

Mayor's Plan

for Green Jobs

March 2026



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Mayor's foreword

Green jobs will one day be as totemic to our North East identity as coal mining and ship building – this plan sets out how we get there.

As a region we know there are two vital initial steps to achieving success here – we need a bold vision and we need to work together to deliver it. In this plan we set out how we will work with business to double the number of green jobs in the North East, from around 25,000 today to 50,000 by 2035.

Already, there are households across the region in which people earn a good wage from a green job – from fitting solar panels or servicing wind turbines. We know this economy works, and we know the potential rewards.

In this plan we set out the next steps to growth. You'll see how we are ready to train thousands of people with the skills they need to succeed, and how we are preparing for the massive task of retrofitting older properties to make them warmer and cheaper to heat. We will also show how public funds will be used to ensure global energy firms create jobs here in the North East.

Our region has a strong and growing reputation as a place green energy firms can do business. We have a skilled workforce that is ready for the transition to the green economy, and we have the investment in place to match.



With this growth comes a brighter future for our young people. We'll back them with our Green Energy Skills Academy and ensure young people get a chance to see what a career in green energy looks like. They will know they can thrive in the region they love, with a rewarding career.

Already, there are households across the region in which people earn a good wage from a green job

Across the North East you find so many people who are proud of their local identity and people that are working harder to make this region an even bigger success. We'll use this plan to back their pride and ambition, and their future as well.



Home of the green energy revolution

The North East has a generational opportunity to lead the UK's transition to a green economy – and to make sure this change improves everyday life for local people. **Green growth means good jobs, warmer homes, lower energy bills, healthier places to live, and a stronger future for our communities.**



Apprentices at Smulders, North Tyneside

By co-designing its Welding Skills Bootcamp with Smulders, Newcastle College is creating real pathways into the North East's offshore energy industry — with five trainees already recruited into new welding roles.

"Tekmar's Newton Aycliffe base is central to delivering offshore wind projects worldwide, supporting skilled manufacturing and engineering roles while creating sustainable green jobs here in the North East."

Fraser Gibson, Director Engineering Services, Tekmar

We will double the number of green jobs in the North East from around 25,000 today to 50,000 by 2035, through co-ordinated action, partnership and investment across the whole region, and by attracting £3bn of private investment. This document sets out our plan for doing so. We will build on the region's strengths in clean energy, advanced manufacturing, engineering and innovation. We will create opportunity for residents in every part of the North East, from our towns and cities to our rural and coastal communities.

Green jobs are already part of daily life in the North East: from technicians maintaining offshore wind turbines, to engineers designing new clean energy technologies, to construction workers retrofitting buildings and installing low-carbon heating. Pioneering companies in the global clean energy market are here in the North East and investing millions of pounds in the region. The North East is home to a globally recognised clean energy ecosystem, with the skills, infrastructure and innovation to drive green growth.



"The broad engineering knowledge I'm gaining in electric vehicles and supporting technologies at Osbit is shaping me into someone who can contribute confidently to the North East's growing green engineering sector."

Matthew Clark
Apprentice Draughtsperson, Osbit



Power Roll is developing cutting-edge solar panels on the site of an old coal mine in Murton, County Durham. A huge opportunity to create hundreds of new jobs in the advanced manufacturing and clean energy sectors.

If we grasp this opportunity, growth in green jobs over the next decade could include:



10,000 jobs
in offshore wind



8,000 jobs
in heat networks
and green tech

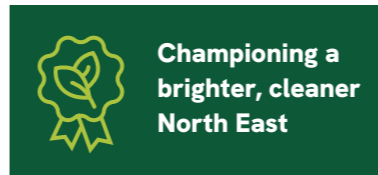


5,000 jobs
in low-carbon
housing and retrofit



2,000 jobs
in electric vehicles
and supporting
technologies

These jobs will be supported by continued private investment, world-leading research and innovation, and major infrastructure – from deepwater ports to training campus and research facilities. **We have already committed £130m to support this transition** and are actively cultivating further investment to help businesses grow and ensuring local people can access the jobs being created. Our role includes:



Championing a
brighter, cleaner
North East



Supporting people
across the region
into green jobs



Creating more
green jobs across
the North East

We have the specialist facilities, skilled workforce and collective will to turn regional potential into real jobs. We will back innovation and business growth, invest in infrastructure and places, and inspire the next generation of workers with pathways into green jobs, working with our four leading universities, nine further education colleges, and training facilities across the region.

At the heart of this plan is a commitment to a just transition, one that brings people with us, widens access to opportunity, and supports a more diverse workforce. We will open doors to green careers for people who haven't always had the chance, including women and others underrepresented in these industries.



Green jobs for all

Green jobs span a wide range of sectors, workplaces and skill levels. People working in green jobs keep energy flowing, keep homes warm, support resilience in our food systems, and make our communities healthier.

In the North East, green jobs are united by a shared purpose: a cleaner future, protecting our natural environment, and creating good, secure work for local people.



"Being part of real projects at Osbit has shown me how exciting it is to contribute to the North East's growing green engineering sector."

Emily Carter
Apprentice Draughtsperson, Osbit

Green jobs in the North East include roles in:

- Clean energy generation and supply chains, including offshore wind, low-carbon power, hydrogen and energy storage – from technicians and engineers to vital port, logistics and maintenance roles.
- Green technologies and heat networks, from design and manufacturing to installation and maintenance.
- Low-carbon construction, retrofit, and facilities management, including building energy-efficient homes, upgrading public buildings, and reducing energy use across schools, hospitals, offices and industrial sites.
- Advanced manufacturing, including transition to electric vehicles, batteries, and supporting technologies – and making factories and production processes cleaner and more energy-efficient across every industry.



- Food, farming and forestry, supporting lower-carbon food supply chains, sustainable agriculture, land management and innovation that protects the North East's rural economy and special landscapes.
- Environmental services and nature-based solutions, including roles that support nature, flood resilience, climate adaptation, and the protection of our coastline, rivers and green spaces.
- The circular economy, with roles focused on reducing waste, reusing materials and developing innovative recycling and remanufacturing solutions.

"My apprenticeship gave me the hands on skills and real world understanding I needed - and now I'm using them every day on Dogger Bank, one of the world's biggest green energy projects."

Jamie, Marine and Logistics operative, Equinor



Green jobs are found across the economy in large manufacturers and small businesses, on ports and industrial sites, on farms and in food supply chains, in colleges and research centres, and in local communities. They include apprenticeships, entry-level roles, skilled trades, technical specialists and research-led occupations.

Every child in the region should be able to find opportunity in the green economy. There are pathways into good work for people at every stage of their careers, from young people starting out to those retraining or progressing into new roles. We will strengthen these pathways so people from every part of the region can benefit now and in the future.

Sunderland College's Housing, Innovation and Construction Skills Academy is at the heart of the North East's green construction revolution - acting as a regional hub for advanced skills, innovation and technical excellence.

*PAS 2035 is the UK's official quality and process standard for retrofitting homes to improve energy efficiency.



Esh Group led the development of three bespoke retrofit training courses with the North East Institute of Technology, shaping programme design and content as the initiative's lead construction partner. Their industry expertise ensured the courses met current standards, equipped learners with PAS 2035*-aligned skills, and supported the region's drive to tackle the retrofit skills shortage and decarbonise homes.



Green jobs across the North East

Green growth will only succeed if it works for people. We will work with residents, employers, training providers and communities to grow green jobs in a way that is practical, inclusive and rooted in everyday life across the North East.

Doubling the number of green jobs over the next decade will take joined-up action. It means growing businesses, attracting investment, supporting people into work, and building confidence that the green transition creates real opportunity. That opportunity is not just in new industries, but across the foundational economy that keeps the region running. Our approach is guided by three clear principles:



- **Green jobs must be good jobs, open to everyone.** They should offer fair pay, progression and dignity at work, with opportunities across different skills levels and clear routes in, from apprenticeships and entry-level roles to technical and professional careers. This plan is about spreading opportunity across the region, including to people who have not always been able to access green jobs.
- **Green jobs are built through partnership.** Businesses create jobs, but they need the right conditions to grow. Our role is to bring people together across industry, education, local government and communities, and to back collaboration with the investment and infrastructure that help ideas turn into employment.
- **Green jobs depend on skills - now and for the future.** From inspiring children and young people to supporting apprenticeships, retraining and lifelong learning, we will help people gain the skills they need to move into green jobs, progress at work, or change careers as the economy evolves.



Guided by these principles, the following pages set out how we will act, with practical steps that support jobs and people. We will:

Champion a brighter, cleaner North East

Setting a shared direction and showing residents, businesses and investors how the green transition creates opportunity in every part of the region.

Support people into green jobs

Building clear routes into work from schools and colleges, apprenticeships and retraining so people at any career stage can access green jobs.

Create more green jobs across the North East

Backing businesses to grow and invest through innovation, infrastructure and strong supply chains, creating more jobs across all sectors.



Championing a brighter, cleaner North East

We will set a clear direction for green growth in the North East, building confidence among residents, businesses and investors about where the region is heading and where opportunities lie.

Near-term priorities (2026-29)

Inspiring awareness and ambition

- Promoting offshore wind and other green sectors as real, local opportunities for North East residents, particularly in coastal and industrial communities.
- Expanding careers education and engagement in schools and communities, including early exposure to clean energy and sustainability through primary and secondary careers programmes.
- Developing a Green Jobs Roadshow alongside community engagement and creative sector-led activity to showcase the wide range of green jobs across the region.
- Establishing partnerships within and beyond the North East, for instance with GB Energy, to formalise commitments to green growth and regional job creation.

Making opportunities visible

- Promoting information on training, apprenticeships, work experience and green jobs, making opportunities across the region easier to find and navigate.
- Working with partners to promote the North East as a destination for clean growth investment and innovation.

Looking ahead to 2035

Sustaining long-term confidence and momentum

- Delivering accessible careers education, information, advice and guidance for residents of all ages to highlight green job opportunities across the region.
- Leading targeted international engagement, trade missions and major industry events to attract investment and create jobs.
- Championing the North East as the home of the green energy revolution and a place where businesses can grow with confidence.



Supporting people into green jobs

We will help people of all ages and backgrounds access green jobs by building clear, joined-up skills pathways that respond to the needs of employers and the economy.

Near-term priorities (2026-29)

Building strong skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering major investments in green skills facilities, including £18.2m in South Shields Marine School, £8.5m in Newcastle College Energy Academy, and £5.5m in the Energy Central Institute in Blyth. Bringing these assets together as a coordinated regional offer for clean energy skills, delivering the Mayor's commitment to a Green Energy Super Academy.
Creating clear routes into work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting apprenticeships, work placements and employer-led training across green sectors to match skills provision with business demand; and providing tailored support to help people access and sustain green jobs, including carers, care leavers, young people and women. Delivering a £1m North East Construction Skills Programme focused on low-carbon building, retrofit and facilities management.

Looking ahead to 2035

Planning for future skills needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using the Local Skills Improvement Plan to identify emerging skills needs and shape provision across sectors; aligning green skills priorities with national Skills England sector plans. Developing a more joined-up approach between post-16 and post-18 education and training providers.
Widening access and opportunity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting career change, retraining and lifelong learning so people can adapt as the economy evolves; and taking targeted action to increase diversity in green industries, including supporting women into sectors where they are under-represented. Improving access to green jobs through clean, affordable transport, including zero-emission buses and expanded public transport connectivity.



Creating more green jobs across the North East

We will help businesses start, scale and invest in the region, creating more green jobs across energy, manufacturing, housing, public services and the foundational economy.

Near-term priorities (2026-29)

Backing business growth and innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivering programmes to support job creation, including offshore wind and solar, investing over £25m in the region. Investing in EV charging infrastructure, delivering a £50 million EV Supplier Readiness and Transformation programme and investing £9.7 million in MADE NE as part of the North East Investment Zone to support skills and industrial innovation in advanced manufacturing.
Supporting the transition across everyday industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping SMEs, charities and community organisations reduce energy costs and emissions. Investing £4.2m in a regional warm homes advice service and coordinated retrofit delivery; and launching a £1.8m agri-tech and farm advisory support package to help create more green jobs in the rural economy.
Promoting the North East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the North East as a destination for clean growth investment by connecting investors, innovators and local businesses; supporting innovation and investment that help firms adopt green technologies and create new roles.

Looking ahead to 2035

Scaling priority: green industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Growing green jobs in offshore wind, electric vehicles, batteries and supporting technologies, retrofit, heat networks, agri-tech and land-based industries; whilst strengthening supply chains so more value and jobs stay in the region.
Investing in places that create jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Using our Investment Zone to attract major clean energy and advanced manufacturing investment; including in ports, quaysides and strategic employment sites. Unlocking long-term opportunities in heat networks, geothermal energy and circular economy industries. Leading targeted international engagement, trade missions and industry events to attract investment and create jobs.



Sophia started as an apprentice technician and is now a senior technician at Origin Tech.



Charlie started as an apprentice and is now a senior technician at Origin Tech.

“At Origin Tech, we’re proud to be creating high tech green jobs in the North East. Our water leakage technology not only supports future-focused local careers in STEM, but also contributes to the conservation of our most precious resource, water.”
John Marsden, CEO, Origin Tech



“Nissan Sunderland has been building electric vehicles for more than 10 years and recently launched the all-new 100% electric Nissan LEAF.
As part of our EV36Zero plan, the Plant is transforming into a flagship EV hub, bringing together electric vehicles, renewable energy and battery production.”
Marion Bertier, HR Director, Nissan Motor Manufacturing UK – Sunderland Plant



“Our Hydrogen Power Units manufactured in collaboration with Siemens Energy provide clean electricity. We are placing people at the centre of clean energy delivery through apprenticeships, graduate roles and on-the-job training.”
Derek Bulmer, CFO from GeoPura



“Creating green jobs in the region is at the heart of our mission to make the North East the Home of the Green Energy Revolution. For example, we’re investing in Newcastle College’s Energy academy, opening up opportunities for training and skills for our residents and supporting clean energy industries to grow on the banks of the river Tyne. As a region we will work together to harness the full potential of the green industry to unlock economic growth and deliver green jobs that benefit our residents.”
Elected Mayor of North Tyneside Karen Clark, North East Combined Authority Portfolio Holder - Home of the Green Energy Revolution

Plan-on-a-page

The North East is the home of the green energy revolution.

Green growth means good jobs, warmer homes, lower energy bills, healthier places to live, and a stronger future for our communities. This is our plan to double the number of green jobs in the North East from 25,000 to 50,000 in 2035. We have already committed over £130m to support this transition, with further investment being cultivated.

Green growth will look like:



10,000 jobs
in offshore wind



8,000 jobs
in heat networks and green tech



5,000 jobs
in low-carbon housing and retrofit

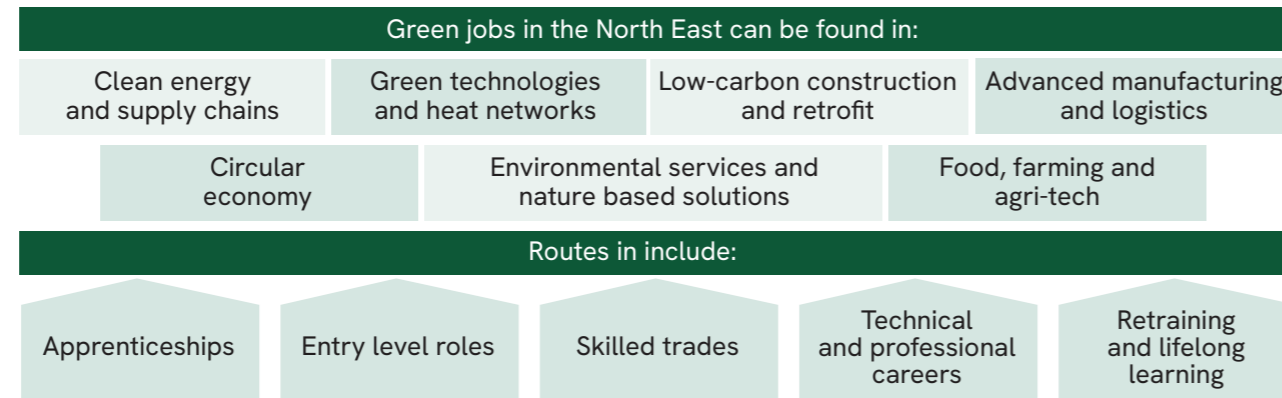


2,000 jobs
in electric vehicles and supporting technologies

The North East is home to a globally recognised clean energy ecosystem. Our plan is supported by world-leading innovation, ports, skills campuses, and research facilities.

At the heart of this plan is a commitment to a just transition, one that brings people with us, widens access to opportunity, and supports a more diverse workforce.

Green jobs exist across the economy and at every skill level.



This is our plan for green jobs.

We will deliver green growth that works for people, places and businesses, guided by a commitment to a just transition.

<p>Championing a brighter, cleaner North East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting a clear direction for the region's green future Building confidence among residents, businesses and investors Making opportunities visible through careers activity, engagement and promotion Championing the North East as a global destination for green growth 	<p>Supporting people across the region into green jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building skills pathways from schools and colleges to apprenticeships and retraining Investing in green skills facilities across the region Supporting career change, progression and retraining Opening up green careers for people who have not always had the chance 	<p>Creating more green jobs across the North East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Backing innovation and business growth in priority green sectors Supporting industries to cut carbon and grow jobs Investing in ports, sites and infrastructure that anchor long-term employment Strengthening local supply chains so more value and jobs stay in the region
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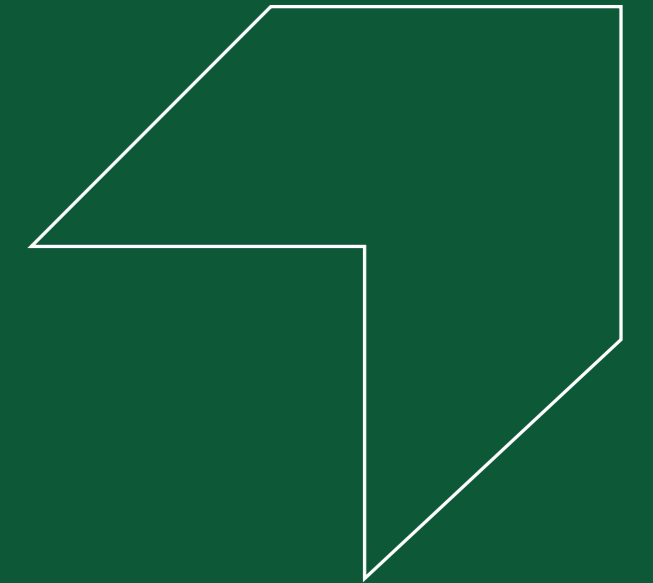
There is a role for everyone in the North East's green future. Whether you are looking for work, starting an apprenticeship, changing career, running a business or investing, this plan is about creating opportunity in every part of the region.

“There is a role for everyone in the North East’s green future. Whether you are looking for work, starting an apprenticeship, changing career, running a business or investing, this plan is about creating opportunity in every part of the region”.

Kim McGuinness, North East Mayor

To find out more visit:

www.northeast-ca.gov.uk/home-of-the-green-energy-revolution



Kim McGuinness
North East
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