

# Leicester and Leicestershire Green Skills Update

March 2024

Following on from the release of the LLEP area Green Skills report in late 2023, this round up of local and national green skills news aims to brief area stakeholders such as area FE Colleges, Universities, Schools, Businesses, and the Voluntary and Community Sector.

## Business support

### Retrofit skills support for Leicester and Leicestershire businesses!

Three area training companies can offer part or fully funded retrofit skills training, as part of the Home Decarbonisation Skills Training Competition (HDSTC). Apply now! Ends April 2024. The companies are:

**Energy Trust:** <https://energy-trust.co.uk/> (retrofit assessor, coordinator and insulation courses)

**Elmhurst:** [Energy Assessment Training & Accreditation - Elmhurst Energy](#)

**Unyte:** [Enhance your skills with Retrofit Training Courses - Unyte Academy](#) (retrofit and insulation)

Also see: <https://www.midlandsnetzerohub.co.uk/national-schemes/skills-training/home-decarbonisation-skills-training/>

### LLEP led hydrogen skills event at Leicestershire Innovation Festival (LIF)

As part of LIF2024 the LLEP held a webinar to convey the East Midlands **strength in hydrogen** developments, business use of hydrogen, and area opportunities to develop hydrogen skills, with partners Intelligent Energy, MIRA Technology Park, HYDEX, Forterra, NWSLC, East Midlands Hydrogen, MIRA MTI, and the East Midlands IoT. See: <https://youtu.be/Zu3WpQxecJk>



### East Midlands Chamber

Leicester Accelerator, funded by **Leicester City Council** UKSPF, is a place-based business support project providing a range of interventions, including **Net Zero Accelerator**: events, training, consultancy and energy audits to help businesses gain green business skills. [East Midlands Chamber \(leicester.gov.uk\)](http://East Midlands Chamber (leicester.gov.uk)).



### Hinckley and Bosworth grants

The Borough Council's **Business Prosperity and Rural Prosperity Grants** are still open to applications. There are a range of grants, from £7,500 to £22,500, closing on 2 April 2024. Applications are encouraged from those who would like to install low carbon-generating technologies or improving energy efficiency. See: [www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/businessprosperity](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/businessprosperity) or [www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ruralprosperity](http://www.hinckley-bosworth.gov.uk/ruralprosperity)

## Harborough District Council Environmental grant scheme

The **Environmental Grant Scheme** provides financial support (of £5,000 - £20,000) to constituted 'not for profit' organisations within the Harborough district, to encourage them to undertake capital projects with a demonstrable positive impact on the environment. Full details: [www.harborough.gov.uk/environmentalgrant](http://www.harborough.gov.uk/environmentalgrant)

## University support

See the link below on support **universities can give to businesses**, with a good section on carbon reduction: <https://universitiespartnership.org/responsible-business/>

Area **colleges** also have an increasing green skills support offer - more to follow on this in the next green skills update.

## Business growth hub

There is signposting to a **variety of support** on: <https://bizgateway.org.uk/green-initiatives/>



## Skills Bootcamps

Skills Bootcamps offer free, flexible courses of up to 16 weeks. They are designed to **help employers to address skills gaps** and to **upskill individuals around skills and job vacancy needs** in high demand, across a range of sectors and roles. See more on: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/find-a-skills-bootcamp/east-midlands>. Leicester City Council are working with LLEP and Leicestershire County Council to bring a wider range of Bootcamps to the area, including green offers. More to follow in the next news update!

## Area news roundup

A proposal for **Centrica** to establish a Centre of Excellence at Magna Park, will bring together **training activity** with research and development of Net Zero products and services, including solar, battery and hydrogen technologies. [Green light set for Centrica's 'Centre of Excellence' | Insider Media](#)

A huge battery site capable of providing two hours back-up power to 235,000 homes has been given the go-ahead by **Blaby District Council**. Green energy specialist **Exagen** will develop a 19-acre site near Earl Shilton. [£270m battery storage facility capable of powering 235,000 homes given go-ahead - Leicestershire Live \(leicestermercury.co.uk\)](#)



A partnership aiming to tackle barriers to climate action has been awarded £2.56m from Innovate UK. The Leicestershire CAN (Collaboration to Accelerate Net Zero) project, led by **Leicestershire County Council**, will collaborate and accelerate climate action, including a county area decarbonisation pathway plan. <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/news/council-led-green-consortium-secures-funding>

## EV technician forecasts from IMI

22% of all technicians in the country are EV qualified, see: [EV TechSafe Technician Forecasts - Jan 2024 | Institute of The Motor Industry \(theimi.org.uk\)](#)

## Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education news

Over **200 apprenticeships** now support England's net zero drive, with more to follow, designed by thousands of employers with support from the Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education (IfATE). [Green Careers Week: Over 200 green apprenticeships now supporting net zero / Institute for Apprenticeships and Technical Education](#)

[Green occupations](#) and the [occupational standards](#) that describe them are the basis of [apprenticeships](#) and [technical qualifications](#). Occupations are categorised as [mid-green](#) and [dark green](#) to indicate the impact the role has to help carbon zero targets. <https://occupational-maps.instituteforapprenticeships.org/green-themes/>

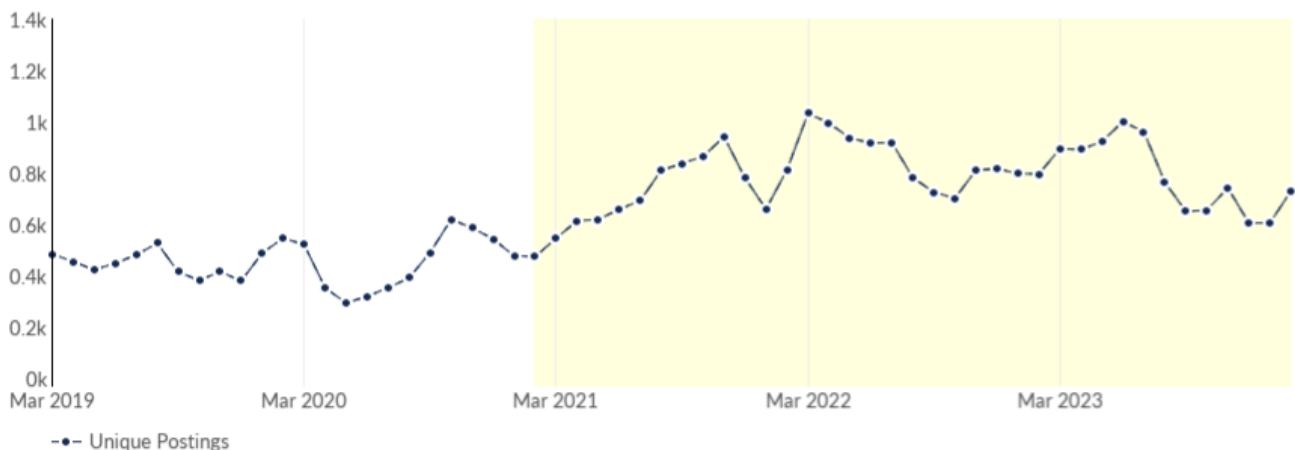


## Local job vacancy data

Area **advertised job vacancy area** below (on roles advertised that specify the need for green-linked skills) shows a steady increase over time, with 729 roles in February 2024 as opposed to 474 in February 2021. It is still early days in trying to effectively capture green-aligned roles, but increasingly national and area data sets are endeavouring to build in parameters to monitor green job activity.

Most roles mentioning the need for green skills at present are health and safety leads, followed by production engineers, mechanical engineers and engineering technicians.

Unique Postings Trend



## **Advertised\* green jobs, LLEP area, March 2019 to February 29, 2024**

\*Source, Lightcast job analytics 2024

The Careers Hub plays a key role locally in linking businesses to local schools and colleges to help increase knowledge of key area sectors and different career paths.

We Discover is a set of research projects delivered by the Careers Hub to evaluate innovative approaches or specific challenges related to good careers education.

## We Discover – Careers Conversations

This delivers targeted support for parents and carers to encourage them to use and understand Labour Market Information and increase their confidence in supporting their young people with exploring workplace experiences in three key sectors – logistics, digital and green.



As part of this Intelligent Energy provided parents of year 9 students with local labour market information on the green sector, by:

- Providing information about Intelligent Energy and what they do, job roles and pathways. This was sent to parents in bite sized pieces by text message and through school social media platforms.
- Delivering assemblies to Year 9 students conveying similar information, to encourage conversations at home.
- Hosting Very Important Parent (VIP) parent visits to the Intelligent Energy premises in Loughborough.

## Feedback

- Employers involved in the projects commented that having the parents, young people and teachers all in the same place (at their premises) was valuable as they were all getting the same messages at the same time.
- Parents said that the VIP parent events were a great way to provoke careers conversations with their sons and daughters.
- Schools reported a high read rate for the text messages and social media sent out to parents.



For further information about the activities of the Careers Hub, please contact [Gerarde.Manley@llep.org.uk](mailto:Gerarde.Manley@llep.org.uk)

## Newsletter feedback

If you have any feedback or news items to enhance future newsletters, please email [anna.cyhan@llep.org.uk](mailto:anna.cyhan@llep.org.uk)

This newsletter was created in partnership with the LLEP, Leicestershire County Council and Leicester City Council to support area green skills coordination and awareness.

LLEP area Green Skills Report: <https://llep.org.uk/app/uploads/2023/09/LLEP-area-Green-Skills-report-2023.pdf>