

Skills for a Low Carbon Resource Efficient Economy

IEMA Annual Conference

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“The economic recovery will be a
low carbon recovery”

Gordon Brown, March 2009

what is our high level skills strategy?

- **use the power of Government** to accelerate delivery of strategic low carbon skills solutions without weakening employer leadership of the skills system
- **draw on expertise of leading edge employers** to set the agenda and the pace of reform, accelerate supply side responsiveness, and stimulate demand
- **work with sector and regional bodies** to demonstrate and then mainstream low carbon skills solutions in emerging low carbon markets

SofS skills summit

key messages from leading edge employers

- raise employer demand for low carbon skills by demonstrating the business benefits of resource efficiency
- integrate low carbon into general management skills, including audit, finance and investment
- drive efficiency in existing activities through process improvement and supply chain management skills
- invest in STEM skills – particularly engineering – to develop practical knowledge in low carbon technologies

Windsor consultation

key messages from leading edge employers

- low carbon language ‘off-putting’ – businesses relate better to the language of resource efficiency
- the workforce should ‘own’ the resource efficiency agenda and build their capability to make efficiency gains
- leading edge employers should share their knowledge (and training capability) with their supply chains
- SSCs and RDAs should deploy leading edge employer champions to create supply chain demonstrators

wider stakeholder consultation

highlights and priorities

- apprenticeships and graduate work placements should have both generic and specific low carbon content
- stimulate business investment in and employer demand for low carbon skills through public procurement
- any public investment in new skills infrastructure (e.g. NSA) should have low carbon skills requirement
- greater use should be made of FE (as well as HE) knowledge exchange and business innovation capability

Low Carbon Industrial Strategy

scale of the challenge

- wide ranging skills needs from STEM, management and leadership and carbon auditing, to resource efficiency
- weak employer demand and lack of supply, plus mismatch with traditional sector skills infrastructure
- skills gaps and shortages in all sectors, but most acute in renewable and low carbon energy generation sectors
- uncertainty about the nature and scale of the jobs and skills challenge, and the need for an 'activist' approach

Low Carbon Industrial Strategy

Government response

- HE Framework and Skills Strategy white paper setting out sharper focus on low carbon industries - Autumn
- HE and Skills funding agencies to ensure skills system has resources and incentives to respond quickly to demand
- brokerage and demonstration of low carbon skills solutions in LCEAs, plus scaling up across wider skills system
- UK CES and SSCs to produce annual strategic skills assessment to overcome labour market ‘information gap’

Low Carbon Industrial Strategy

Government priorities

- **carbon capture and storage** – announcement of up to 4 demonstration projects in the Budget
- **off-shore wind and marine energy generation** – where the UK leads the world and has a natural advantage
- **nuclear energy** – where we need a new build programme to generate at least 125GW of new capacity
- **ultra low carbon vehicles** – announcement of demonstration projects in the Budget

other low carbon priorities

- solar, biomass, geothermal and hydro energy sources
- waste management
- recovery and recycling
- hydrogen and fuel cells
- carbon management and finance
- wider environmental industries
- resource efficiency – *culture change*

Low Carbon Economic Areas

South West and North East

- low carbon **technology demonstrators** in Marine Energy (SW) and Low Carbon Vehicles (NE) – more to come
- low carbon **skills demonstrators** to support innovation and commercialisation of new technologies in each LCEA
- regional coalitions of skills and industry partners – **single conversation** about low carbon skills demand and supply
- real time skills solutions **ahead of the curve**, and graduate placement scheme to **stimulate demand** in supply chains

lean and green

how can the environmental profession lead the recovery?

- by supporting the low carbon technology and skills demonstrators with **professional knowledge and expertise**?
- by helping businesses make the link between **resource efficiency** and **low carbon** ways of working?
- by stimulating **employer demand** for low carbon technologies and the skills needed to support them?
- by supporting knowledge exchange in supply chains through the *Low Carbon Leaders of the Future* programme?
- by focusing their own **professional development** on the priorities in the Low Carbon Industrial Strategy?

discussion