A photograph of two construction workers, a woman on the left and a man on the right, both wearing white hard hats and high-visibility safety vests. They are looking towards the left of the frame. The background is a blurred industrial setting.

**ECITB: SUPPORTING
BRITAIN'S ENGINEERING
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**

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INTRODUCTION

The Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) is the employer-led skills body for the Engineering Construction Industry (ECI) in Great Britain.

A non-departmental public body, the ECITB works with employers and governments to attract, develop and qualify the engineering construction workforce in a wide range of craft, technical and professional disciplines.

We invest around £28 million every year to enhance skills across the engineering construction industry, support growth through workforce training, and tackle labour shortages and skills gaps.

WHAT WE DO

The ECITB plays a vital role, along with the education sector, government and employers in equipping the workforce with the skills they need to meet the needs of the ECI.

We develop and maintain National Occupational Standards, which form the basis of our training standards, vocational qualifications, technical tests and licensed training programmes, delivered by our approved and quality-assured network of training providers.

We produce vital labour market intelligence, providing insights into the engineering construction workforce and the skills needs.

Delivering the energy transition and decarbonising industrial clusters is central to our work and the ECITB plays a key role in identifying skills gaps and preparing the industry workforce for change.

90,000 workers within ECI in-scope companies

30,000 attend CCNSG safety passport training annually

90 ECITB-approved courses nationally

10,000 LXP course completions

Annual statistics at a glance

£23m

funded training
for employers to
develop and qualify
workforce



1,500

new entrant
starts supported

15,000

people attend one
or more technical
training course or
test



Over

300

ECITB vocational
qualifications
awarded

PREPARING FOR NET ZERO

Understanding Skills Needs

Scenario-based labour market demand modelling allows the ECITB and stakeholders to review labour demand figures and inform planning and interventions.



Net Zero Grant Fund

The ECITB is prioritising grant support to employers for training geared towards supporting the energy transition.

This includes:



Investing grant in net zero skills training including supporting new entrants and existing workers to transition into emerging low-carbon industries.



A suite of 50 energy transition-related training courses that ECITB-registered companies can access for their people. Topics include hydrogen, emissions, sustainability and environmental audit and management courses.



Around 900 learners will benefit from these programmes per year.



Collaborating with the University of Strathclyde to launch the first university course in the UK (MSc in Offshore Energy Transition).

NEW ENTRANT PIPELINES

Attracting new entrants is a key priority for industry and the ECITB.

The ECITB forecasts around 40,000 additional workers are needed for major projects, including those related to net zero, by 2028. This places employers in direct competition for labour from £650bn of infrastructure projects in the wider UK economy. 48% of the ECITB training grant budget is dedicated to new entrants.

ECITB grant-funded post-16 pathways for new entrants fall into two categories Employer-led and ECITB-led.

Employer-led

Apprenticeships and graduate development programmes where the learners are employed.

APPRENTICESHIPS The ECITB provides grant support to a range of apprenticeship programmes across England, Scotland and Wales. Typically, the ECITB has over 1,800 active apprentices receiving grant support at any one time and around 800 new apprentices start each year with ECITB in-scope employers.

GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

The ECITB supports the development of engineering graduates against UK Standard for Professional Engineering Competence and Commitment (UK-SPEC) competencies.

ECITB-led

Scholarships and Work Ready programmes where the learners are on full-time programmes and not employed.

ECITB SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

The ECITB's flagship scholarship programme provides a sustainable pipeline of new talent by providing a grounding in the industrial knowledge and skills that are in demand. On completion, learners gain industry-standard qualifications to be employed as a direct site hire or accelerated into an apprenticeship.

WORK READY PROGRAMME

This collaborative and co-funded programme in partnership with the Department for Work & Pensions and other referral agencies, vocational training providers and employers, provides industry with entry-level workers. It comprises up to 16 weeks college-based learning and work experience site visits and in most cases, upon successful completion, a guaranteed job at the end.

Diversity, Equality and Inclusion

Increasing diversity, equality and inclusion underpins all our new entrant activities and includes improving career pathway visibility.



INVESTMENT: MAXIMISING VALUE

The ECITB's strategy, Leading Industry Learning, aims to support growth in the engineering construction industry. Launched in 2022 it pledges more than £87m to support workforce training and tackle labour shortages and skills gaps over the following three years.

Co-investment

We will work in collaboration with partners to meet joined ambitions in addressing current and future skills challenges and ensure greater value for money.

ECITB-led programmes

Enable us to make investment on behalf of industry in programmes which pump-prime the skills pipeline for up-and-coming projects. For example, developing scholarship programmes within regions tailored to sector needs.

Driving value for money

Levy funds are targeted into areas where they will have the greatest impact such as grants to support the industry in transition to net zero, the Learner Experience Platform (LXP) and Connected Competence to ensure transferability and recognition of core technical competence

DIGITAL & BLENDED LEARNING

The Learner Experience Platform (LXP) is an online digital learning platform hosted by the ECITB. It provides ECI employers with free-to-access online learning from recognised e-learning providers such as IAM Learning, IHasco and Litmos.

Employers who do not have resource or capacity to look after their own online learning system can join ECITB Learn.

Employers who have the capacity and administrative resource can create their own online learning environment with a branded Employer Owned Academy (EOA). This reduces duplication and cost by using the ECITB industry-tested platform and courses with the look and feel of their own corporate environment.

And for employers with an established LMS or LXP, e-learning files can be transferred via Content File Transfer (CFT) to their learning systems.



COLLABORATION IN ACTION

The ECITB engages at a strategic level with UK, Scottish and Welsh Governments as well as employers, clients and national and regional stakeholders.

We work collectively with the Industrial Clusters and are engaging with Local Skills Investment Plans (LSIPs) in England. We also have national-level engagement with the Hydrogen Skills Alliance and Carbon Capture and Storage Association.

The Project Collaboration Toolkit is a practical 'go-to' guide to support projects through improved collaboration. Originally designed for the offshore oil and gas sector, the toolkit is freely available for other engineering construction sectors, helping to guide clients and contractors on how to work together more efficiently whilst sharing industry best practice on joint working.



Download your free copy:
www.ecitb.org.uk/project-collaboration-toolkit

QUALIFICATIONS, TRAINING AND TESTING

Qualifications

The ECITB's own Awarding Organisation offers vocational qualifications for people working in, or working towards, different roles in engineering construction. They are available at different levels and candidates can take them via our network of approved centres in England, Scotland and Wales. They are regulated by Ofqual, Qualifications Wales and SQA Accreditation.

Our approved centres deliver training for candidates and the Awarding Organisation quality assures the centres to ensure they are assessing accurately.

ECITB training and testing

ECITB develops its training and assessment products in partnership with industry and training providers. Developed with industry for industry and underpinned by National Occupational Standards, these include:

- Site safety, including the nationally recognised CCNSG Safety Passport.
- Supervisor training.
- Project Controls, planner, estimator and cost engineer training.
- Technical training courses and tests for craft and technician disciplines.

Our quality-assured network of training providers delivers 220 ECITB-approved courses and tests to more than 40,000 learners each year.

Connected Competence



Connected Competence improves the safety, mobility and transferability of workers by assuring a base level of technical competence through assessment against an agreed common standard.

Read more on this industry-led initiative, facilitated by the ECITB:
connectedcompetence.co.uk





PROJECT MANAGEMENT PROGRAMMES

Project Management Mentoring Programme

The Project Management Mentoring Programme brings together mentors and mentees from cross sector, nuclear, oil and gas operators, tier one contractors and the wider supply chain. Over an eight-month period, senior industry mentors are paired with developing project managers to share knowledge and experience.

The Chartered Project Professional (ChPP) Programme

Run in conjunction with the Association for Project Management, the Chartered Project Professional (ChPP) is a training standard for professionals to demonstrate their leadership capabilities to manage complex projects and use appropriate tools, processes and techniques.

The ACTIVE Cup

The high-pressure project management competition takes place three times a year and gives teams experience of the whole project management process as they manage a simulated project through an execution phase of 28 weeks.



BRITAIN'S INDUSTRIAL CLUSTERS

There are six major industrial clusters across Great Britain:

- Black Country Cluster
- East Coast Cluster incorporating Humberside and Teesside
- Net Zero North West
- Scottish Cluster
- Solent Cluster
- South Wales Industrial Cluster

Industry Sector Key

CO₂
Carbon capture



Upstream
oil & gas



Downstream
oil & gas



Power

H₂
Hydrogen



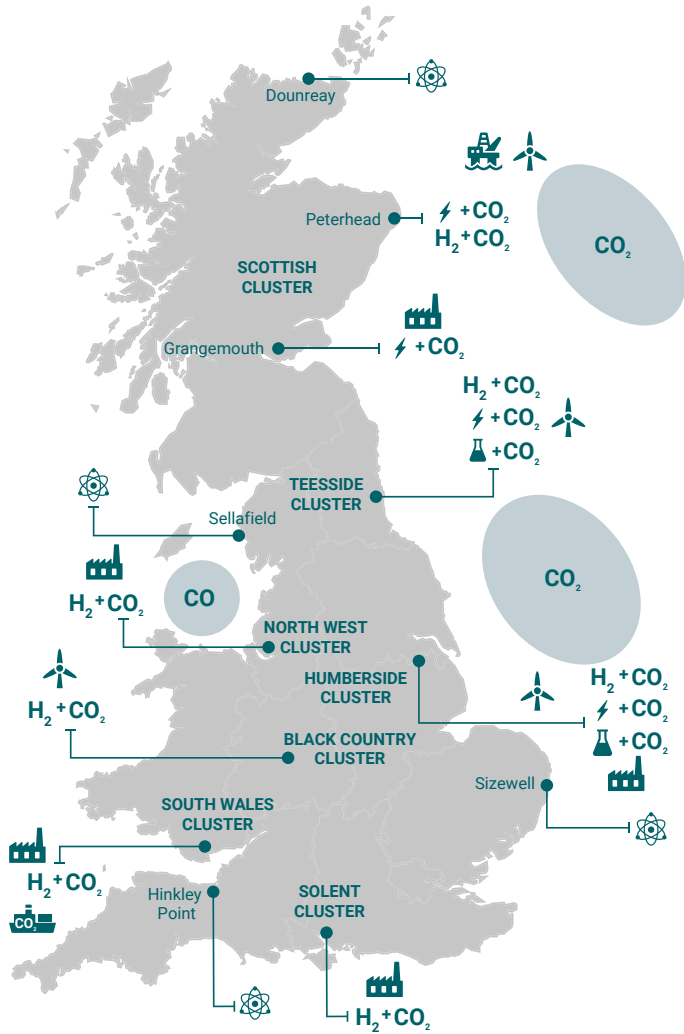
Renewables



Chemicals



Nuclear



BLACK COUNTRY CLUSTER

Within the next ten years, the Black Country Cluster aims to reduce industrial carbon emissions by 1.3 megatonnes of CO².

It spans 3,500 energy-intensive manufacturing businesses, such as iron and steel processing and automotive, food and beverage manufacturing across the four metropolitan areas of Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sandwell and Dudley.

It aims to enable clean GVA growth of £16bn by 2030, creating or safeguarding at least 20,000 skilled jobs.

The project will create mini-clusters of zero carbon industry across the region in multiple industrial sectors and strategically-selected circular economy zero-carbon industrial hubs.



Read more:

idric.org/stakeholders/black-country-cluster

EAST COAST CLUSTER

Incorporating Humberside and Teesside

The East Coast Cluster (ECC) unites the Humber and Teesside with the infrastructure to decarbonise industry.

One of the first two carbon capture, usage and storage clusters (CCUS) to be taken forward by the UK government, the East Coast Cluster will remove almost 50% of the UK's total annual industrial cluster CO² emissions (up to 27m tonnes) by 2030.

It will protect thousands of jobs and establish the region as a globally competitive, climate-friendly hub for industry and innovation.

Net zero projects within Humber and Teesside will create more than 25,000 additional jobs.



Read more:
eastcoastcluster.co.uk

HUMBERSIDE INDUSTRIAL CLUSTER

The Humber region emits more CO² than any other UK industrial cluster and represents the largest opportunity for decarbonisation.

It has ambitious plans to achieve:

- Low carbon status by 2030 and net zero in 2040.
- Two CCUS systems - East Coast Cluster and Viking CSS.
- Greenhouse gas removal technologies (GGR) to achieve net-negative emissions for the region as early as 2030.
- Creation of 1.6GW of low carbon blue and green hydrogen production and 10Twh offshore storage, equivalent to 50% of the UK requirement by 2050.
- Electrification measures particularly for steel making.
- Humber skills and supply chains.
- Capital costs between £7bn-£10bn.
- 70,000 new jobs nationally and 20,000 in the Humber.

Read more:
humberindustrialclusterplan.org

NET ZERO TEESSIDE

Net Zero Teesside is a collection of industrial, power and hydrogen businesses which aim to decarbonise their operations.

The Teesside Industrial Cluster aims to:

- Deliver the UK's first decarbonised heavy industrial cluster by 2040.
- Deliver large CCUS systems and over 4GW of hydrogen production by 2030.
- Create a National Hydrogen Transport Hub, supporting the transition to zero emissions transport.
- Deliver training and employment opportunities aligned to the new green economy.
- Stimulate £10bn investment and create up to 30,000 new jobs.



Read more:
netzeroteesside.co.uk

NET ZERO NORTH WEST

Including the Hynet project

Net Zero North West brings together the industrial powerhouses of the Liverpool and Manchester City Regions, Cheshire and Warrington, Lancashire, Cumbria and North Wales.

Hydrogen with carbon capture and storage plays a central role in the region's decarbonisation strategy through the HyNet project which could produce 4GW of the Government's new 10GW hydrogen target by 2030.

The cluster offers a multi-vector energy system that can drive clean growth:

- £36.5bn near-term GVA uplift with £285 bn overall.
- Establishing domestic supply chains in green technologies.
- The world's first net zero region by 2040.
- £30bn near term investable projects with £207bn overall investment.
- Safeguarding and creating 34,500 green jobs.
- Saving 46Mt of CO² including 17Mt from industry.
- Driving energy security.

Read more:

netzeronw.co.uk/north-west-cluster

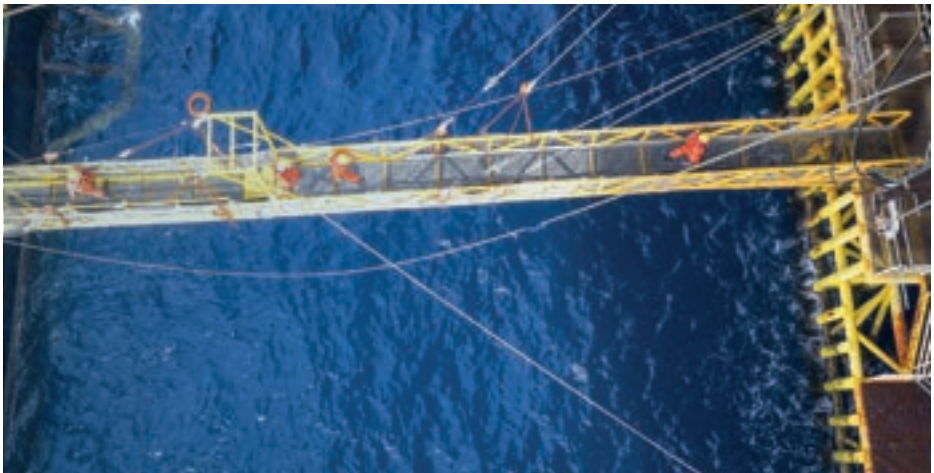
SCOTTISH CLUSTER

The Scottish Cluster, comprising a cross-sector group of industrial CO² emitters and the Acorn carbon capture and storage and hydrogen project partners, aims to capture up to 10m tonnes of CO² annually by 2030.

The first phase of development will involve high-emitting sectors including industrial sites and power generation plants, along with the generation of hydrogen and the deployment of Direct Air Capture (DAC) technology.

Acorn would provide the transport and storage network for the Scottish Cluster, which involves innovative decarbonisation technologies to capture and permanently store CO² emissions under the North Sea.

It is expected to deliver 20,600 jobs in the next decade.



Read more:
thescottishcluster.co.uk

SOLENT CLUSTER

Hampshire and its marine gateway, the Solent, is one of the largest and most successful industrial areas in the UK.

Its goals are:

- To make a major contribution to the UK's move to net zero.
- To enable the Solent and wider region to become a leading area for low carbon investment, now and for the future.
- To bring new jobs and investment for the benefit of our communities and secure existing jobs and livelihoods.
- To help the UK remain competitive and deliver on national energy priorities.
- To provide a platform to showcase the Solent's low carbon innovation and collaboration and embrace future fuel technologies.
- To enable the production of reliable and sustainable fuel sources.
- To make a tangible difference to the communities, businesses and industries that are situated in the Solent.

Read more:
thesolentcluster.com

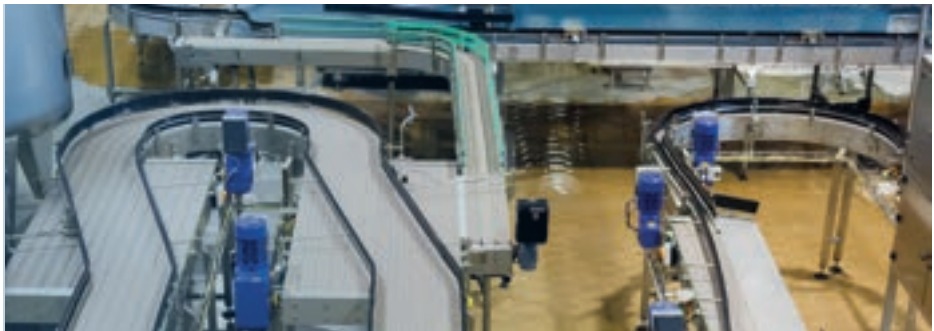
SOUTH WALES INDUSTRIAL CLUSTER (SWIC)

South Wales is home to a significant industrial base, including the UK's largest integrated steelworks, one of the UK's seven oil refineries and one of only four nickel refineries in Europe.

In addition, there are a number of other energy-intensive manufacturing plants and industries within a diverse range of sectors including steel recycling, cement, paper, glass, mineral wool and chemical, food and general manufacturing industries.

SWIC's vision is to achieve:

- Net zero industries in South Wales by 2040, equating to 40% reduction of current Welsh CO² emissions.
- Retention of 113,000 jobs and a net positive increase in jobs overall.
- Unlocking £30bn investment opportunities in the region.



Read more:
swic.cymru



ecitb.org.uk