

# **Oxfordshire's Low Carbon Economy**

## The project team & steering committee

#### Environmental Change Institute



With thanks to Santander and Oxfordshire County Council for the grant funding

**COUNCIL** 

#### Oxfordshire's low carbon economy (2013)

... is worth > £1.15bn per year in sales

... which is 7% of the County's GVA

... employing nearly 9,000 people

... in more than 570 businesses

... with 'cluster' expertise in building technologies, alternative fuels / AFVs and renewable electricity

Private / public investment of £100m per year in the low carbon economy could create an additional 10,000 jobs and contribute ~ £1bn annually to Oxfordshire's economy by 2030

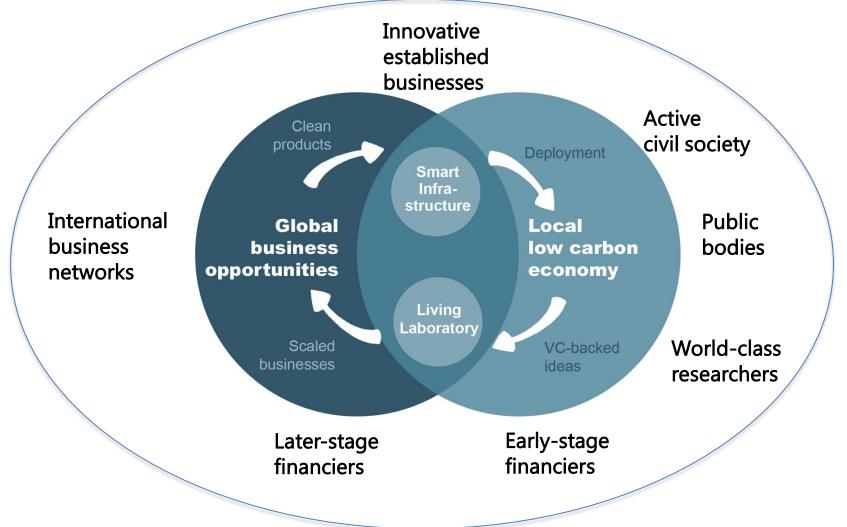
- 1. Research and knowledge-intensive activity
  - Support researchers in winning grants from EU and UK research councils
  - Enhance connectivity between ideas and commercialisation, inc funding
- 2. Test beds for deployment and implementation
  - Use the 'living labs' to deploy technologies & develop business models
  - Training and local skilled jobs in (low carbon) building sector, inc NEETs, rural etc
- 3. Scale manufacturing
  - export orientated (in a \$1-3 trillion global market for low carbon products)
  - high tech, where a high-cost labour economy has a competitive advantage
- 4. Supporting services for low-carbon activity in Oxfordshire and elsewhere:
  - business

professional

policy

technical etc

Growth opportunities correlate to areas needing investment – transport, buildings & energy – so infrastructure investment supports low carbon business growth, skills development & job creation



... so that decarbonising our infrastructure would support the development of low carbon innovation and business opportunities...

#### What needs to happen

- 1. Focused support for growth sectors and clusters, such as:
  - alternative fuel vehicles
  - renewable and smart electricity innovations
- Investment in enabling infrastructure, coordination, networks, public strategies & funding to support innovation and growth
- 3. Specific business cases for public and private sector investment in the context of existing strategies and investment plans (e.g. City Deal, SEP, ESIF, Smart City etc)
- 4. Smart cluster branding, a county cluster champion making it easier to attract & retain skills and access enabling infrastructure and investment

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### What are we doing now

- ✓ Launching the low carbon economy report
- ✓ Mapping Oxfordshire's low carbon ecosystem
- ✓ Shaping the ESIF Implementation Plan & low carbon funds
- ✓ Developing a projects 'database'
- ✓ Deepening relationships (eg Climate-KIC, LEPs, clusters etc)
- ✓ Initiating 'phase 2' (inc AgileOx, incubator, engagement)
- ✓ Telling the 'living laboratory' story

- How can we integrate the learning from the low carbon economy work into our growth strategies and plans?
  - SEP
  - Smart City
- How do we fund and nurture this living laboratory ecosystem – do actors 'self identify' as part of the low carbon economy?
  - ESIF
  - Centre of gravity and engagement

# OXFORDSHIRE Anne Augustine Low Carbon Oxford September 2014