



Planning for future clean energy skills in the East Midlands

Background

To support the growth of the clean energy and advanced manufacturing sectors, this project mapped the current skills in the region, identified future needs, and created a clear plan to guide investment in skills and training. University of Derby led this project with support from Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham College, Chesterfield College, Make UK, and Derbyshire County Council.



The challenge

The region needs a skilled workforce to meet the demands of fast-growing green and manufacturing sectors. However, there has been no complete picture of which skills already exist, which are missing, and how to prepare for future jobs. This project carried out a full skills gap analysis to identify current strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities across the East Midlands. It reviewed existing research, gathered data from national and regional sources, and engaged with local stakeholders through workshops and consultations.

The work focused on skills for six key sectors:

- Nuclear
- Zero-emission propulsion
- Renewable energy
- Green construction
- Sustainable advanced manufacturing
- Leadership and management for green industries

Next steps

The project's final report recommends a regional strategy to promote green careers, improve collaboration between education and industry, support teachers, and upskill the current workforce — helping ensure the East Midlands is ready for the clean energy jobs of the future.

Why this matters for the East Midlands

This work supports the region's ambition to become a national leader in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, and sustainable growth. By addressing skills shortages and creating a coordinated approach, the project lays the foundation for long-term regional prosperity and helps attract new investment.

Key achievements

- Delivered a full skills roadmap and investment framework for the EMIZ programme
- Built a strong network of education, business, and local authority partners
- Identified key actions to close skills gaps, including:
 - Raising awareness of clean energy careers
 - Promoting collaboration
 - Mapping clear career pathways
 - Embedding green skills in education from an early age
 - Upskilling the existing workforce
 - Supporting teacher development

Find out more about the project

[See the full Skills Roadmap here](#)