

## Institutes of Technology ‘The skills to succeed: Meeting the country’s evolving technical skills needs’ Report

### Sustainability skills gap must be plugged to meet the North East’s green home aspirations

- 64% of people in the North East would consider a home to be worth more money if it was sustainably constructed
- The majority of people in the North East currently use electricity (79%) and gas (80%) in their homes, but if cost wasn’t a factor 54% would opt for renewable, sustainable or green sources of energy
- The North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) is part of a new national network working to solve the big issues facing society today, highlighted in a report out today

New research shows the extent of the North East’s demand for sustainable living, as the majority would consider a home to be worth more money if it was sustainably constructed. A report released alongside the research highlights the technical skills that are needed if the North East’s consumers’ green ambitions are to be met.

*‘The skills to succeed: Meeting the country’s evolving technical skills needs’* report, produced on behalf of the Institutes of Technology<sup>i</sup>, looks at a range of challenges that communities, face today, including sustainable construction and energy. Research released alongside the report shows that 64% of people in the North East would consider a home to be worth more money if it was sustainably constructed<sup>iii</sup>. It also shows that whilst the majority of people in the North East currently use electricity (79%) and gas (80%), if cost wasn’t a factor 54% would opt for renewable sources of energy. Furthermore, people in the North East would rather have good insulation (45%) in their next home than plentiful built-in storage (43%) or an entertaining space (21%).

However, despite this appetite for greener living, the *‘The skills to succeed: Meeting the country’s evolving technical skills needs’* report outlines that a workforce with the right technical skills are needed to make it a reality. For instance, waste is a major issue in the construction industry, generating around three fifths (62%) of total UK waste in 2018<sup>iv</sup>. Modern methods of construction like 8D Building Information Modelling (BIM) can make the process more efficient as a lot of the planning and preparation work can be done digitally, but more workers with the skillset to use and read the equipment are needed. Additionally, employment in the wind industry is expected to grow by 170% by 2026<sup>v</sup>, so a pipeline of talent with the skills to work with offshore wind energy technology is needed to achieve the full potential of the resource.

The North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) is part of a new national network of regional partnerships between local colleges, universities and leading employers across England, created to ensure the technical skills and knowledge needed to overcome the biggest challenges communities face are accessible to all. IoTs provide training in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) based occupations, many of which address sustainability demands facing the country, such as in energy, construction and agritech industries. Their work is increasing the accessibility of vital expertise for employers seeking to embrace innovation.

**Michelle Donelan, Minister for Higher and Further Education, says:** “Institutes of Technology are not only playing a critical role in helping to close skills gaps in key sectors such

as sustainable construction, but crucially, they are providing people with high quality technical training that leads to good jobs, helping to level up opportunity across our country.

“The need to support sectors such as advanced manufacturing and engineering, construction and digital looks set to only grow and with their close ties to employers, Institutes of Technology will be the driving force behind ensuring the workforce is ready for future technological change and changing working practices.”

Mark Anderson, Strategic Lead for North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT), says: “The work we are doing at North East Institute of Technology (NEIoT) and across the Institute of Technology (IoT) network is vital to address the increasing demand for sustainability across the region and nation. By working closely with our region’s employers to train their workforce and future workforce for the needs of industry both now and in the future, we can be pioneers of training for key forces for change such as sustainable construction methods and efficient energy sources. We are able to support industry as it works to deliver for consumer and business demands.”

As well as covering **Energy: Powering the nation in new ways** and **Construction: Building a sustainable future**, *The skills to succeed: Meeting the country’s evolving technical skills needs*’ report looks into other challenges communities are facing today, and how Institutes of Technology are helping to plug gaps. The topics include, **Cyber: Tackling threats to national security**, **Electric Vehicles: Driving transport innovation** and **Agriculture: Cultivating technical skills**.

**ENDS**

---

## Notes to editors

<sup>i</sup> This report has been produced on behalf of the Institutes of Technology Network by the Gatsby Foundation, which is supporting the Network as part of its work to help transform technical education in England. The Gatsby Foundation is a charitable foundation set-up by Lord David Sainsbury to realise his charitable objectives.

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.institutesoftechnology.org.uk/>

<sup>iii</sup> Research carried out by Censuswide of 2,011 people from 16/05/2022 - 19/05/2022

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data/uk-statistics-on-waste>

<sup>v</sup> [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/1003569/gjtf-annex.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1003569/gjtf-annex.pdf)

## About Institutes of Technology

Institutes of Technology (IoTs) are collaborations between existing further education colleges, universities, and leading employers. The Government established IoTs to deliver world class higher technical education to help employers get the skilled workforce they need and provide work-ready skills for those of all ages to pursue a rewarding career.