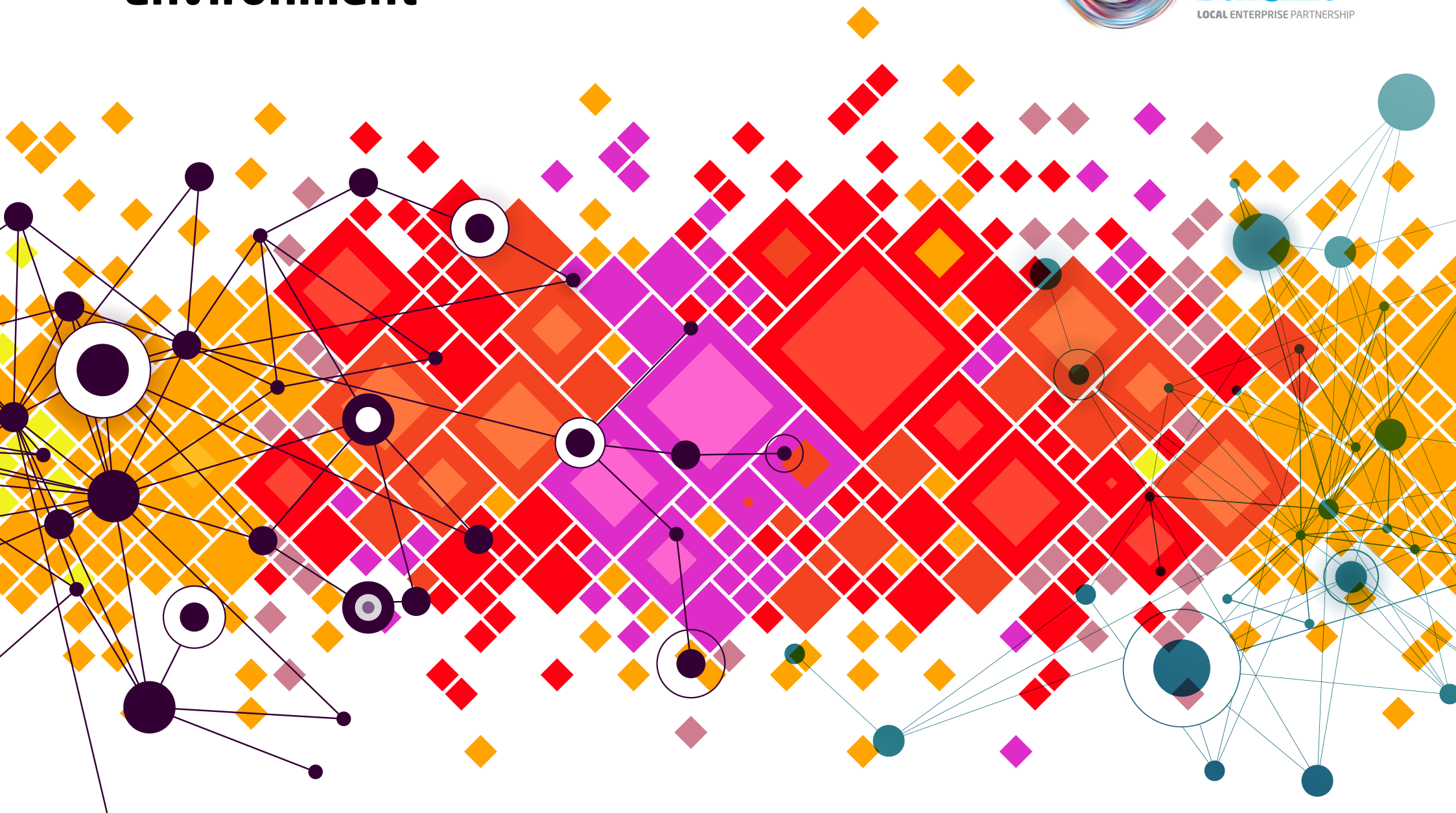


# Energy & **Environment**



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# Introduction

Home to cutting edge research and innovation, including the Thames Valley Vision £30m energy efficiency project, Thames Valley Berkshire is the perfect location for new and established energy and environment companies. With a large pool of scientific and tech talent, research expertise at the world-class University of Reading, easy access to London and Europe, and a high quality living environment, it has all the ingredients to help innovative companies thrive.

Sheeplands Farm in Berkshire:  
the first UK farm that used a  
floating solar system



# Opportunity Thames Valley Berkshire

## Cutting-edge research leading to commercial solutions

Thames Valley Berkshire (TVB) is an economic powerhouse of enormous importance to the UK. Its diverse mix of sector clusters and highly skilled workforce provide opportunities for cross-sector collaboration and knowledge transfer. Its prominent digital technology sector provides a large pool of tech and data analytics talent.

The energy and environment sector is a burgeoning sector within TVB, with numerous small, innovative companies spinning out and sub-contracting from bigger corporations based in the area.

TVB is part of a wider 'west of Heathrow' cluster of oil and gas exploration companies, attracted by the world class connectivity that Heathrow provides. TVB itself is home to two global oil and gas exploration companies (BG Group and Centrica) and a number of supply chain SMEs.

Other areas of specialism include Green Energy (particularly Smart Grids), Environmental Analytics, Climate Change and Environmental Engineering.

Research expertise in climate change and environmental analytics impacts on renewables, agri-tech, biopharma, transport, the built environment and insurance services, and has created a local cluster of knowledge-connected sectors and technologies.

## Quick reference

- Established and growing energy and environment sector
- World-leader in environmental research
- Large pool of tech and analytics talent
- Opportunities for collaboration and commercialisation of ideas
- Sought-after location in which to work and live

# Location



Who's here?





# An established and growing sector

## Who's here?

There are approximately 110 core energy and environment businesses operating in Thames Valley Berkshire, employing around 3,000 people. In addition there are construction and technology companies working within the wider energy and environment sector.

The number of core businesses operating in the sector in the sub region has nearly quadrupled over the last five years. Large energy companies with a presence in TVB include: SSE, Centrica, BG Group, GE Energy, Honeywell and the National Grid.

In terms of employment, more people are employed in the electricity industry in TVB than the national average and over five times as many people are employed in the oil industry (predominately due to the presence of BG Group).

## Why are they here?

SMEs and corporates are based in Thames Valley Berkshire due to the first class connectivity; it's on the doorstep of London and London Heathrow Airport. There is also a history of successful collaboration between academia, industry and government partners in the area – the Triple Helix.

The University of Reading has specialisms in climate and weather; research energy technologies; energy grids; energy demand; environmental engineering; energy systems and urban sustainability. To the north of TVB, the University of Oxford runs the Oxford Networks for the Environment in the following areas: Biodiversity; Climate; Energy; Food and Water.

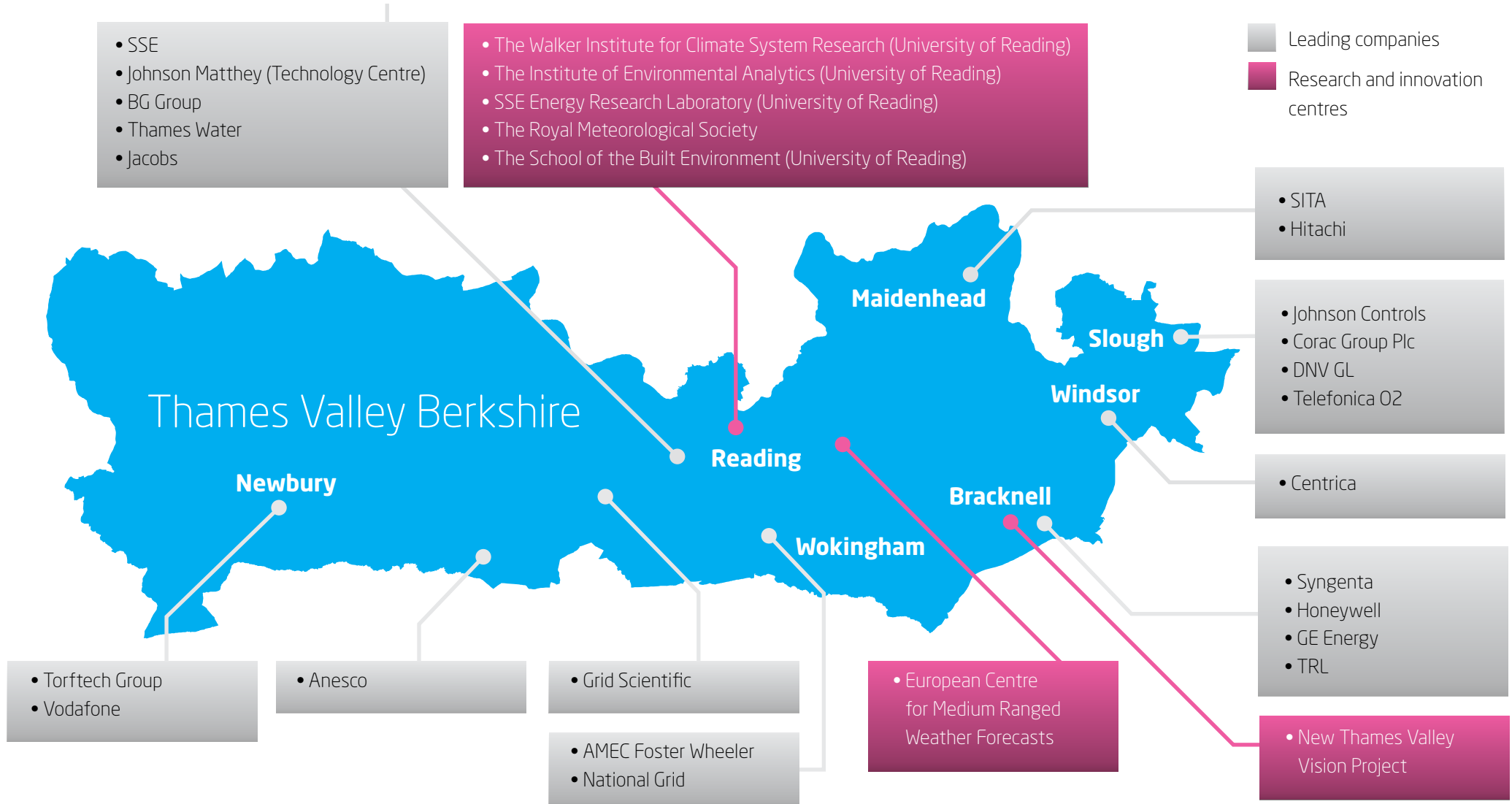
TVB is home to the Thames Valley Vision demonstration project, which aims to: understand consumer behaviour to determine network performance issues; anticipate future changes to identify new network management requirements; and support network management through new technology and commercial solutions.

Thames Valley Berkshire benefits from a highly skilled workforce. 41% of the population are educated to degree level or above, exceeding the South East of England regional average of 37%.

## Quick reference

- Four-fold increase in the number of businesses in the last five years
- Well connected global location via Heathrow airport
- Strong research expertise at the University of Reading
- Track record of successful collaborations
- A highly skilled workforce

# Location of major players

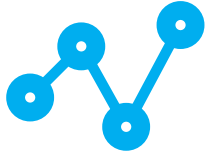




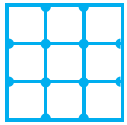
## Berkshire specialisms



Smart Grids



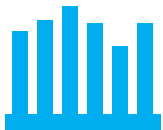
Environmental Analytics



Renewables



Climate Change



Built Environment



# Specialisms 1: Smart Grids

## Tech and Energy Collaboration

Smart Grid collaboration is moving at pace between IT infrastructure providers, energy infrastructure giants and utility distributors. Thames Valley Berkshire is home to key technology partners, such as Cisco, Telefónica, Hitachi and Vodafone, who are engaged in developing smart grid technology in the UK.

Telefónica, based in Slough, holds the £1.5 billion contract to deliver communications infrastructure to connect smart meters in the central and southern regions of the UK. Other local companies with involvement in the smart grid industry are Grid Scientific (Theale), Passiv systems (Newbury) and Vodafone (Newbury).

## Research and Innovation

The University of Reading undertakes smart grid research at its SSE Energy Research Laboratory. The Laboratory is currently involved in research with:

- Thames Valley Vision
- Marks and Spencer (energy efficiency)
- The National Physical Laboratory

Innovative small firms in the area include Tollgrade Communications, an industry leader in redefining the global standard for reliability at the world's largest electric utilities and telecommunications providers, based in Bracknell, who won 'Best Smart Grid Innovation' at the 2015 UK Energy Innovation Awards for its battery-free smart grid sensor for overhead power lines.

## Quick reference

- Great Britain is a European leader in smart grid research and demonstration projects
- Smart grid technology companies have a strong presence within Berkshire and there is potentially the market for that presence to grow
- The University of Reading undertakes smart grid research

# Smart Grid R&D

## Thames Valley Vision

Thames Valley Vision (TVV) is a £30 million project established to ensure a high quality and affordable electricity network in the future. Customers in Bracknell and the surrounding area will benefit from this project, which will help the UK achieve a low carbon economy. TVV will collect new data and develop sophisticated modelling to allow the operation and planning of networks to avoid costly system reinforcement. Some of this will mean providing technologies that manage the way some consumers use their energy. Other methods will promote energy efficiency and renewable heat and electricity generation at residential properties.

Project partners are: SSE Power Distribution, DNV GL, GE Energy, University of Reading, Bracknell Forest Council, Honeywell, EA Technology.

<http://www.thamesvalleyvision.co.uk/>

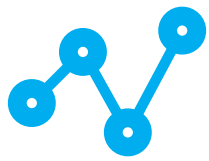
## Hitachi Europe

Hitachi Europe has its European HQ and R&D Centre in Maidenhead. Hitachi Europe Smart Cities Energy Group (formerly Smart Grid Ventures) has been instrumental in helping distribution network operators to meet the challenges arising from the UK's commitments to reduce carbon emissions. Part of this is its participation in the Energy Technologies Institute's Smart Energy and Heat Programme.

In January 2015 Berkshire-based DNV GL and a partnership between Hitachi & EDF were appointed to work independently on a functional specification to develop the first phase of EnergyPath Operations – a software tool that will allow users to better understand the information and communications technology (ICT) solutions they will need to implement in delivering new home heating solutions.

**// TVV is a £30m project established to ensure a high quality and affordable electricity network in the future. Customers in Bracknell and the surrounding area will benefit from this project, which will help the UK achieve a low carbon economy. //**

Thames Valley Vision



## Specialism 2: Environmental Analytics

### The Institute for Environmental Analytics

The Institute for Environmental Analytics is a unique flagship centre, funded by the Higher Educational Funding Centre for England (HEFCE) Catalyst Fund and led by the University of Reading.

Harnessing the expertise of world-leading academics and commercial organisations, the Institute is developing the technologies and skills that are urgently required to translate cutting-edge environmental research into commercially-relevant solutions, driving innovation and economic growth for the UK.

Its vision is to be a leading worldwide centre of excellence for environmental big data analytics working with industry on tackling challenges in key markets.

The Institute offers world-leading expertise in the whole “value chain” of environmental data, from data acquisition, through data management, processing and analytics to the delivery of products and services to end users.

The Institute is supported by a partnership of diverse organisations that together provide a unique set of end-to-end capabilities for maximising the benefits that can be gained from environmental data.

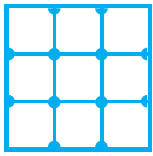
Partners include: Airbus Defence and Space; Deimos Space UK; Lighthill Risk Network; the Met Office; Microsoft; National Centre for Earth Observation; University of Oxford; e-Research Centre; Satellite Applications Catapult; Science and Technologies Facilities Council; University of Surrey; Telespazio Vega.

### Quick reference

- New Institute of Environmental Analytics established in 2015 at the University of Reading
- Developing the technologies and skills required to translate cutting edge environmental research into commercially relevant solutions

**// The Institute acts as a conduit between organisations spanning the whole environmental analytics community, pulling together expertise to create value and growth for the UK. //**

The Institute for Environmental Analytics



## Specialism 3: Renewables

### Who's here

A number of market leading companies/facilities in the renewables industry are based in the sub region. These include:

Anesco, the UK's leading energy efficiency solutions company. Recognised by Sunday Times Fast Track as the country's fastest growing private company and by Global Cleantech as one of the top 100 Cleantech companies in the world.

Slough Heat and Power (SHP) plant in TVB is owned by SSE. It is the UK's largest dedicated biomass plant, which burns wood chips, biomass and waste paper. The plant supplies steam and hot water to local businesses.

Carbon Clean Solutions (CCS), an innovation leader in carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) separation technology for industrial and gas treating applications. It was named by the World Economic Forum as one of 49 global Technology Pioneers to watch in 2015.

The Torftech Group, develop, licence and provide the TORBED Energy Technologies to a wide range of industries. These technologies use patented TORBED Process Reactors to contact gases and solids in a more efficient and novel manner.

The Mortimer Technology Group (with its Torftech subsidiaries in the UK), which received a Queens Award for Enterprise in the Innovation Category, in 2010.

Krannich Solar, a specialised wholesaler and systems house for photovoltaic installations.

Pierce's Solar Farm, which is set to become the largest solar farm in the sub region.

Britain's first ever floating solar panel project, an 800-panel green energy project, was installed in September 2014 on a reservoir at Sheeplands Farm, a 300-acre soft fruit farm near Wargrave.

### Quick reference

- The renewables industry is growing in Thames Valley Berkshire
- A number of market leading companies are based in the sub region



## Specialism 4: Climate Change

### The Walker Institute for Climate System Research

The Walker Institute delivers world-leading research at the frontiers of climate system science. It works with the wider scientific community, especially the Met Office Hadley Centre and the National Centre for Atmospheric Science, to respond to the demands and challenges that the world is facing due to increasing vulnerability to climate variability and change.

It draws together a number of internationally renowned climate system research groups and centres with expertise across a wide range of core disciplines central to climate system science. Links to these groups can be found here:

[http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/about/constituent\\_](http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/about/constituent_groups.htm)  
[groups.htm](http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/about/constituent_groups.htm)

[http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/research/system\\_](http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/research/system_components.htm)  
[components.htm](http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/research/system_components.htm)

Its vision is to be a world leader in integrated climate system research, in order to deliver better knowledge and understanding of future climate and its impacts for the benefit of society. It works in partnership with business, government and research organisations across the world.

### European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)

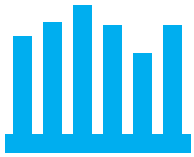
The ECMWF is an independent inter-governmental organisation supported by 34 countries. Through its core activity, it contributes significantly to climate change studies with objectives to:

- improve the quality and scope of monthly and seasonal-to-interannual forecasts;
- enhance support for Member States' national forecasting activities by providing suitable boundary conditions for limited-area models;
- deliver real-time analyses and forecasts of the atmosphere's composition;
- carry out climate monitoring through regular re-analyses of the Earth-system;
- contribute towards the optimisation of the Global Observing System.

### Quick reference

- The University of Reading is one of the leading UK Universities in weather and climate science
- The University's Walker Institute for Climate System Research delivers world-leading research at the frontiers of climate system science
- The European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts, based in Wokingham Borough, contributes significantly to climate change studies
- Reading is home to the Royal Meteorological Society; the professional and learned society for weather and climate professionals.





## Specialism 5: Built Environment

The University of Reading's Research School of the Built Environment has an international reputation for its research and education relating to the design, construction and operation of the built environment. Areas of expertise include: architecture, construction management, energy systems, environmental engineering and urban sustainability. The School has a strong orientation towards interdisciplinary 'real-world' problems, with a proud track record of active engagement with the local community, industry and the professions.

The School's research interests extend across the scales, ranging from energy-use monitoring of individual buildings through to city-level issues of urban metabolism, smart grids, and energy demand management. Collectively, these amount to an increasingly strong focus on smart and sustainable cities.

The School also hosts the EPSRC-funded Technologies for Sustainable Built Environments (TSBE) Centre. The TBSE Centre promotes collaborative research with industry through Engineering Doctorates (EngD). The two research themes are:

- (i) sustainable building and services systems and,
- (ii) energy management in buildings and infrastructure systems.

The University of Reading is ranked 3rd in the UK for the impact of its research in architecture, built environment and planning. 83% of its research is rated world leading (4\*) or internationally excellent (3\*).

### Quick reference

- One of the world's leading centres of excellence for research and teaching in the built environment is based in TVB
- Areas of expertise include energy systems and urban sustainability

# Start-ups and SMEs

## Local support for growth

The Berkshire Business Growth Hub is the place to start for information and advice on growing a business. Strategic support and training for ambitious enterprises is delivered by experienced advisors in order to help businesses scale up, access finance for growth and find new ways of working.

The Enterprise Centre at the University of Reading provides innovative and growth-orientated businesses with space to grow, and direct access to the University's research and enterprise expertise.

The University of Reading's Knowledge Transfer Centre leads one of the most successful Knowledge Transfer Partnerships in the UK. It provides innovative support and training to 'smart' businesses moving into or expanding within the area.

Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce provides a networking opportunity through its Energy Forum.

ConnectTVT raises the profile of tech innovators and accelerates the growth of digital businesses in the Thames Valley by lobbying, promoting and connecting start-ups, investors, employers, educators and mentors.

## Access to finance

SMEs seeking non-traditional finance for growth and new employment can benefit from loans and equity investments of £25,000 to £250,000 through the following funding initiatives, established by the Thames Valley Berkshire LEP and managed by the FSE Group:

- Thames Valley Berkshire Commercialisation Loan Scheme
- Thames Valley Berkshire Expansion Loan Scheme
- Thames Valley Berkshire Trade Finance Loan Scheme
- Thames Valley Berkshire Growth Fund

The FSE Angel Club runs events in Camberley and London, which are open to companies based in TVB. This is a network of registered angel investors looking to make an impact on dynamic, small companies who require investment to take the next step forward.



# Relocation support

## Soft landing

The Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce has extensive experience of foreign direct investment and, through its work with UK Trade & Investment (UKTI), Local Authorities, the LEP and Thames Valley professional service providers, can provide advice and relocation support.

### **[www.thamesvalley.co.uk](http://www.thamesvalley.co.uk)**

The TVCC soft-landing and local partners programme includes:

- A one-stop shop for expertise in financial and legal issues, and assistance in recruiting the right professionals and interim managers to grow a business.
- Tried and tested advice on commercial property.

## Local Authority advice and support:

Bracknell Forest - <http://www.bracknell-forest.gov.uk/inwardinvestment>

Reading - [www.investinreading.co.uk](http://www.investinreading.co.uk)

Slough - [www.sloughmeansbusiness.co.uk](http://www.sloughmeansbusiness.co.uk)

West Berkshire - [www.westberks.gov.uk/businesssupport](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/businesssupport)

Windsor and Maidenhead - [http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/business\\_investing.htm](http://www.rbwm.gov.uk/web/business_investing.htm)

Wokingham - <http://www.wokingham.gov.uk/>

# Talent

## Talent pool

Thames Valley Berkshire has a highly skilled, productive and loyal workforce and is the most productive local area in the UK.

With the vast range of energy companies already established in the area, there is no shortage of talent. A higher proportion of the TVB workforce work in senior managerial roles than the national average.

TVB energy companies have indicated that there is a good pool of highly skilled professionals in the area, particularly engineers.

Figures related to workforce across all sectors	TVB		England
Job roles	Workforce size	% of workforce	% of workforce
Managers and senior officials	50,900	11%	10%
Professional occupations	106,500	24%	20%
Associate professional and technical roles	76,200	17%	14%

**// As a fast-growing organisation that is committed to supporting the local communities in which we operate, being able to source high calibre talent locally has played a key part in our success. //**

Adrian Pike, Anesco CEO

# Highly skilled and productive workforce

## Highly qualified workforce

**42%**  
of the workforce  
with a degree  
(or higher)  
which is 12%  
higher than  
the national  
average

## Net inflow of 22-30 year olds

Net inflow of  
people in the  
post university/  
pre-family age -  
bringing ideas  
and experience  
often gained from  
working in  
London-based  
companies

## Agile but loyal workforce

**43%**  
of the  
workforce have  
been with their  
current employer  
for 2-10 years

## The UK's most productive workforce

The Thames  
Valley Berkshire  
workforce have  
the highest  
output per hour  
worked of all  
areas of the UK

(in terms of Gross  
Value Added - GVA -  
per hour worked)

## High proportion of workforce in high-skill roles

**35%**  
of the  
workforce  
are managers or  
professionals -  
7% higher than  
the national  
average

# Talent

## Supply of graduates

The University of Reading is in the top 1% of the world's universities, according to the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014–15.

The University of Oxford (15 miles to the north of TVB) and Imperial College London (less than 10 miles to the east) – are intellectual powerhouses of global standing (ranked number 3 and 9 in the world respectively in the Times Rankings).

In addition, the plethora of other London-based universities are all within 25 miles.

In 2013/14 5,320 students graduated from the University of Reading. This included 2,450 postgraduates, 2,680 first graduates, 45 foundation degree graduates and 150 from other undergraduate studies. A fifth of graduates stay in the area to pursue their careers.

Many degree courses include placement years in industry and many companies work directly with the universities to recruit the best graduates.

Local institutions are showing strong support towards the adoption of STEM skills. The University of Reading holds a wide variety of STEM education contracts, whilst a number of schools are working with industry to ensure relevant skills; this includes the University Technical College in Reading.

The relevance of the University's programmes to graduate employers is maintained by a strong and active Industrial Advisory Board (IAB), which includes members from companies such as Thales, Sony, AWE, National Grid and IBM.

## Quick reference

- The University of Reading is in the world's top 1%
- Intellectual powerhouses of the University of Oxford and Imperial College London are within an hour of Berkshire
- A fifth of University of Reading graduates stay in the local area to pursue their careers



# Future innovation and talent

## New innovation space

The University of Reading's Thames Valley Science Park will benefit companies by offering a strategic location close to London and Heathrow, and access to the high-quality research and graduate support provided by the University. It will create 170,000 sq ft of specialist business space between 2016 and 2018.

## Increased talent supply

Thames Valley Berkshire LEP is committed to help increase the supply of people with science, technology, engineering and maths skills for the Berkshire economy and is funding the creation of new Solutions Labs within Further Education Colleges to equip more young people with these skills.

**// The University is proud to be part of its local community, contributing to its economic prosperity and general wellbeing. //**

**Sir David Bell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Reading**



# Connectivity

## Access to markets

Thames Valley Berkshire's close proximity to London and Heathrow Airport provides easy access to customers, supply chains and financial markets. Heathrow, the world's third busiest airport, provides access to 185 international destinations, including 23 cities in the US.

TVB's excellent links to London include the M4 motorway, the Great Western Mainline to Paddington and the Reading to Waterloo Mainline. Access to Heathrow and mainland Europe makes TVB an ideal location for those wishing to export. Furthermore, it is easy to access most major UK cities from the sub region, either by road or rail.

All three of Britain's first 'Smart Cities' (London, Milton Keynes and Bristol) are within a two hour drive of TVB, providing a potential market opportunity.

## Digital

The sub region has received government funding to increase its superfast broadband coverage to 95% or higher by the end of 2017.

Along with organisations such as BT, Fujitsu, Samsung, Vodafone and the BBC, Thames Valley Berkshire LEP is investing in 5G technologies under development at the University of Surrey. The aim is to connect 5G to smart specialisation such as mobile applications, computer games, video and music content providers. 5G will enhance Thames Valley Berkshire's reputation as an economic powerhouse in the digital future and will develop potential content supply chain opportunities around new technologies.

## Quick reference

- 40 minutes from central Berkshire to London and Heathrow Airport
- Superfast Broadband coverage increasing to 95% or higher by the end of 2017

# Connectivity

## Train Travel

Location	London	Oxford	Milton Keynes	Bristol	Manchester	Birmingham	Heathrow	Gatwick
Slough	16 mins	45 mins	1hr 33	1hr 30	3hr 17	2hr 26	41 mins	1hr 36
Reading	25 mins	24 mins	1hr 42	54 mins	3hr 18	2hr 06	1hr 02	1hr 16
Windsor	26 mins	58 mins	1hr 46	1hr 46	3hr 28	2hr 39	55 mins	2hr 05
Maidenhead	31 mins	54 mins	1hr 38	1hr 31	3hr 35	2hr 28	48 mins	2hr
Newbury	43 mins	56 mins	2hr 02	1hr 43	3hr 52	2hr 37	1hr 48	1hr 54
Wokingham	56 mins	50 mins	2hr 06	1hr 18	3hr 44	2hr 26	1hr 34	1hr 07
Bracknell	1hr 00	58 mins	2hr 13	1hr 28	3hr 59	2hr 59	1hr 28	1hr 30

## Drive times

Location	London	Oxford	Milton Keynes	Bristol	Manchester	Birmingham	Heathrow	Gatwick
Slough	49 mins	55 mins	1hr 08	1hr 41	3hr 30	1hr 57	15 mins	57 mins
Reading	1hr 09	54 mins	1hr 30	1hr 26	3hr 41	2hr 08	38 mins	1hr 18
Windsor	54 mins	1hr 00	1hr 13	1hr 43	3hr 35	2hr 03	19 mins	1hr 01
Maidenhead	57 mins	50 mins	1hr 16	1hr 38	3hr 26	1hr 53	24 mins	1hr 05
Newbury	1hr 30	39 mins	1hr 39	1hr 13	3hr 28	1hr 55	56 mins	1hr 37
Wokingham	1hr 06	1hr 01	1hr 25	1hr 32	3hr 38	2hr 05	33 mins	1hr 10
Bracknell	1hr 07	1hr 01	1hr 26	1hr 34	3hr 39	2hr 07	32 mins	1hr 04

// From 2018 new trains and the electrification of the Great Western Mainline will reduce train journey times //

# Infrastructure development

## Current investment

Outline planning consent has been granted for the new Thames Valley Science Park adjacent to the M4 motorway south of Reading. The first building is scheduled for completion in 2017.

Infrastructure schemes underway in Thames Valley Berkshire include:

- Crossrail
- M4 Smart Motorway
- Superfast Broadband
- Airport Infrastructure Projects (Heathrow)
- Bracknell town centre regeneration and infrastructure
- Heart of Slough
- Reading rail station and Station Quarter
- Maidenhead town centre

## Future investment / impact

Investment in infrastructure unlocks growth and future prosperity. With this, numerous projects are underway including Crossrail which will stretch from Reading in the west, across to east London. The new railway will improve journey times to London's West End and the City. Full service will commence in 2019.

The Highways Agency is developing the M4 into a "smart motorway" between junctions 3 and 12. It will use cameras, information signs and signals to relieve congestion and improve journey times.

Western Rail Link to Heathrow will deliver direct rail services to Heathrow from Reading via Maidenhead and Slough. Slough will have a 6 minute journey time to Heathrow, Maidenhead 14 minutes and Reading 26 minutes. Plans have recently been approved for the new Green Park railway station on the Reading to Basingstoke line.

**// Set alongside the rejuvenated waterways through Maidenhead, new homes and commercial spaces will transform the area of the town and attract new businesses, residents and shoppers //**

Tamra Booth,  
group operations director  
at Shanly Homes

# Living in Thames Valley Berkshire

## Rich history, culture and leisure

Thames Valley Berkshire provides a stunning backdrop to an abundance of visitor attractions, sporting events and Michelin star restaurants and is home to the 'London Season' events of:

- Henley Royal Regatta
- Royal Ascot
- Royal Windsor Horse Show
- Cartier Queen's Cup at Guards Polo Club

Thames Valley Berkshire's Windsor Castle is the oldest and largest occupied castle in the world. Nearby are national stadiums for rugby at Twickenham, cricket at Lords and football at Wembley. Golf courses abound including international standard courses at Wentworth and Sunningdale. Other attractions include Legoland Windsor, Reading music festival and nearby Thorpe Park and Chessington World of Adventures.

## Attractive living environment

Thames Valley Berkshire is one of the few locations in the UK where it is possible to live and work in a picturesque setting but within easy reach of a world city, London. Over a third of Berkshire is designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, one of the highest concentrations in England.

## Shopping and eating out

The Oracle, Reading's premier shopping destination hosts 90 retail units - combining chic boutiques with major department stores. It also has a 10 screen Vue cinema and a wide range of eateries. Windsor Royal Shopping is located opposite Windsor Castle in the Grade II listed Victorian Railway Station. The vast array of shops and restaurants of London and Oxfordshire are within close proximity, including those at Bicester Village.

The Berkshire village of Bray has two of the UK's four three-Michelin-starred restaurants, The Fat Duck and the Waterside Inn.

# Education in Thames Valley Berkshire

## Schools

There are many excellent state and private schools in Berkshire, including the world renowned Eton College, Wellington College and St George's Ascot. Two international schools are located within a short distance of Berkshire – ACS Egham in Surrey and the European School Culham in Oxfordshire.

Top rated state funded schools include the Downs School and Charters School.

Schools in Reading and Slough perform particularly well in terms of A-level and GCSE results. Reading has the highest proportion of pupils going to Oxford or Cambridge University (6%) and the second highest proportion going to a Russell Group university (38%) in the country.

## Universities

The University of Reading is in the top 1% of the world's 20,000 universities and has over 17,000 students, including 6,400 overseas students from over 140 nationalities.

The University's Henley Business School is one of the world's few business schools to hold triple-accredited status and is consistently ranked among the world's top 50 business schools by the Financial Times and The Economist.

Other nearby Universities include the University of Oxford, Oxford Brookes University, Imperial College London and the University of Surrey.

## Quick reference

- High performing schools
- World renowned independent schools  
Eton and Wellington Colleges
- Nearby international schools
- University of Reading world top  
1% university
- Henley Business School in world's top  
50 business schools
- Reading has the highest proportion of  
pupils going to Oxford or Cambridge  
University



# Cost of living

## Housing

Housing affordability varies from 6 ½ times the average income in Slough to 10 times the average income in Windsor and Maidenhead. This compares with 18 times in London.

## Wages

Average annual pay for full-time employees in Thames Valley Berkshire ranges from £29,800 in Slough to £38,000 in Bracknell Forest.

Shanly Homes' Chapel Arches development in Maidenhead



# Sources

Page	Data	Source
6	Number of businesses	Business Counts 2014, ONS and MINT Business Database, BvD, 2015
18	Skilled workforce	Annual Population Survey, 2014, ONS
17	Workforce numbers	EMSI Analyst, based on ONS BRES and APS data
22	Train travel	National Rail (as of March 2015)

# References

## An established and growing sector

Oxford Networks for the Environment

<http://www.one.ox.ac.uk/>

Thames Valley Vision

<http://www.thamesvalleyvision.co.uk/>

## Specialism 1: Smart grids

SEE Energy Research Laboratory

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/sse-energy-research-lab/>

Energy Technologies Institute's Smart Energy  
and Heat Programme

<http://www.eti.co.uk/programme/smart-systems/>

DNV GL

<https://www.dnvgl.com/>

## Specialism 2: Environmental analytics

The Institute of Environmental Analytics

<http://www.the-iea.org/>

The Higher Education Funding Council for England:  
Catalyst Fund

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/funding/catalyst/>

## Specialism 3: Climate change

The Walker Institute for Climate Change

<http://www.walker-institute.ac.uk/>

Met Office Hadley Centre

[http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/re-  
sources/hadleycentre](http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate-change/resources/hadleycentre)

National Centre for Atmospheric Science

<https://www.ncas.ac.uk>

European Centre for Medium Range Weather forecasts

<http://www.ecmwf.int/>

## Specialism 5: Built environment

University of Reading School of the Built Environment

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/built-environment.aspx>

## Start-ups and SMEs

Berkshire Business Growth Hub

<http://www.berkshirebusinesshub.co.uk/>

Reading Enterprise Centre

<http://www.readingenterprisecentre.com/>

Knowledge Transfer Centre

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/ktc/>

Thames Valley Chamber of Commerce

<http://www.thamesvalley.co.uk/>

Thames Valley Berkshire Funding Escalator

[www.berkshirebusinessfunding.co.uk](http://www.berkshirebusinessfunding.co.uk)

FSE Angel Club

[http://www.thefsegroupp.com/investors-landing/  
fse-investor-network](http://www.thefsegroupp.com/investors-landing/fse-investor-network)

ConnectTVT

[www.connecttv.co.uk](http://www.connecttv.co.uk)



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