



THE SOLENT CLUSTER

HOW TO...

FIND FEASIBILITY CONSULTANTS FOR DECARBONISATION ACTIVITIES IN THE UK

Feasibility consultants help organisations assess the technical, economic, and regulatory aspects of their decarbonisation plans to make informed decisions. They can ensure your decarbonisation goals are achievable, effective, and aligned with best practices.

By clearly defining your needs, researching potential consultants, and evaluating proposals, you can select an expert who will provide the insights and support necessary for your project's success.

STEP BY STEP GUIDE

1. UNDERSTAND YOUR NEEDS AND GOALS

Before you begin searching for feasibility consultants, it's important to clearly define the scope of your decarbonisation project. Consider the following:

- **Scope of Work**
Are you focusing on a single area, such as renewable energy integration, carbon footprint analysis, or energy efficiency, or do you need a consultant who can manage a broader decarbonisation strategy?
- **Project Scale**
Are you looking to decarbonise a small business or a large, multi-site operation? Larger projects might require consultants with specific expertise in complex, multi-faceted decarbonisation strategies.
- **Regulatory Compliance**
Do you need guidance on meeting UK government regulations or international sustainability standards, such as the UK Climate Change Act, Net Zero Strategy, or ISO 14001?

2. IDENTIFY THE RIGHT TYPE OF FEASIBILITY CONSULTANT

Feasibility consultants in decarbonisation have different specialisations. Depending on the nature of your project, you'll need to find a consultant with expertise in specific areas of decarbonisation. Consider the following:

- **Energy Efficiency Consultants** assess your current energy use and recommend ways to reduce consumption through energy-saving technologies and practices.
- **Renewable Energy Experts** can assess the feasibility of implementing renewable energy (e.g. solar, wind, or biomass energy) on your premises.
- **Carbon Footprint and Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) Consultants** help quantify and reduce the carbon footprint of your business or products.
- **Sustainability and Environmental Consultants** offer comprehensive strategies for decarbonisation that consider a range of environmental impacts, including energy, waste, and water usage.

- **Building Services Consultants** can advise on energy-efficient systems, green building certification, and integrating sustainable design for retrofitting or building new sustainable structures.
- **Regulatory Compliance and Policy Experts** understand environmental law and regulatory frameworks to help you comply with local or international regulations.

3. ENGAGE WITH INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS AND NETWORKS

Industry associations such as [The Solent Cluster](#) can help connect you with experienced decarbonisation consultants who are active in the sustainability and environmental sectors. Networking with professionals at industry events helps you to find highly-qualified consultants with up-to-date knowledge of regulations and best practices. Links to a range of directories and networks can be found at the end of this document.

4. REVIEW CASE STUDIES AND TESTIMONIALS

When evaluating potential consultants, reviewing case studies and client testimonials is essential to understand their expertise and the results they've achieved for other clients. Many consultants publish detailed case studies of successful decarbonisation projects, which can give you insights into their approach, process, and results. Consider the following:

- **Check their Website** or case studies and detailed project portfolios. Look for projects similar in scope and size to yours.
- **Ask for Client References** particularly those in your sector. Hearing direct clients' experiences can help you assess the consultant's effectiveness.
- **Industry Recognition and Awards** in sustainability or carbon reduction.

5. EVALUATE PROPOSALS AND CONDUCT INTERVIEWS

Once you have identified a shortlist of consultants, reach out to them to request proposals for your decarbonisation feasibility study. A strong consultant will offer a clear and structured proposal. Consider the following:

- **Methodology:** Does the consultant's approach align with your goals? Ensure they use the latest tools and techniques in decarbonisation feasibility studies.
- **Experience and Expertise:** Do they have experience in the area of decarbonisation you are focusing on and familiar with regulations and industry standards?
- **Cost and Timeline:** Compare costs and timelines among consultants to ensure you're receiving value for money without compromising quality.
- **Communication and Support:** Is the consultant clear in their communication or are they using jargon you don't yet understand? What support and advice do they offer?

6. BUILD A LONG-TERM RELATIONSHIP

Decarbonisation is an ongoing process, and you may need further support as you implement and refine your decarbonisation strategy. A strong relationship ensures that the consultant understands your business and can continue to offer valuable insights and guidance.

TIPS AND TRICKS

- **Innovation Zero:** The UK's largest Net Zero congress held at London Olympia, offers a great opportunity to network with like minded individuals and track down potential feasibility consultants.
- **BREEAM Certified Consultants:** For building-specific feasibility, certified BREEAM (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method) consultants can assess energy efficiency and sustainability aspects of your building or development projects.

LINKS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

The Carbon Trust: A key player in carbon reduction, the Carbon Trust offers consultancy services and can refer you to third-party experts in decarbonisation. Their website provides case studies and a list of potential consultants.

Green Construction Board (GCB): If you are involved in construction or retrofitting, the GCB's network includes consultants who specialise in low-carbon buildings and sustainable construction practices.

Energy Saving Trust (EST): EST offers advice and consultancy services for reducing energy consumption, including feasibility studies for renewable energy adoption and energy efficiency projects.

Renewable Energy Association (REA): The REA is a leading trade body for renewable energy and clean technologies in the UK. Their website features a directory of consultants, including those who specialise in feasibility studies for renewable energy projects.

CIBSE (Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers): CIBSE offers accreditation and networking opportunities for professionals in building services, including those focused on low-carbon energy systems and sustainability.

Environmental Industries Commission (EIC): A trade association that represents the UK environmental services sector, EIC provides networking and consultancy opportunities in sustainability.

UK Green Building Council (UKGBC): UKGBC is a platform for the building sector that focuses on sustainability and decarbonisation in the built environment. They can connect you with consultants in areas like energy-efficient building design and carbon-neutral construction.

The Solent Cluster: Working towards a lower carbon future.

Innovate UK: UKRI.