

Broadland businesses can access funding to boost the rural economy

A new scheme has been launched to help rural businesses and communities in Broadland and parts of North Norfolk.

The Norfolk Coast and Broads scheme will allow businesses, social enterprises and charities in the eastern parts of Broadland to apply for match funding for environmental and sustainable projects. Project must be based on the sustainable use of environmental assets, with elements of improving the use of waste, energy and water resources to enhance the environment and to improve business competitiveness.

Facilitators will work with businesses to help shape their ideas and help them to apply for grant funding. They will also encourage collaborations between businesses to develop joint projects for grant funding.

Michael Mack, Director of the Norfolk Rural Business Advice Service, said "By utilising the natural assets of each area and promoting their products and identity, all partners hope that the funding will create and expand businesses, help to support diversification of the rural economy and sustain rural communities."

Examples of projects can include maximising the use of wood fuel as a sustainable energy source in a business, farmers and growers collaborating in water catchment schemes, and expansion of community facilities using sustainable materials.

Organisations eligible to apply for funding must come under at least one of the following categories:

- Individual trainees dependent upon agriculture for a living
- Training provider
- Charity
- Social enterprise
- Woodland owner
- Farm / forestry business
- Rural business
- Tourism enterprise
- Existing micro enterprise or person wishing to set up a micro-enterprise
- Woodland based business

For more information please contact Richard Rampton at Norfolk Rural Business Advice Service on 01603 731241 or visit www.ruraladvice.co.uk (click on 'RDPE Leader')

Parts of Broadland eligible to apply for this funding include:

Acle, Belaugh, Blofield, Brundall, Cantley, Freethorpe, Great and Little Plumstead, Halvergate, Hemblington, Lingwood and Burlingham, Postwick with Witton, Rackheath, Reedham, Salhouse, South Walsham, Sprowston, Strumpshaw, Upton with Fishley, Woodbastwick, Wroxham

