

**ecoConnect's London "Project Green Zone" Business Centre**

**Executive Summary:** Our ambition is to create London's first business facility for cleantech companies and to support the creation and growth of jobs in this important sector.

ecoConnect CIC is an Economic/Business Development initiative to assist, develop & promote Cleantech in London and throughout the UK.

ecoConnect's Business Centre will provide centralised, affordable, open-plan hot-desk space and meeting rooms for cleantech businesses wanting a presence in London. It will also support selected cleantech SMEs with an accelerator programme to get their businesses ready to attract investment faster. It is planned to be operational in 2011.

As well as providing a business environment where cleantech companies can interact and develop partnerships, this facility will also provide a wide range of business support services in areas including: R&D, business strategy development and IP protection.

**Services:**

- Offices and shared work space for cleantech companies in the heart of London
- Co-location with other cleantech organisations
- Business Acceleration & Funding assistance
- Regional and International introductions
- University/industry research and development collaboration
- Networking and business to business opportunities
- Facilitated business events, training and workshops
- Lead generation and referral
- Business plan development
- Business Research
- Apprentice and Internships

**The Need:** The growth of the UK's cleantech sector presents huge opportunities for revenue generation and job creation. Its strong academic and research base generates ideas and technologies with potential, but there are big challenges for expanding cleantech businesses and start ups seeking to commercialise, including high regulatory hurdles and large investment and support requirements. These can prevent innovative technology businesses from reaching their potential and the challenges will intensify as public sector innovation support is tightened.

From engaging with our membership, we know there is a pressing need to provide greater support to the cleantech community in the UK. Many have stated they would benefit from having a reasonable cost business presence, close to London investment, professional services providers, corporate users and policy makers.

**About ecoConnect:** ecoConnect CIC, a non-profit association, exists to serve the UK cleantech sector. It has a business register of +15,000 and membership of +3500 made up of cleantech businesses, SMEs, investors, advisors and other interest groups.

ecoConnect's brand and reputation, its network and its capabilities provide a unique platform from which to address this need through the London Green Zone Business Centre.

**ecoConnect CIC seeks support from Professional services partnerships, Investors and Government Agencies to help implement this programme.**

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