



Workforce Renewal and Skills Strategy Launch Supporting Quotes

Lord Aberdare, Vice Chair, All Party Parliamentary Group on Apprenticeships

This inaugural workforce renewal and skills strategy for the energy and utilities sector sets out the evidence showing the large numbers of experienced people who will retire or move on and must be systematically replaced, plus the changing skills and competences that will be required to be truly sustainable. This is a real challenge for companies which provide infrastructure and services that are essential to all our daily lives, but which find it difficult to convey the value and attractiveness of the careers they offer. I commend the Energy & Utility Skills Partnership for their work to bring together this strategy and tackle these challenging issues on a collective basis. I have already witnessed some of the results of this collaboration first hand, including the completion of the first ever apprenticeships under the new Trailblazer system and the signing of the Procurement Skills Accord, committing a range of businesses to increase their investment in training and development.

Kevin Fowlie, Managing Director for Utilities, Amey

Collaborating with other organisations within our sector to address the skills shortages and recruitment challenges will provide more efficient and effective outcomes for us all. We are proud to be one of the companies leading the initiative and welcome the launch of this inaugural workforce renewal and skills strategy by the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership.

Peter Simpson, Chief Executive, Anglian Water

Without action, the UK's STEM skills gap could bring our country and economy to a grinding halt, which is why we're working hard to inspire a future generation - the engineers, architects, scientists and managers of tomorrow - and make the sector more attractive to young people. Around 150 14-19 year olds are now getting a first class technical education and their first step on the career ladder thanks to our sponsorship of the Greater Peterborough University Technical College; hundreds of apprentices and graduates are in permanent employment in our successful schemes; and we're making inroads on diversity by



getting more women in engineering. But to fill the skills gap and future-proof our businesses and economy, we need to do more.

Anglian Water is a huge contributor to the UK economy; we'll deliver our £5bn investment programme between 2015 and 2020 and for every £100million we invest we create or secure around 2000 jobs. Those jobs need filling with high-calibre candidates. Supporting this industrial partnership and skills strategy is the beginning of a collaborative step in the right direction. We'll be using our role as a leading water company, as well as the relationships with our partners - who are among the biggest engineering names globally - to help young people graduate school with the right skills and experience, to nurture talent and attract the brightest and best to the industry.

Lloyd Martin, Chief Executive, British Water

British Water welcomes this initiative and views the wellbeing, skills and competence of the utility sector's workforce to be of key importance for its efficiency, sustainability and stability. In what is becoming an ever more competitive business and customer-focused environment, having a joined-up and effective strategy to deliver a fit-for-purpose workforce has never been more necessary.

Steve Holliday, Chair, Careers Lab

Careers Lab was created to help address the very skills gap issues and careers advice improvement that this inaugural energy and utilities workforce renewal and skills strategy raises. We work directly with business partners, in order to make a real difference to the quality of information but also the life changing insights that careers education in schools can bring. We applaud the significant work that has been done by the Skills Partnership to bring together this UK-wide strategy, and Careers Lab look forward to bringing schools and businesses together, to provide young people with the inspiration and knowledge they need to consider a career in this vital sector.

Editors notes:

Careers Lab has been developed with resources from National Grid, Enzen and British Gas and continues to be supported by HS2, Nationwide, the Good Careers Guide, EU Skills and the Careers Alliance.



Ian Pretty, Chief Executive, Collab Group

The Energy and Utilities sector is a vital employer and we are proud that Collab Group colleges are leading the way in providing high quality provision across a range of specialisms to meet the skills needs of this diverse industry. Ensuring a skilled and sustainable workforce is vital and so we are delighted to see the publication of the first ever workforce and skills strategy from the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership. The strategy will build on and strengthen opportunities for collaboration and we look forward to working with Energy & Utility Skills to support its implementation.

Marcus Rink, Chief Inspector, Drinking Water Inspectorate

Consumers are consistent in their expectation that their water supply will be clean and safe at all times. A skilled and competent workforce is essential to providing that service by protecting public health and maintaining confidence in drinking water quality.

I welcome the publication of this important document, and I encourage all participants in the water industry to use it as a springboard to building the sustainability of our sector.

David Smith, Chief Executive, Energy Networks Association

Our networks are undergoing a transformation to deliver electricity and gas in a smarter, low carbon energy system. Ensuring that the right skills are available in the workforce will be crucial to meeting new challenges and will require long term thinking in order to be successful. I welcome the launch of the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership workforce renewal and skills strategy, which makes a valuable contribution to what is a very important issue for the energy industry over the coming years.

Lawrence Slade, Chief Executive, Energy UK

The energy sector is vital to the future of the UK, driving economic activity to the tune of £87bn and delivering high levels of productivity, with every employee contributing the equivalent of £181,000 to the economy (2015). This activity provides around 137,000 jobs and supports another 500,000 across the United Kingdom. That means one in 49 workers is directly or indirectly employed by the energy industry. To keep that significant UK workforce safe, sustainable, resilient and equipped with the latest skills needed to give customers the best possible service takes a concerted and well-coordinated effort by the whole sector. I welcome the work done by the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership to build this first-ever workforce renewal and skills strategy, and look forward to Energy UK playing its part in supporting the conversations and activity that will result from it.



Tony Cocker, Chief Executive, E.ON UK and Chair of the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership

Our sector touches the lives of almost everyone in the UK each day, providing essential services for our homes and businesses. In order to deliver and continually develop these services, we need a skilled, productive and sustainable workforce that can help businesses supply the UK's power, fresh drinking water, safe sanitation, recycling and much more. We face an ageing workforce, increasing competition for talent with unemployment reaching its lowest recorded levels and a lack of proficient skills leading to over a third of vacancies being hard-to-fill. Therefore, as a partnership we seek to be the catalyst for change, sharing an ambition to achieve a more sustainable future.

It is key that businesses across our sector work together to raise the profile of the issues and recommendations outlined in the strategy and, ultimately, encourage and support more people, whatever their background, into training and long-term career opportunities in the energy and utilities industry.

Paul Taylor, Chief Executive, FCC Environment

As one of the UK's leading waste and resource management businesses, we employ 2,400 people and operate more than 200 facilities across England, Scotland and Wales. Our industry has changed dramatically in a generation, moving away from disposing of waste to recycling valuable materials and generating energy from what is left. This new infrastructure requires new skills as our industry forges ahead with ever more innovative ways of harnessing the value in waste. Combining the upskilling of our existing workforce and bringing in new talent is vital to our success. FCC Environment is therefore delighted to be supporting the sector's first-ever workforce renewal and skills strategy which will help us to develop and manage the green energy infrastructure the UK needs for its economic growth.

Paul Horton, Chief Executive, Future Water Association

Future Water Association recognises that to truly deliver a resilient water sector from utilities right through the supply chain, having a workforce with the right skills and competence is essential to maintaining sector sustainability and resilient stability. It is critical for the future to have a skills strategy that is at the core of utility service delivery therefore and Future Water Association welcomes and supports this initiative.



Justin Bowden, National Secretary for Energy, GMB

You need look no further than the shortfall in Smart Meter Installers than to realise how important and how welcome this new Skills Strategy is for the success of UK plc going forward. GMB has long argued that the energy sector has a hugely important role to play in driving the post-Brexit economy and a well-trained and highly skilled workforce will be fundamental to the achievement of that goal and sustaining the sector.

Dr Matthew Penrose, Head of Manufacturing and Utilities Unit, Health and Safety Executive

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) fully supports the inaugural workforce and skills strategy for the energy & utilities sector and the work of the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership in making this happen. The new Health and Safety Strategy for Great Britain (Helping Great Britain Work Well [<http://www.hse.gov.uk/strategy>]) celebrates Great Britain's health and safety record as being the envy of much of the world - whilst setting the challenge of improving even further on this impressive record.

Central to this is ensuring that risks are managed in a proportionate and effective way, which requires a skilled and competent workforce capable of making the right decisions and doing the right thing to protect themselves and others. The workforce and skills strategy will complement wider work ongoing across the energy & utilities sector to meet the future health and safety challenges and to Help Great Britain work well.

Sarb Bajwa, Chief Executive, IGEN

The gas industry provides essential services to the customer and industry and is critical to UK plc. Currently the industry is embracing its role in developing a low carbon future for the UK. This will require developing new set of skills to ensure that everyone working in the gas industry has access to the best possible training and once qualified is competent to carry out their job. I welcome the launch of the Skills Strategy which comes at a critical time for the gas industry and as a strategic partner of EUSG I look forward to working with all stakeholders on its successful implementation.

Lynn Cooper, Chief Executive, Institute of Water

Our vision is for the UK water industry to be served by the best people. For over 70 years members have been sharing experiences with people in other companies and this collaborative approach continues today, even with the arrival of competition. Many skills and behaviours are common throughout the energy and utilities sector. Instead of competing with one another, a combined approach to recruitment, training and workforce planning will



put the energy and utilities sector in a strong position when competing in the labour market against other sectors. The Institute of Water is ready to play its part in implementing the shared workforce renewal & skills strategy which will increase the chances of achieving our vision.

Ben Jeffs, Chief Executive, MOSL

The water industry is changing faster and more fundamentally than at any time since privatisation. While safety and compliance remain imperative, the arrival of competition is forcing companies to find new, innovative ways to meet customers' growing service expectations. The challenges ahead put the focus firmly on having a high-performing, upskilled and adaptable workforce. The winners will be those that develop the capabilities they need and mobilise them quickly and effectively. I applaud this first ever energy and utilities workforce and skills strategy and look forward to MOSL playing its part in helping move this document from ambition in to tangible action.

John Pettigrew, Chief Executive, National Grid

Sustainable low cost energy is vital to helping our economy and communities to thrive. As a sector, we need to make sure we attract people who have the skills and passion to build and run the networks of the future. The launch of the inaugural Workforce Renewal and Skills Strategy will help us to engage the industry, government and key partners to make this happen.

Mark Horsley, Chief Executive, Northern Gas Networks

Being part of the Energy and Utilities Skills Partnership and supporting the Workforce Renewal and Skills Strategy provides a powerful platform to collectively address the long-term workforce challenges we face.

Our industry is going through a period of great change as we look for new ways to improve efficiency and pave the way for secure, affordable, low carbon forms of energy. The sector relies on a high level of technical expertise, so it's vital that we recruit and develop the right people with the right skills, both now and in the future.

At Northern Gas Networks we're continually evolving our workforce to ensure that we can adapt to the rapidly changing needs of our customers, assessing the skills and capabilities we need for a sustainable future.

Our apprenticeship programme continues to thrive, providing a launch pad for new talent and we deliver employability and education programmes for students of all stages of



academia, focusing strongly on under-represented STEM subjects to inspire and educate about future careers in the industry.

At the heart of it all is people and we're focused on making our business a great place to work to ensure we have a contented workforce, inspired to make a difference.

Phil Jones, President and Chief Executive, Northern Powergrid

Put simply: attracting the significant number of skilled people that we need in our sector is a significant challenge - and there is strength in numbers. Being part of the Energy and Utilities Skills Partnership and supporting the workforce renewal and skills strategy gives both the energy industry - and Northern Powergrid - a platform to collectively address the long-term workforce challenges we face. More broadly; businesses, regulators and government - local and central - must look for every opportunity to collaborate and find the right solutions. A concerted effort has to be the right answer. The strategy work highlights a number of key priorities that are not only relevant to our sector, but to the wider economy, for example the need to drive a significant increase in STEMs skills. Apart from mattering to businesses like ours, the lack of these skills could be a real brake on growth across the UK, not least in the part of the country we serve.

Heidi Mottram, Chief Executive, Northumbrian Water Group

Attracting people with the right skills to meet the future needs of the energy and utilities sector is a challenge we all face and the importance of taking collective action cannot be underestimated. This strategy is a welcome development and a timely one. This is an exciting time for our industry that offers a variety of fantastic career opportunities and, as we face future anticipated skills gaps and shortages we need to take action now to highlight the many opportunities on offer. Our sector is changing at a rapid pace. Innovation and emerging technologies are shaping new developments and new ways of delivering our service. Artificial intelligence, nanotechnology and digitisation are setting the agenda for change and we need people with the right skills to help us take advantage of these emerging opportunities.

This also means ensuring we attract people from a range of diverse backgrounds, truly representative of the communities we serve. We are already taking action and looking at new ways of attracting and retaining talent. We have recently employed degree apprentices in information technology who gain vital work experience with us as they study part time for their degrees. And it's also about encouraging young people to consider careers in Science Technology Engineering and Maths and promoting the benefits of working in our sector, which is why we are out and about in schools talking to young people about water. The strategy marks the start of a journey to place our industry at the forefront of people's minds when choosing careers and will prepare us for the future.



Dr Stephen Bird, South West Water Managing Director and Pennon Group Plc Board Member

Dr Stephen Bird, Managing Director of South West Water, Board Member of Pennon Group Plc and Member of the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership Council, said:

Action today will help to deliver the right workforce of tomorrow. We welcome this national initiative to address the UK's skills gap. Ensuring that we have skilled engineers and scientists to create a prosperous future is mission critical. As one of the largest environmental infrastructure groups in the UK, Pennon employs around 5,000 people across the water and waste sectors. We are continually looking to deliver our services in ever-more efficient and innovative ways, and our people are crucial to our success. In a constrained jobs market it is important that we work collaboratively with other businesses to get more people work and job ready.

At South West Water, our award-winning apprenticeship programme and sponsorship of the new South Devon University Technical College is helping to attract a pipeline of new talent to serve our customers' future needs and delivering a more sustainable future for the region.

Andrew Meaney, Partner, Oxera

Having a sustainable and skilled workforce is the key to delivering the next generation of UK infrastructure, and this workforce renewal and skills strategy is therefore a vital tool for the energy and utilities industries. It is no longer sufficient to think about skills by sector—to make the most efficient use of our current talent pool and develop the workforce for the next generation, these sectors all need to work together. Only then will we see how infrastructure investment can really drive productivity.

Dai Hudd, Deputy General Secretary, Prospect

As a leading and progressive Trade Union in the Energy Sector, Prospect is proud and enthusiastic about being associated and involved with this launch. The continued commitment to the application of National Occupational Standards, for the vocational training and Apprenticeship Programmes, bring added confidence to the underlying strength and purpose of the workforce renewal and skills strategy.



Douglas Millican, Chief Executive, Scottish Water

Our vision at Scottish Water is to be trusted to care for the water on which Scotland depends. We are therefore committed to developing the skills and capabilities of our people so that they can be trusted by our customers to deliver the vital and sustainable services that will be needed in the years ahead. We commend the strategic intent of the new Energy and Utilities Workforce Strategy 2020 and the ambition to create solutions that will have applicability across all of the nations of the UK and which meet with the policy expectations of our governments and regulators. We have participated in the Energy and Utilities Skills Partnership because we believe that working together in a collaborative approach can help to create a new and attractive brand for the utility sector. A brand that has broad and inclusive appeal to attract the diversity of people, skills and talent that our sector will need to meet the evolving needs and expectations of our customers for many years to come.

Keith Anderson, Chief Executive, ScottishPower

As many as four out of five workers in the energy sector are set to retire over the next 15 years, which comes as ScottishPower is looking to deliver the most important upgrades to the electricity network in over half a century.

We're pleased to play our part in the Energy & Utilities Skills Partnership, which drives excellence by bringing employers, skills organisations and stakeholders together. By working closely in partnership, we can attract, nurture and retain talented people for the long-term benefit of our business.

Colin Nicol, Managing Director, Networks, SSE

We work in a dynamic industry that provides many interesting, challenging and rewarding opportunities. However, recent research shows that 20% of the workforce in the energy and utilities sector is due to retire by 2023 - leaving a significant skills gap that we must work together to address.

The Workforce Renewal and Skills Strategy will play an important role in helping close this skills gap and ensure we have a sustainable workforce. Taking a collaborative approach through the partnership is vital as together we can identify a consistent way to recruit and train people and standardise the required qualifications across the sectors.

This will create a clear route to lasting and fulfilling careers and help our industry compete for future talent. The strategy also complements SSE's own ambitions around diversity. I look forward to working with the project partners to create an easy pathway into the industry for people of all backgrounds, creating a workforce reflective of our customers and wider society - an important asset to any successful business.



Graham Edwards, Chief Executive, Wales & West Utilities

Gas networks have a key role to play in delivering a value for money, secure and sustainable energy future and preparing our business - and our industry, to face the challenges of the future is a key business priority for us. At Wales & West Utilities, we've recruited almost 150 apprentices since we started operations in 2005 - with a further 23 to be recruited in 2017 so we can continue to deliver outstanding levels of safety, reliability and service to the millions of people we serve every day. We're looking forward to working alongside other utilities as part of the Energy and Utilities Workforce Renewal and Skills Strategy to make sure that as an industry we can attract and retain a workforce that not only help build, manage and maintain the networks of the future but also deliver the levels of service that our customers expect.

Michael Roberts, Chief Executive, Water UK

The water sector, like others, needs continuously to improve to meet our customers' expectations for providing water services safely, affordably and responsibly. It is therefore essential that we upskill our current people and attract the very best young talent for the future, and the Workforce Renewal and Skills Strategy is a powerful initiative to help us do that.