



## **GJA Statement on Green Jobs and Skills**

The Greener Jobs Alliance has campaigned over many years to make the link between climate change, industrial strategy, social justice, and skills. We have made it clear that only by tackling all 4 in a systematic way will the UK meet net-zero carbon emissions targets. It is one of the reasons why the GJA was founded in 2010 and published a Green Skills Manifesto in 2011.

The last 10 years has seen a failure by the government, regional and local authorities, employers, and the education sector to address this. The Conservative Government's decision to scrap the Green Economy Council, and the Green Skills Taskforce in 2013 illustrates that even the limited measures introduced by the Con/Lib Dem Coalition Government were abandoned.

We welcome the Government decision in November 2020 to establish a Green Jobs Taskforce.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/uk-government-launches-taskforce-to-support-drive-for-2-million-green-jobs-by-2030>

This has the target to 'support the creation of 2 million green jobs by 2030'. We welcome this ambition, the inclusion of trade union representation on the Taskforce, and its focus on skills. However, there are a range of issues which threaten the ability to achieve the target:

- the low carbon and renewable energy economy made up just 1% of total UK non-financial turnover and employment in 2018, and has stagnated at that level for several years  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/environmentalaccounts/bulletins/finalestimates/2018#strengths-and-limitations>
- supply chain and procurement policies in the UK have led to the export of jobs. The offshore wind sector in Scotland is one example of this failure of industrial strategy
- crisis of funding in the further and higher education sector has contributed to the skills crisis in the UK
- threatened withdrawal of funding for Unionlearn highlights the inconsistencies in the Government approach to skills policy and union engagement
- current lack of union representation on key skills organisations like the Institute of Apprenticeships and Local Enterprise Partnerships
- the private sector-led delivery model of the current Green Homes Grant illustrates that the lessons from the disastrous Green Deal of 2015 have not been learned
- lack of finance committed to deliver at the scale required
- Covid-19 recovery plans have failed to target funding to address the skills gap in the UK
- fragmented approach at regional and local level

We call for:

- a skills policy that is properly funded and built on a long-term strategy of quality apprenticeships and upskilling of the current and future workforce
- co-ordinated local, regional, national and sector frameworks in the development of jobs for the future
- full union engagement in policy development and delivery to ensure a just transition at different levels and sectors of the economy
- introduction of a legal right to appoint trade union green reps in the workplace.

- restoration of support for the Unionlearn fund
- comprehensive changes to procurement and supply chain policies to ensure the potential for local employment growth is maximised, and that is based on union recognition and decent terms and conditions of employment
- a Green New Deal which supports local recovery models as part of an industrial strategy that is clearly aligned with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals

Greener Jobs Alliance

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<https://www.greenerjobsalliance.co.uk/>