning the funding.

Local Authority Representative



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