



Programme Overview

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) in partnership with Black South West Network and NatWest are working to deliver the Green Skills for Jobs and Entrepreneurship (Green Skills) programme. This is an initiative funded by the UK Government's Community Renewal Fund (CRF) and managed by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) on behalf of the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC).

Green Skills is a unique and transformational programme that provides access to jobs, training and business opportunities to Black, Asian and minoritised young people (aged 18-28) and recent graduates living in Bristol, South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, Bath and Northeast Somerset.

This is a two-stage pilot project launched in response to the need for economic recovery following the Covid-19 pandemic and the demand for 50,000 new jobs to be created in the region by 2030 to meet zero-carbon targets. The key objectives of the Green Skills programme are to support the West of England's 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.

The Green Skills pilot has been designed to empower 90 young people with skills, knowledge, insights and industry contacts that will assist them to pursue careers in the growing green sector. Stage One of the project has provided each young person with access to an inclusive and equitable curriculum delivered over 8 full days of training. The following themes have been covered: Energy, Construction, Food, Living and the Circular Economy, Innovation and Enterprise.

Across these 8 days, Learners have been introduced to a plethora of inspirational speakers and leaders from a variety of backgrounds, participated in interactive workshops, completed group activities and been provided with opportunities to reflect on their personal development, entrepreneurial skills and future careers through 1:1 coaching and mentoring sessions.

Stage two of the Green Skills for Jobs and Entrepreneurship programme provides each Learner with the opportunity to embed their knowledge and refine the skills they have been developing through access to one of four skills pathways: Fully funded internship with a local business, fully funded research internship at UWE Bristol, funding to cover industry training or further learning and Green Tech or Social Enterprise incubation.

All opportunities in stage two of the programme will align to the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals in recognition of their commitment to ensure prosperity for people and the planet now and into the future.

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