

Green economy: a UK success story

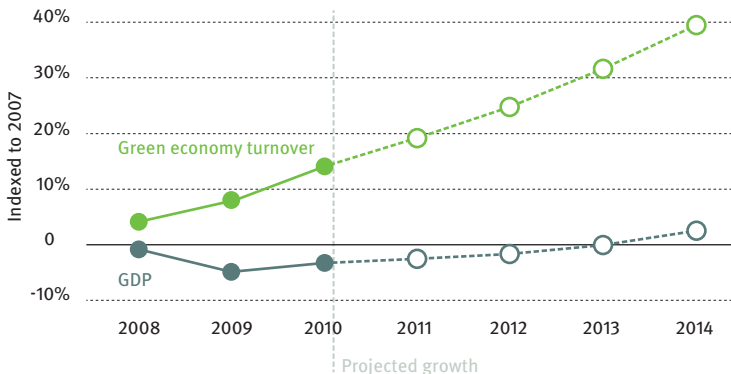
“green
alliance...”



Recession resilience

How does the green economy compare?

Indexed growth rate since the financial crisis¹



Size of UK economy 2011¹

Green economy
£122bn

General economy
£1,315bn

“Over a third of the UK’s economic growth in 2011-12 is likely to have come from green business”
CBI, 2012²

Low carbon and environmental jobs compared
to other sectors 2010-11³



Low carbon and environmental
939,600



Financial services
1,061,900



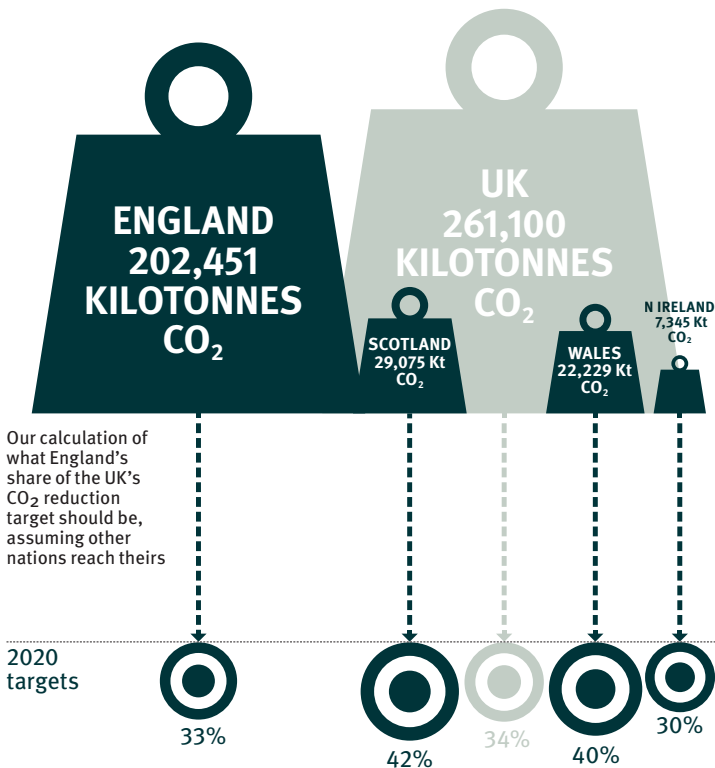
Motor trade manufacture and retail
518,400



Telecoms
212,900

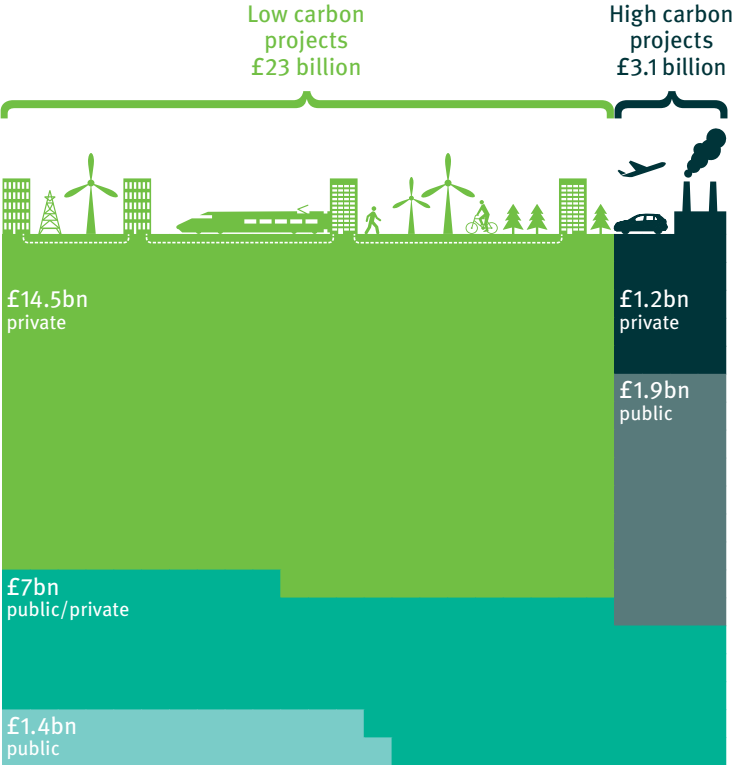
Market certainty

Clear CO₂ reduction objectives...⁴



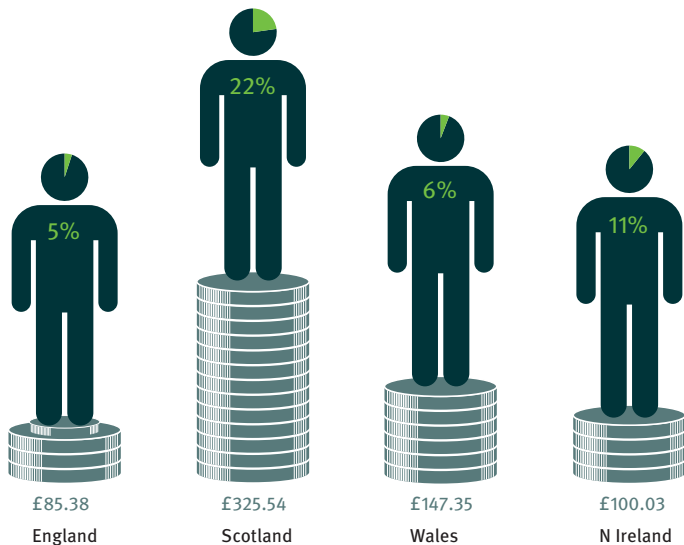
...leading to investment

Spending on the top 20 infrastructure projects
(by cost) started or confirmed 2012-13⁵



...low carbon outcomes⁶

Renewable electricity consumed per capita across the UK 2011-12

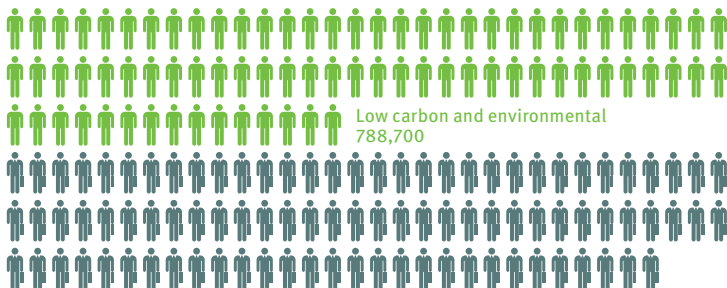


Investment in renewables per capita
April 2011 – March 2012

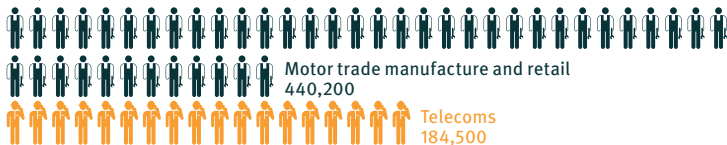
...and jobs³

Low carbon and environmental jobs across the UK 2010-11

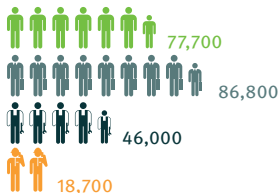
England



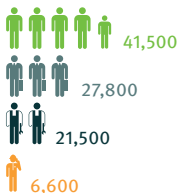
Financial services
929,600



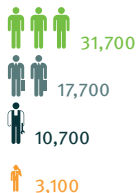
Scotland



Wales



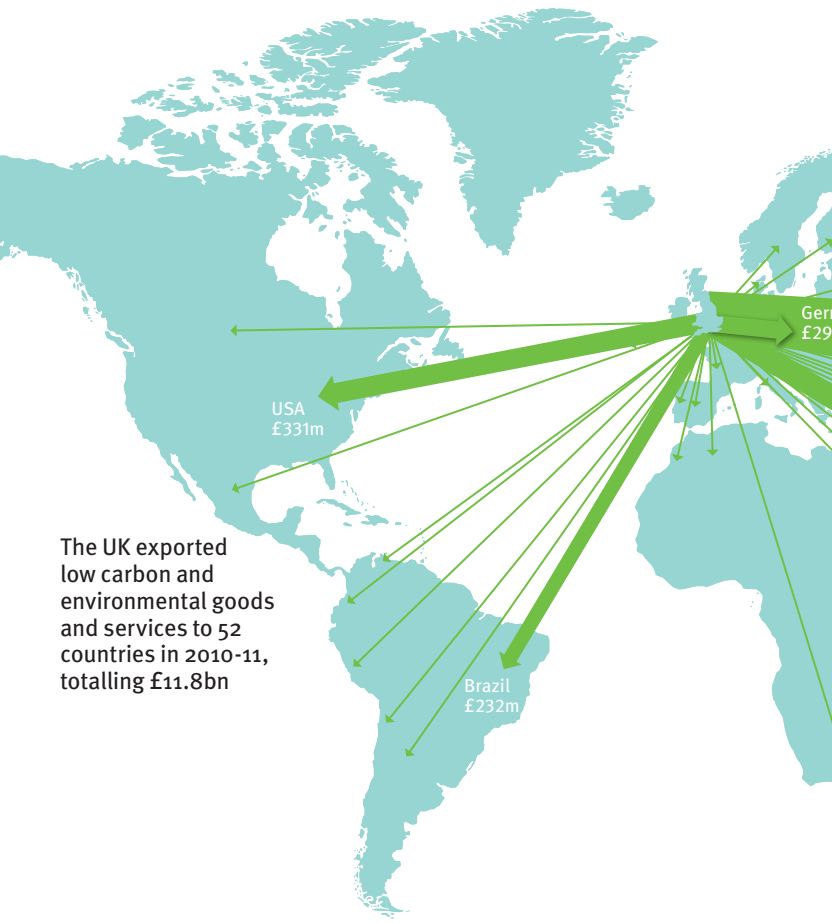
N Ireland



Green employment is spread evenly across the country and correlates exactly with the population of each nation, eg England has 84% of the population and 84% of the green jobs

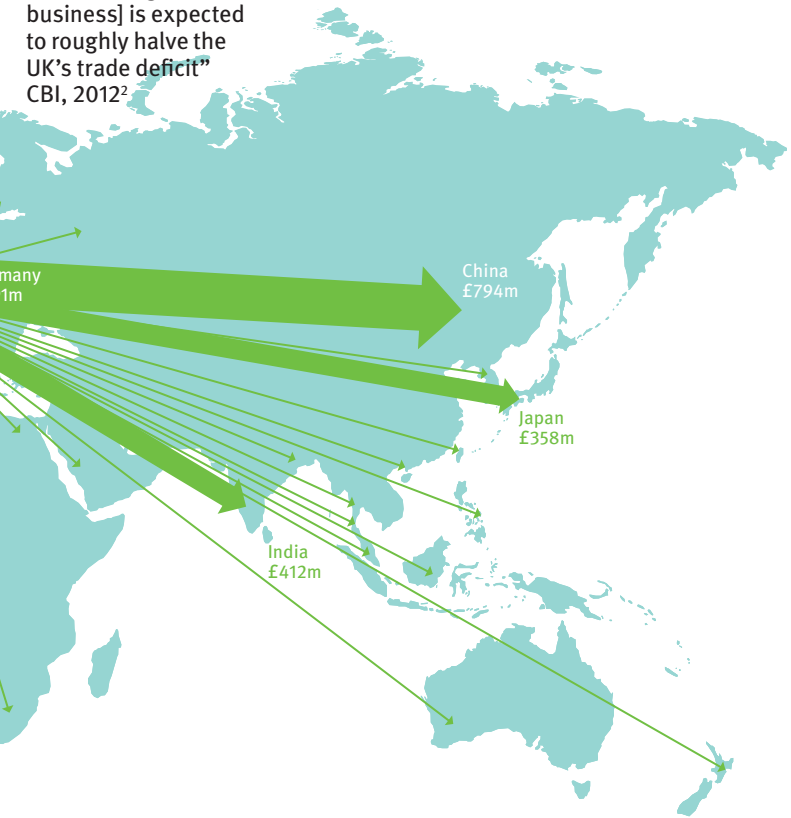
Global leadership

Where are the UK's green export markets?²⁷

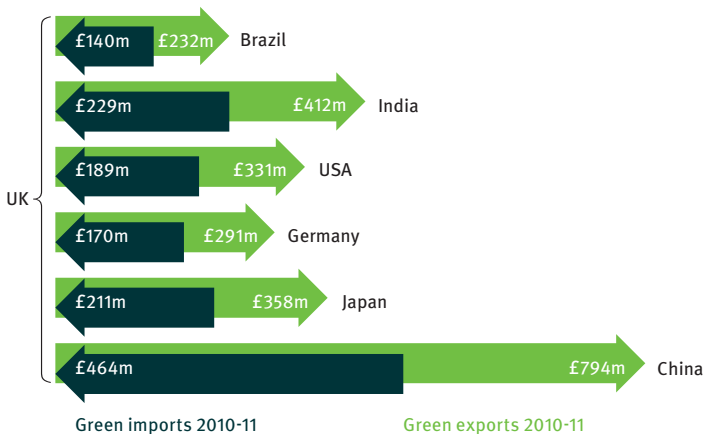


The UK exported low carbon and environmental goods and services to 52 countries in 2010-11, totalling £11.8bn

“In 2014-15, [green business] is expected to roughly halve the UK’s trade deficit”
CBI, 2012²



How do UK green exports compare with competitors?⁷



The UK is the green financing capital of the world⁸

One third of all global asset finance investment in new energy deals between 2007 and 2012 received both legal and financial advice from the UK



A UK success story

We are often told of the benefits that come from creating a greener economy and the advantage that will come from being a first mover. It is now clear that we don't need to wait for these benefits. The UK has moved and we are seeing the advantage.

Our low carbon and environmental sector has shown that it's not just for the good times, but that it has continued to grow steadily even whilst broader economic activity slows.

This is the outcome of setting ambitious environmental targets and creating long term market incentives for green goods and services. It has given the private sector confidence to invest billions of pounds in these markets. In contrast, the UK's high carbon infrastructure projects now have much lower leverage on private capital and are being propped up by greater proportions of public spending.

The return on our investment in greening the economy is being felt across the country, with nearly a million people now employed in providing low carbon and environmental goods and services, outstripping employment in other sectors such as telecoms.

Quietly and without fanfare, green business has become a UK success story, at home and abroad. We now export more green products and services to our competitors than we import from them, and we have become the green financing capital of the world.

This success should be celebrated. With greater public recognition and stronger confidence green businesses can help secure a faster and more resilient economic recovery.

Data sources

¹ Department for Business, Innovation & Skills (BIS), 2012, *Low carbon environmental goods and services: report for 2010-11*; Office for National Statistics (ONS), 2012, *Quarterly national accounts Q4 2011*; Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), 2012, *Economic and fiscal outlook*

² CBI, 2012, *The colour of growth: maximising the potential of green business*

³ Green jobs: BIS, 2012, *Low carbon environmental goods and services: report for 2010-11*; other jobs: ONS, 2011, *Business register employment survey 2010*

⁴ Emissions levels: AEA, 2011, *Greenhouse gas inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 1990 – 2009*; emissions targets: HM Government, 2008, *Climate Change Act*; Scottish Government, 2009, *Climate Change (Scotland) Act*; Welsh Assembly Government, 2010, *Climate change strategy for Wales*; Northern Ireland Executive, 2012, *Programme for government 2011-15*

⁵ HM Treasury, 2011, *Infrastructure investment pipeline data*

⁶ Renewables consumption: Department for Energy & Climate Change (DECC), 2011, *Electricity generation and supply figures for Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and England, 2007 to 2010*; investment: DECC, 2012, *Renewables investment and jobs*; ONS, 2011, *Population estimates for UK, England and Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, mid-2010*

⁷ BIS, 2012, *Low carbon environmental goods and services: report for 2010-11*

⁸ Data courtesy of Bloomberg New Energy Finance

⁹ BIS, 2012, *Low carbon environmental goods and services: report for 2010-11*; UN, 2011, *World population prospects: the 2010 revision*

More detailed references are available at www.green-alliance.org.uk/UKsuccess

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Cover image

The UK has higher per capita green turnover than Germany, Brazil and China.⁹

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