

Coast to Capital

Build Back Stronger, Smarter and Greener

Skills for Net Zero – Home Decarbonisation Academy Pilot

Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) is working with the [Energy Systems Catapult](#), local authorities and education providers on Skills for Net Zero. This is part of a national effort to create a model for the widespread skills infrastructure needed to meet demand for clean and energy efficient homes. It will help to tackle climate change, create new jobs and reduce fuel poverty, supporting the government's plans for a [green industrial revolution](#). Coast to Capital is one of six regional centres of excellence involved as pilots for the programme.

Challenges and opportunity

Emissions: Domestic heating alone accounts for around 31% of all UK carbon emissions, with around 25 million homes to decarbonise by 2050 in order to meet the UK's net-zero target. The home energy market is huge, with an estimated UK value of between £400-£1000 billion up to 2050. Therefore, affordable, clean home energy is both essential to tackling climate change but also a major opportunity for local job creation in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

Consumer choice: There are many reasons why home owners might need new home energy systems, such as replacing an old boiler, reducing energy bills or installing an electric vehicle charge point. Consumers are faced by a growing number of unfamiliar choices. Which products are most suitable for a particular property? Who is best qualified to install them? How can financing them be made more affordable? New industry professionals can help consumers to navigate these choices.

Scale: To achieve all of this, pace of change is essential and, while helping and incentivising private home owners is very important, there is more immediate opportunity to create large scale, local supply chains by working at volume to retrofit social housing. Similarly, large scale, new build developments can create high demand for skills. The latest, clean home energy systems need installing so as not to become obsolete quickly, leading to expensive retrofitting in just a few years time.

Pilot approach

Widespread skills infrastructure is necessary to meet the large scale demand for clean and energy efficient homes. To help bring this about, a Skills for Net Zero programme is being led nationally by the Energy Systems Catapult, who are convening discussions with industry representatives and between regional centres of excellence, in order to develop practical solutions and identify funding streams. Coast to Capital, and each of the regional centres, are then working with their partners locally to deliver on distinct areas of work.

Skills provision: Mapping and developing relevant training and qualifications for all learners (school leavers, apprentices, up skilling industry professionals) in emerging job roles e.g. installers, retrofit assessors and retrofit coordinators

Learning factories: Creating regional state of the art facilities in which to train using the latest equipment and home decarbonisation technology e.g. heat pumps and solid wall insulation

Innovation hubs: Developing local networks and opportunities for innovation in home decarbonisation technology, by fostering collaboration between higher education, business and landlords

Housing stock: Identifying and funding a large scale, regional supply chain of home decarbonisation works across local authorities and registered social housing providers, while moving toward educating and incentivising home owners to invest

The Coast to Capital pilot is initially focussed on two local-authority areas within the region, Brighton & Hove and Crawley. These are the two largest urban and economic centres within the region, both with significant social housing stock. In Brighton particularly, but also the surrounding coastal towns, much of the housing stock is older and less energy efficient. In Crawley, and in areas of Sussex and Surrey around the town, there is potential for large new build developments.

Timeframe

This is a substantial, national programme of work to be developed and delivered over an anticipated 5 year timeframe. This includes an expected 2 year development phase followed by 3 years of delivery support.

To find out more

If you would like to find out more about Skills for Net Zero please contact matthew.wragg@coast2capital.org.uk or claire.witz@coast2capital.org.uk

More information about our strategy, Build Back Stronger, Smarter and Greener, is available on our website www.coast2capital.org.uk

Additional information

The following organisations are named partners to the Coast to Capital Skills for Net Zero – Home Decarbonisation Pilot:

- Brighton & Hove City Council
- Chichester College Group
- Crawley Borough Council
- Greater Brighton Metropolitan College
- Greater South East Energy Hub
- University of Brighton (including the Green Growth Platform)
- University of Sussex

Coast to Capital Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) was successfully selected, along with New Anglia LEP, from the 11 LEP areas which form the Greater South East Local Energy Hub.

The other national centres of excellence are North East LEP, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater Birmingham & Solihull LEP, West of England LEP and New Anglia LEP. Proposals are also to be developed in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.