



# HERTFORDSHIRE LOW CARBON INNOVATION NETWORK



17 May 2017

## HOTEL OPERATORS SET ENERGY SAVING CHALLENGE FOR HERTS SMES

Hertfordshire's top hotels are challenging local SMEs to come up with innovative solutions to help them reduce their energy consumption.

The Hotel Low Carbon Challenge, launched this week by the Hertfordshire Low Carbon Innovation Network, is being run by building science centre BRE in partnership with the Green Triangle and Synoptic Technologies and is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund.

At the forefront of the challenge, BRE has brought together Hertfordshire based Champneys, independent Aubrey Park Hotel and a large international hotel chain, who are all actively looking at ways to reduce their energy consumption and carbon emissions.

Jackie Sharp, Senior Sustainability Advisor at BRE said: "We are all becoming much more aware of the issues around high energy usage and the need to reduce our carbon emissions. BRE is delighted to be supporting local SMEs with low carbon innovations, bringing them together with leading names in the hotel industry to reduce carbon emissions in the built environment".

SMEs who have technical or service based innovations that are either close to market or market ready, and which will reduce energy consumption by a considerable margin, will be interested in this initiative. Innovative solutions could focus on sub-metering and monitoring to help target excessive or unnecessary energy usage; thermal improvements to the building and windows; reduction or re-use of energy in kitchens; heat recovery from waste water or improved heating or HVAC control systems which can be retro-fitted.

A huge incentive to taking up this opportunity is that eligible enterprises will be provided with 12 hours of free innovation support from BRE to help grow their offer. Those businesses whose ideas are judged to most closely match the needs of the hotels and to be technically viable will be invited to present their solutions at a pitch event with potential buyers.

**Supporting Herts based SMEs to deliver low carbon innovations in response to defined, built environment challenges**



press release



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Herts-based innovators interested in taking part in the Hotel Low Carbon Challenge can register their energy saving innovations via the Synoptic registration portal <https://app.synoptica.com/public/projects/136> As a bonus, your details will be held on a green technologies database and, in the future, will be made available to other client organisations looking for low carbon and energy efficient solutions.

### ENDS

Notes for editors:

PR contact, Lesley Wilde, Wilde Thing PR

M: 07920 707000 E: [lesley@wildething.co.uk](mailto:lesley@wildething.co.uk)

**For more information about the Challenge**, please contact Jackie Sharp at BRE:

T: 01923 665249 E: [Jackie.sharp@bre.co.uk](mailto:Jackie.sharp@bre.co.uk)

The Herts LCIN project is part funded by the **European Regional Development Fund** (ERDF). The project is receiving up to £630,000 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>.

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**European Union**  
European Regional  
Development Fund

**BRE** is a world leading building science centre that generates new knowledge through research. This is used to create products, tools and standards that drive positive change across the built environment. BRE helps its government and private sector clients meet the significant environmental, social and economic challenges they faces in delivering homes, buildings and communities. BRE is owned by the BRE Trust, a registered charity. The Trust uses the profits made by the BRE companies to fund research and education that advances knowledge of the built environment. [www.bregroup.com](http://www.bregroup.com)

**The Green Triangle** aims to establish Hertfordshire as a globally renowned centre of excellence in green technology. The Green Triangle is a partnership organisation based around three world leading research institutes, BRE, Rothamsted Research and The University of Hertfordshire, with the support of St Albans City and District Council and Oaklands College. It is focused and committed on supporting the growth and acceleration of green industries, with a key focus on developing SME capacity in this space.

**Synoptic Technologies'** unique platform, Synoptica, uncovers and manages innovative solutions for many of the world's leading brands and government agencies, helping companies to discover new technologies, processes and services for specific projects or as part of a corporate strategy. This platform also enables leading technology providers to connect with our customers. It has helped start-ups and researchers obtain deals and partnerships with some of the world's largest organisations.

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