

PRESS RELEASE

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NB. An earlier version of this research has been corrected and updated to include figures broken down by local authorities and to include Scotland and Wales.

Call for Green New Deal as 1 in 10 jobs (3.1 million) needs reskilling as part of green recovery

- **UK100 Resilient Recovery Taskforce of 24 Mayors and local leaders calls for Chancellor to create ‘New Deal for Green Skills and Growth’**
- **New research shows that 3.1 million posts affected by the shift to green jobs will need access to skills and training from government and industry**
- **But 3 million jobs that have green skills will be in demand from employers following a green recovery**

A coalition of Mayors and council leaders is calling on the Chancellor to commit to a ‘New Deal for Green Skills and Growth’ in his forthcoming stimulus package, alongside a major push on infrastructure investment, public transport and retrofitting homes.

The group of 24 Mayors and local leaders, representing 25 million people across the country have established a new ‘Resilient Recovery’ Taskforce.

The call is in response to research being published by UK100, a network of over 100 local leaders, which shows that 3,177,601 jobs (11%) will need reskilling in the economy, while 3,079,468 jobs will be created or in demand from employers based on existing skills.

On average, each local authority has 15,032 jobs that need reskilling - with the largest number in Hertfordshire, where over 77,000 jobs are potentially at risk. London is the most affected region where 516,348 jobs require some form of upskilling.

The UK100 analysis of figures¹ compiled by academics at the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment² shows that in total 6,216,527 jobs (1 in 5) in England, Scotland and Wales will be impacted by the shift toward a low carbon economy.

¹ Full data set at

<https://www.uk100.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/REVISED-Labour-Market-Figures-for-Resilient-Recovery-Taskforce-2.xlsx>

² Data derived from Bowen, A., Kuralbayeva, K. and Tipoe, E.L., 2018. Characterising green employment: The impacts of ‘greening’ on workforce composition. *Energy Economics*, 72, pp.263-275. Also

See Robins, N., Gouldson, A., Irwin, W., Sudmant, A. and Rydge, J., Financing inclusive climate action in the UK An investor roadmap for the just transition. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. July 2018 and Robins, N., Tickell, S, Irwin, W., and Sudmant, A. Financing climate action with positive social impact. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. July 2020

The New Deal for Green Skills and Growth would provide the necessary skills and training to enable workers to adapt to the transition to Net Zero by 2050.

The UK100 Resilient Recovery Taskforce includes the Mayors and Leaders of Bath and North East Somerset, Belfast, Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, Camden, Cornwall, Kent, Leeds, Leicester, Liverpool City Region, London, Greater Manchester, Manchester City, Newcastle, North of the Tyne, Nottingham, Oxford, Sheffield, Sheffield City Region, Southampton, the West Midlands and the West of England.

Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council and Chair of the UK100 Resilient Recovery Task Force, said: “The Government has a once in a generation opportunity to stimulate a green economic recovery to allow the UK to meet our Net Zero target by 2050. The chancellor’s stimulus package must include measures to replace lost jobs with green jobs, re-train workers so they can access these jobs and power the new green economy the UK needs.”

Polly Billington, Director of UK100, said: “We need to ensure this is not a car or carbon-led recovery. There is a huge opportunity here to skill up our workforce and invest in the jobs we need right now. A New Deal for Green skills and Growth will kick start the recovery, ensure we are internationally competitive and put us on a path to a cleaner, greener economy, so we can meet the Net Zero target.”

Five times as much public money has been committed to motorways than for clean transport. The Government has announced £27bn of investment for motorways and major A roads³ compared to just £5bn for buses, cycling and walking over the next five years.

Sadiq Khan, Mayor of London, said: "I have been clear that London's recovery must be a green one, rebuilding a healthier, resilient, more equal city that works for all citizens and tackles the climate emergency.

“The measures we have put in place to start this green recovery, such as walking and cycling infrastructure, are popular with Londoners. I now look forward to working with the government and other mayors to embed these changes, invest in green jobs and skills, and power a recovery towards a zero-carbon city.”

Andy Street, Mayor of the West Midlands, said: “There is no hiding from the climate emergency we are facing as a country, and we must do everything we can to tackle this and reach our carbon emission goals. A key part of this will be a green and inclusive recovery from the Coronavirus crisis, and I look forward to working with the Government, my mayoral colleagues, and others as part of the UK100 Resilient Recovery Taskforce to achieve this.”

Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester, said: “Greater Manchester is developing bold plans to build back better as we recover from the impact of COVID-19. We want to deliver a fairer, greener society, with better health outcomes and a faster growing economy that supports people’s jobs and job security.

³ <https://www.transport-network.co.uk/27bn-for-national-roads-and-25bn-for-potholes/16508>

“It won’t be the first time that Greater Manchester has reinvented itself, but we need the Government to share and support our ambitions. It has an opportunity to invest in a greener and fairer future – creating new jobs in retrofitting homes, investing in renewable energy and greener spaces – that it cannot afford to miss.”

Marvin Rees, the Mayor of Bristol said: “This research shows that it is not enough to just simply unlock the economy, we need a proactive, values led approach to drive a sustainable and inclusive recovery.

“By front loading the investment in the green infrastructure cities and towns across the country already have lined up, we can secure billions of pounds of investment in quality jobs and invaluable confidence to local partners and their supply chains.

“This will help us deliver the vital green infrastructure we need to meet carbon neutrality targets and rebuild the economy in a way that avoids future climate shocks.”

Cllr Steve Count, the Leader of Cambridgeshire County Council, and Chair of the newly launched Countryside Climate Network, said: “This clear evidence shows us the challenges of environmental change, however Cambridgeshire, as a key exporter nationally and internationally of advanced cleantech, would add its voice to calls for additional resource and focus on the need to upskill those in industries most at risk. We are not alone in having well established green sector employment opportunities which are crying out for these skills, and are simply looking for the green light to develop and expand.”

Case Studies - How workers could transition to Net Zero

There are many examples of new jobs that will be created in the shift to a Net Zero example - both new jobs that will be in demand that will require skills training, and existing roles that could have transferable skills.

- **Wind.** Analysis for the oil and gas industry sector suggests an additional 25,000 roles will be needed in the coming 5 years⁴. The skills needed are often highly transferable to renewables, though more is needed in terms of retraining⁵. For instance, an electrical or mechanical technician working on an oil pipeline could retrain as an offshore wind-farm technician. In addition, skills in AI and remote support via VR will be critical to solve engineering challenges remotely.
- **EVs.** In the automotive industry, additional skills will be needed to help both manufacturing workers and after-sales mechanics transition to the manufacturing and repair of electric vehicles, and in time, driverless vehicles.

⁴ <https://downloads.opito.com/downloads/Publications/UKCS-Workforce-Dynamics-The-Skills-Landscape-2019-2025.pdf?mtime=20190501185622&focal=none>

⁵ <https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2015/aug/27/fossil-fuels-workers-retraining-carbon-neutral-solar-wind-energy-oil-gas>

- **PV and retrofit.** A major programme of investment in adapting our homes and businesses will be needed to meet the Net Zero challenge. Those currently working in the construction industry, e.g. electricians or roofers will need additional skills to meet zero carbon requirements or could potentially retrain as solar panel installers or in battery storage. A US academic analysis showed that a relatively minor investment in retraining of coal workers would enable the vast majority of them to transition to jobs in the solar photovoltaic industry⁶.
- **Environment.** In the 2020 budget, the government committed to plant around 30,000 hectares of trees and restore 35,000 hectares of peatland. However, at the moment there is no skilled workforce capable of delivering it according to UnionLearn⁷ and tree planting targets have been missed across the UK⁸. This offers an opportunity for workers interested in arboriculture or countryside management to develop skills in this area. Those working in environmental management may need additional skills in soil, waste and water conservation and restoration⁹.
- **Financial Services.** Highly skilled and professional roles will need to adapt too. For instance, in financial services those working as oil and commodities traders could retrain as carbon traders. Financial analysts will need to become as adept at making sense of a company's disclosure of Scope 2 and 3 carbon emissions as they currently are at interpreting financial accounts.

Regional Variations

Recently analysis by the LGA showed the potential for low carbon job generation across a number of English regions. For example, the **north of England** has strong expertise around generation, storage and low-carbon technologies and processes, especially in nuclear and (offshore) wind. **The Midlands** is well-known for having a dynamic workforce engaged in the manufacturing and production of vehicles. Around half of automotive companies produce vehicle components in the West Midlands. Some sectors, however, do not display strong regional traits. For example, energy efficiency products are likely to be installed across all households and this will happen across the whole country. This is the same for the installation of low-carbon heating technologies such as heat pumps that are likely to be deployed in households across England. Some low-carbon heating technologies such as hydrogen boilers could initially see deployment in the north of England initially in proximity to industrial clusters and local hydrogen-hubs.¹⁰

Recent polling by the Clean Air Fund / [YouGov](#) has shown a clear majority (74%) of the UK public want incentives to help people or businesses use cleaner forms of transport, cleaner fuels

⁶ Louie, E.P., Pearce, J.M., 2016. Retraining investment for US transition from coal to solar photovoltaic employment. *Energy Econ.* 57, 295–302.

⁷ <https://www.unionlearn.org.uk/sites/default/files/publication/Cutting%20carbon%2C%20growing%20skills%20%E2%80%93%20green%20skills%20for%20a%20just%20transition.pdf>

⁸ Tree Planting targets missed: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000k1f1>

⁹ https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/---ifp_skills/documents/publication/wcms_709121.pdf

¹⁰ LGA Report: Local Green Jobs, see p12
https://www.ecuity.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Local-green-jobs-accelerating-a-sustainable-economic-recovery_final.pdf

in their home (71%) and want to see improved public transport once infection control measures are in place. (70%)¹¹

The new taskforce's remit will be considering how Government should provide additional funding for:

- Investment in infrastructure
- Investment in public transport and active transport
- Investment in skills - to meet the challenge of Net Zero

The taskforce will meet for the first time on 3 July during a summit of the Core Cities UK group and intends to publish a detailed report in the Autumn.

Members of the UK100 Resilient Recovery Taskforce

Leeds (Chair) - Cllr Judith Blake, Leader

Bath and North East Somerset - Cllr Dine Romero, Leader

Belfast - Grainia Long, Commissioner for Resilience, Belfast City Council

Birmingham - Cllr Ian Ward, Leader

Bristol - Marvin Rees, Mayor

Cambridge City - Cllr Lewis Herbert, Leader

Cambridgeshire - Cllr Steve Count, Leader

Camden - Cllr Georgia Gould, Leader

Cornwall - Cllr Edwina Hannaford, Cabinet Member - Climate Change

Kent - Roger Gough, Leader

Leicester - Sir Peter Soulsby, Mayor

Liverpool City Region - Steve Rotherham, Mayor

London - Sadiq Khan, Mayor

Greater Manchester - Andy Burnham, Mayor

Manchester City - Sir Richard Leese, Leader

Newcastle - Cllr Nick Forbes, Leader

North of the Tyne - Jamie Driscoll, Mayor

Nottingham - Cllr Sally Longford, Deputy Leader

Oxford - Cllr Susan Brown, Leader

Sheffield - Cllr Julie Dore, Leader

Sheffield City Region - Dan Jarvis MBE, Mayor

Southampton - Cllr Christopher Hammond, Leader

West Midlands Combined Authority - Andy Street, Mayor

West of England Combined Authority - Tim Bowles, Mayor

and

Professor Andy Gouldson, University of Leeds - Adviser to the Taskforce

Polly Billington, Director, UK100 - Taskforce Secretariat

¹¹ <https://www.cleanairfund.org/assets/documents/Clean-Air-Fund-YouGov-Survey-Data-June-2020.pdf> - see tables on p14

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Editor's Notes

Full data is available at:

<https://www.uk100.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/REVISED-Labour-Market-Figures-for-Resilient-Recovery-Taskforce-2.xlsx>

Methodology

Quantitative Analysis of Impact on Labour Market of Transition to Net Zero

Citation: UK100 / Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment¹²

The attached data tables show the impact of the shift to green employment on the UK workforce. The data includes "jobs at risk" where those jobs will require upskilling due to the greening of the economy, and jobs that will be "in demand" - where they have green skills, as well as those unaffected by the transition. It is broken down by parliamentary constituency, local authority and region. The constituencies are analysed by measures on deprivation (IMD) and BAME (non-white) communities.

The calculations draw on the paper '[Characterising green employment: The impacts of 'greening' on workforce composition](#)' by Alex Bowena, Karlygash Kuralbayevab, Eileen L. Tipoe, in *Energy Economics*, April 2018. The paper finds x% of jobs in different US sectors have 'green skills' and y% require significant changes due to 'greening'. The calculations assume these proportions apply, sector by sector, in the UK. The proportions were applied to existing UK jobs using the BRES survey.

Further details: See Robins, N., Gouldson, A., Irwin, W., Sudmant, A. and Rydge, J., Financing inclusive climate action in the UK An investor roadmap for the just transition. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. July 2018 and Robins, N., Tickell, S, Irwin, W., and Sudmant, A. Financing climate action with positive social impact. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. July 2020.

About UK100

UK100 is a network of over 100 highly ambitious local government leaders, who have pledged to secure the future for their communities by shifting to 100% clean energy by 2050. This is not just good for the planet but for the people and communities they serve, be they in villages, towns or cities. Local leaders are working together to create flourishing communities, seizing the opportunities of technology to create jobs and establishing a nationwide project of renewal, focussed on local needs and ambitions.

¹² Data derived from Bowen, A., Kuralbayeva, K. and Tipoe, E.L., 2018. Characterising green employment: The impacts of 'greening' on workforce composition. *Energy Economics*, 72, pp.263-275. Also See Robins, N., Gouldson, A., Irwin, W., Sudmant, A. and Rydge, J., Financing inclusive climate action in the UK An investor roadmap for the just transition. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. July 2018 and Robins, N., Tickell, S, Irwin, W., and Sudmant, A. Financing climate action with positive social impact. Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment. July 2020

UK100 is the only network for UK local authorities, urban, suburban and rural, focused on climate and clean energy policy. We connect local leaders to each other, to business and to national government, enabling them to showcase their achievements, learn from each other and speak collectively to accelerate the transition to clean energy.

We work closely with elected representatives, policy experts and grassroots campaigners to make the clean energy transition a reality. This involves developing solutions to challenges faced by each and all of our local leaders, whatever their geography, history or makeup, so as to influence national government and building public support for clean energy solutions. www.uk100.org