

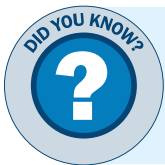


Why consider a Green Skills career?

Green skills are becoming more important as Northern Ireland works towards a **low-carbon, more sustainable future**.

Climate challenges and new technologies are already changing how organisations work and the skills they need. Green skills help people use energy and resources more efficiently, protect the environment and work in ways that support practical, future-ready jobs.

Green skills are not limited to one sector. They are used across construction, energy, manufacturing, transport, agriculture, the public sector and many other industries, creating opportunities at different stages of working life.



Northern Ireland has legal targets to reach net-zero emissions by 2050 and get 80% of our electricity from renewables by 2030¹

Who are green skills careers suitable for?

Green skills careers can suit people at many stages, including:

- ▶ adults already in work who want to upskill or specialise
- ▶ career changers bringing experience from other sectors
- ▶ returners looking to re-enter the labour market
- ▶ people interested in practical, technical or problem-solving roles

Types of green skills roles

Green skills roles exist across a wide range of sectors in Northern Ireland and can include:

- ▶ renewable energy and low-carbon technologies
- ▶ energy efficiency and retrofit*
- ▶ environmental management and compliance
- ▶ sustainable construction and building services
- ▶ waste reduction, recycling and resource management
- ▶ sustainability, Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and environmental advisory roles.

Some roles are highly technical, while others focus on planning, management, monitoring, regulation, or improving everyday working practices across organisations².

Skills and qualities employers look for

Depending on the role, employers in green skills roles may look for a combination of skills³ such as:

- ▶ problem-solving and practical thinking
- ▶ technical or digital skills
- ▶ an understanding of sustainability or environmental issues
- ▶ attention to detail and compliance awareness
- ▶ teamwork and communication skills

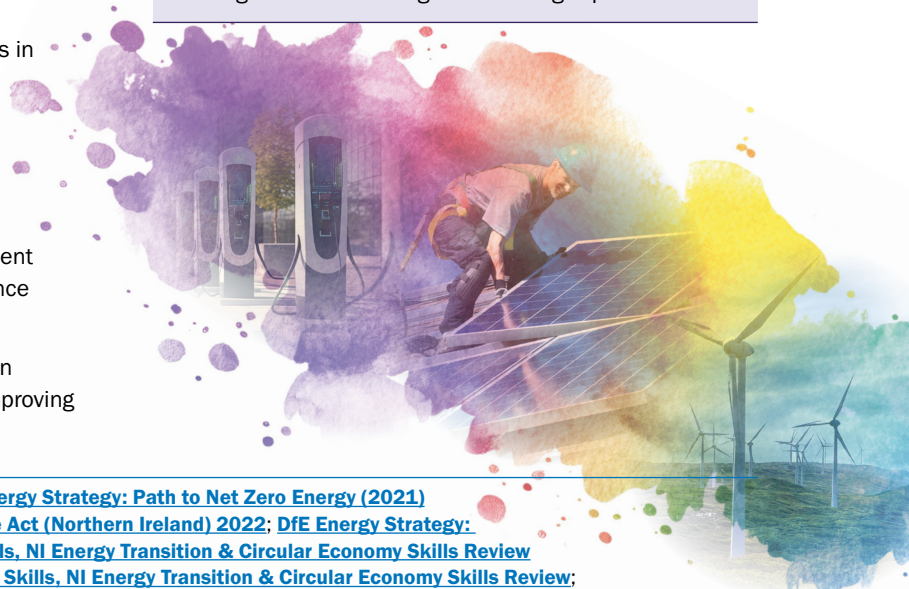
Many of these skills are transferable and may already have been developed through previous work, training, volunteering or life experience.

Myth-busting Green Skills careers

Quick myth-busters

- Myth: Green skills careers are only for scientists or engineers.**
- Reality:** Green skills are used in a wide range of roles, including construction, maintenance, project support, management, planning and advisory roles.
- Myth: Green skills careers are only for new entrants or young people**
- Reality:** Green skills careers are well suited to adults at different stages of working life, including those looking to upskill, retrain or move into greener roles using their existing experience.

1 [Climate Change Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022; DfE Energy Strategy: Path to Net Zero Energy \(2021\)](#)
2 [DfE Green Skills Action Plan \(2025\); Climate Change Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022; DfE Energy Strategy: Path to Net Zero Energy \(2021\); Energy & Utility Skills, NI Energy Transition & Circular Economy Skills Review](#)
3 [DfE Green Skills Action Plan \(2025\); Energy & Utility Skills, NI Energy Transition & Circular Economy Skills Review; DfE Transitioning to a greener economy – a skills perspective](#)



Entry routes and progression

There is no single route into a green skills career.

Entry and progression routes can include:



further or higher education courses



part-time or flexible study



apprenticeships or work-based learning



short courses or professional development



moving into a greener role within your current organisation.

Many routes are shaped by employer needs and industry demand. Progression often happens over time as people build experience and develop specialist skills, with many green careers evolving alongside wider industry change.

Thinking about a career change into a Green Skills career?

If you are considering a move into green skills, the steps below can help you explore whether a green skills career is right for you:



take stock of your existing skills and experience



research roles and sectors that match your interests



consider short courses or training to build confidence and knowledge

Support and next steps

You can get further help by:

- ▶ speaking to a Careers Service adviser for free, impartial guidance
- ▶ exploring training and entry routes through [A Guide to Career Entry Routes](#)
- ▶ researching careers options on [NiDirect Careers](#)
- ▶ talking to people already working in green or sustainability-related roles

Summary

Green skills careers are varied, future-focused and open to people with different skills and experiences. By building on what you already know and developing new skills over time, you can support Northern Ireland's move towards a more sustainable economy.

Want to find out more?

This factsheet is based on the Careers Service [Careers Occupational Information Unit Bulletin - Green Skills careers bulletin](#).



The [DfE Careers Service](#) provides free, professional and impartial careers advice to help you explore your options and plan next steps.

Key Terms

* **Retrofitting** - the process of improving existing buildings to use less energy and reduce carbon emissions.

Source: [Department for the Economy \(NI\) - Energy Efficiency](#)

