

New report shows the way to net zero in the built environment

A report on the impact of “green skills” outlines industry insights and ways to move towards net zero in the building industry.

Sustainabuild is the network for sustainability-focused professionals in the built environment. The organisation has unveiled its latest Green Skills Impact Report, outlining key insights and actionable recommendations from its recent assembly. The event was opened by Graeme Dey, Minister for Higher and Further Education, and discussion focused on the urgent need to close Scotland’s green skills gap within the built environment.

The report, developed from discussions and workshops at the Assembly, identifies urgent workforce priorities to help Scotland meet its target of reducing emissions from greenhouse gases to net zero by 2045. The built environment is said to account for approximately 40% of Scotland’s total emissions, and the sector plays a key role in the transition.

The establishment of a national green skills strategy, and stronger collaboration between educational institutions and industry to establish high-quality training programmes are two of the recommendations. Other crucial measures include inclusive hiring practices as well as targeted mentorship and scholarships to support women and underrepresented groups entering green careers.

During his opening address Mr Dey highlighted The Scottish Government's commitment to sustainable skills development and cross-sector collaboration. The new report provides a roadmap for the sector, highlighting practical measures for workforce training, and delivering long-term sustainability within the built environment.

Sustainabuild has confirmed plans for an industry roundtable event to bring together government officials, educators, and business leaders. The event will focus on transforming recommendations into real-world solutions and ensuring tangible progress.

Matt Colgan, Director at Sustainabuild said: "The Assembly highlighted the industry's eagerness to collaborate and accelerate progress. Our Green Skills Impact Report captures these critical discussions and translates them into clear, achievable actions. The upcoming roundtable will be an essential step in turning these recommendations into real impact.

Collaboration between educators, businesses, and government is key to building a sustainable construction sector. By implementing these recommendations, we can develop the green workforce Scotland needs to meet net zero while creating future-proof jobs that strengthen our economy."

Steven Kiakowski, Director of The Verdancy Group and a speaker at the assembly, said: "Momentum is shifting. The Assembly and Green Skills Impact Report mark a major milestone in shaping innovative policies and actions for the industry. Now, we must build on this enthusiasm to drive lasting change."

This initiative strengthens Sustainabuild's role as a driving force for sustainability in the built environment, reinforcing its commitment to closing the green skills gap and supporting Scotland's transition to net zero.

To access the Green Skills Impact Report, [sign up here](#).

