

Green Skills  
for Jobs and  
Entrepreneurship

# Impact Report

Supporting a Just and Inclusive  
Transition to a Green  
Economy



## ABOUT THE AWARD-WINNING GREEN SKILLS FOR JOBS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMME

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Green Skills for Jobs and Entrepreneurship is a unique and transformational programme delivered by the University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) in partnership with racial justice organisation Black South-West Network and NatWest bank, funded by the West of England Combined Authority. The programme provides access to jobs, training and business opportunities to Black, Asian and minoritised young people in the West of England region.

The programme was launched in February 2022 in response to the need for economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic and the Government's Ten Point Plan to build a green industrial revolution, with a pledge to create 250,000 new green jobs by 2030.

The key objectives of the Green Skills programme are to support a just and inclusive transition to a green economy, close the skills gap between job opportunities and young people and tackle the underrepresentation of people from minoritised backgrounds in environmental careers, recognising that the sector is the second least diverse in the UK.

Green Skills for Jobs and Entrepreneurship is designed to empower minoritised young people with the skills, knowledge, insights and industry contacts needed to pursue careers in the growing sustainability sector.

## CHAMPIONING GREEN AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC DYNAMISM

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Since its launch in early 2022, Green Skills for Jobs and Entrepreneurship has supported young people to access an inclusive, equitable and decolonised skills curriculum delivered over eight full days of paid training. Course content is underpinned by racial and social justice pillars in its curriculum design, addressing structural barriers and how these contribute to the exclusion of communities of colour from the mainstream sustainability sector.

Additionally, Green Skills for Jobs and Entrepreneurship provides each young person with the opportunity to embed their knowledge and refine the skills they have developed through access to one of four skills pathways: a fully funded internship with a local business or third sector organisation; a fully funded research internship; funding to cover industry training or further learning; and Green Tech or Social Enterprise incubation.



Learner panel discussion at the cohort 6 celebration event

## OUR IMPACT SO FAR

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We have connected with over **30 community and youth organisations** to raise awareness of our programme and worked closely with the **National Probation Service** to onboard service users.



The programme has both remunerated and **supported 90 young people** to develop the confidence and skills to access the green sector. Some of these learners are care experienced, have refugee status, have lived independently before the age of 18, are from low-income households or have experience of the criminal justice system.



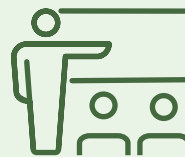
**46 learners** have secured industry or research **internship**



21 learners have accessed business **incubation support** - 18 of these learners have received **grant funding** for their businesses.



**60+ industry and community representatives** supported programme delivery and Stage 2 pathway opportunities



**300 taught hours** of course delivery



Learners have cited that they feel **'excited, empowered and optimistic to create change'**



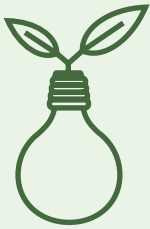
Learners planting seeds during a workshop facilitated by the Hip Hop Gardeners



The programme **won the national Green Gown Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Sustainability award**



A programme waitlist is in operation, demonstrating that there is significant demand for this kind of initiative. The programme has received **over 250 expressions of interest** from young people across the region.



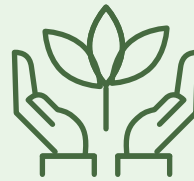
The programme has been **spotlighted by the National Race Quality Think Tank the Runnymede Trust as part of the Race Matters Blog Series**: The Runnymede Trust | Supporting an inclusive transition to a green economy



We have worked with learners from a wide variety of minoritised backgrounds, some of whom are from countries in the Global South where **people of colour are losing their lives and homes to climate change at disproportionate rates**. (Greenpeace and Runnymede report, July 2022).



The programme has been **featured as a case study** for a voluntary review of the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** in its recognition of its work to support Goal 8 'Decent Work and Economic Growth'.



**84% of learners** surveyed want to pursue a career in the green sector after taking part in the project. **100% of businesses** surveyed felt inspired to improve **equity, diversity, and inclusion** policies after taking part.

