

A SKILLED WORKFORCE FOR A PROFITABLE FUTURE – MAKE SURE YOU’RE READY



GREEN SKILLS FOR A GREEN FUTURE
BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEERING

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THE LOW CARBON FUTURE IS COMING

The building services engineering (BSE) sector has a major role to play in meeting the carbon reduction targets set by Government. Reducing emissions, lowering energy consumption and conserving water cannot be achieved unless this sector designs, installs and maintains renewable and environmental technologies, and provides the best advice to customers.

There's a huge challenge ahead for employers to have the right skills in place to adapt and respond to new system designs and working practices.

Two major initiatives in particular present a huge need for skilled personnel, and an even bigger opportunity for business profit. Feed-in tariffs, to be introduced in April 2010, will see homeowners and other proprietors paid for small scale, low-carbon electricity generation. Additionally, the Renewable Heat Incentive, due in Spring 2011, will provide financial assistance to generators of renewable heat.

YOUR BUSINESS IS PART OF THE SOLUTION

These schemes, teamed with future changes to building regulations and the zero carbon targets for new homes, means that your business will need to prove it has the right team for the job to win new contracts.

For those who are prepared, the potential commercial gains are immense. Even in the current economic climate, businesses that have up-skilled their staff to work in environmental technologies have already seen considerable growth.



Image courtesy of Bourne BG Ltd

WHAT ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGIES DOES BSE COVER?

The specification, design, installation, commissioning, repair and maintenance of the environmental technology systems listed below all fall in the SummitSkills and BSE footprint. They cover renewable, low and zero carbon technology and are designed to minimise energy waste, assist water conservation and help reduce fuel and resource poverty:

- bio-fuels (bio mass, bio liquid)
- combined heat and power
- heat pumps
- mechanical heat recovery ventilation
- micro hydro generation systems
- micro wind energy
- solar photovoltaics (PV)
- solar water heating
- water harvesting and recycling

The list may seem vast but in the short term the key areas of growth are in solar, PV, heat pumps and water recycling. Other technologies are rapidly following behind.

THEY'RE ADDED TO EXISTING SKILLS, NOT CARRIED OUT ALONE

It's important to realise that all the environmental technologies in the sector are an extension of existing skill sets and job functions; they're not separate roles. Your current workers, providing they have the right level of competence (such as NVQ or SVQ), will simply up-skill through add-on training to include environmental technologies in their existing remit.



Image courtesy of Viridian Solar

SUMMITSKILLS – DEVELOPING LOW TO ZERO CARBON SKILLS

As the Sector Skills Council for building services engineering, it is SummitSkills' role to ensure fit-for-purpose, accredited and appropriate training is developed.

Specifically for environmental technologies, we have put a number of measures in place so that employers in the sector have clear guidelines on how staff should be skilled in this area:

- National Occupational Standards – these are the building blocks of qualifications. They determine the core competencies that individuals should have for each occupation. SummitSkills has developed standards for environmental technologies upon which qualifications are now being based.
- Qualification development – using the National Occupational Standards as a basis, we are now working with awarding bodies, certification bodies and training providers to develop qualifications that fit those standards, both for existing workers and apprentices.
- Environmental technologies awareness short courses – to enable employers to assess the potential for developing their business and identify employee training needs.



Image courtesy of Nu-Heat Ltd

THE OPPORTUNITIES CAN'T BE IGNORED

By considering what skills you have in your business, where you could evolve and taking steps to get prepared, you could gain a significant advantage over your competitors as more and more projects specify the need for environmental technologies.

In some parts of the UK there are already insufficient businesses to meet the demand for these types of projects, and clients are looking elsewhere, including overseas, to companies who already have the skills in place.

Even at domestic level, homeowners need to be made aware of how to make their home more efficient, not only by maximising their existing equipment but also through the new technologies that are available to them. If your business has the skills and knowledge in this area, you can stay ahead of the game.



Image courtesy of Viridian Solar

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NEXT: START TRAINING NOW

There's never been a better time to move into this growing market. With skilled staff in your core industry specialisms, you'll already have the core skills in place, it's just a case of additional training.

Make sure you're armed with the right knowledge as you move forward:

- Short environmental awareness courses can initially help you to get a grip on the important factors to consider, learn more about the new technologies and make the right business decisions.
- Think about the skills you currently have in your business and the opportunities available:
 - what technologies are already being, or likely to be, specified in your region?
 - which members of your team are best equipped to up-skill in these areas?
- Apply to an appropriate certification scheme, for example MCS or equivalent. Visit www.microgenerationcertification.org for more information.
- Find the training that meets your needs and the providers that can help you.



Image courtesy of Kingspan Renewables

**MAKE SURE YOU'RE
READY FOR THE LOW
TO ZERO CARBON
REVOLUTION.**

**PREPARE TODAY FOR
BUSINESS SUCCESS
TOMORROW.**

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