Chapter Seven – Local and Sustainable Economy

Environmental Industries in the city

The economic potential of developing, designing and manufacturing wind turbines, solar panels, insulation material and other hardware needed to tackle climate change, support waste management and recycling, reclaim contaminated land, deal with all forms of pollution and will help Brighton & Hove become a low carbon city.[159]

Environmental Industries are "…businesses operating in the broad disciplines of energy efficiency, recycling and waste, renewable energy, sustainable construction and maintenance, consultancy and other services" (BHCC Scrutiny Panel on Environment Industries 2010).

- *In 2007 a Sustainable Eco-Enterprise (SEE) Directory for East Sussex was produced by Ecosys, a local environmental consultancy. Of the 185 businesses SEE identified in the region:*
    - *Renewable Energy – 17%*
    - *Sustainable Construction – 22%*
    - *Waste and Recycling – 30%*
    - *Various 31%*

    - *This Directory included 67 SEE businesses in Brighton & Hove, which represented 36% of the SEE businesses in East Sussex.*

- *Recent figures regarding the environmental industries sector come from the Business Retention and Inward Investment (BRII, March 2009) Strategy commissioned by the council. The BRII reports that Brighton & Hove has:*

  "…around 75 businesses that fall within the definition of environmental technologies at the current time, as recorded by the City Council."

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[159] BHCC Scrutiny Panel: Environmental Industries 2010

Although no specific clusters of activity were identified in the BRII, key subsectors (based on number of firms) in Brighton & Hove included:

- *Commercial Waste Disposal (20 businesses)*
- *Environmental Consultants (17 businesses)*
- *Domestic Waste Disposal (11 businesses)*
- *Energy Saving Consultants (7 businesses)*

Indicator 44 Number of tourism businesses within the city that have green accreditation

The Green Tourism Business Scheme is the national sustainable tourism certification scheme for the UK. Businesses opting to join Green Tourism are assessed by a qualified grading advisor against a rigorous set of criteria, covering a range of areas, like energy and water efficiency, waste management, biodiversity and more.

- There are currently 9 hotels within the city that have green accreditation.[160]
- Of these, four have Gold Standard, three have Silver Standard, one is rated Bronze and the other is waiting to be graded.

There are approximately 152 businesses in the South East Region registered under the Green Tourism Business Scheme. There are 21 businesses registered in East Sussex and 9 of these are located within Brighton & Hove.

Indicator 45 Carbon Reduction Commitment registered businesses

In 2011 there were 5 businesses registered under the Carbon Reduction Commitment within the city[161], including:

- American Express
- Brighton & Hove City Council

The CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme is a mandatory scheme to improve energy efficiency and therefore cut CO2 emissions in large public and private sector organisations. The scheme features a range of reputational, behavioural and financial drivers which aim to encourage organisations to develop energy management strategies that promote a better understanding of energy usage. This is the UK's first mandatory carbon trading scheme.

[160] Green Tourism Business Scheme
[161] Environment Agency 2011

- Brighton & Sussex University Hospital NHS Trust
- University of Brighton
- University of Sussex

Fairtrade

We are a Fairtrade city: *Fairtrade is about better prices, decent working conditions, local sustainability, & fair terms of trade for farmers & workers in the developing world.*