

EDUCATION CASE STUDY:

Closing the skills gap with Energy Skills Partnership (ESP)

Allocated funds £500,000

THE ASK

ESP applied for funding to develop a network of training centres focused on renewables and energy efficiency. The centres are strategically positioned at nine colleges across our network area.

WHY IT WAS SELECTED

For a successful transition to Net Zero, it's crucial that we close the energy skills gap and develop a workforce for the future. ESP's project will have a positive impact on the Scottish energy supply chain and economy, making it a good fit for the fund.

THE PROJECT

Our funding supported ESP to employ a project manager and support staff, complete a skills gap analysis, establish a Continuous Professional Development programme for staff, and to buy and install renewable equipment for the nine participating colleges. This equipment and the training courses are expected to benefit more than 10,000 students in the centres' first year of opening¹.

Across six new and two upgraded training centres, one new diagnostic centre and four centres of excellence for insulation, our funding secured the installation of the following equipment:

- eight air/ground source heat pumps
- six solar thermal systems
- five solar panels
- four insulation specialist training systems
- five battery storage units
- two mechanical heat and ventilation systems
- two rainwater harvesting systems



¹ESP Annual Report 2019-20



How this project serves the GEF aims

Putting the planet and people first

High quality, up-to-date technical equipment for learning is vital to the development of a workforce skilled in renewable energy.



We're already making an impact and will continue to do so

Since the launch of this project, similar funding has been granted to colleges beyond the SP Energy Networks network area, ensuring wider access to technical equipment for learning.



We must keep evolving

ESP worked with the nine colleges to establish the Energy Efficiency Training Network. This group met every month during the project's development and has continued to meet since, setting up further working groups to share knowledge.



Support where it's needed most

New equipment needs qualified staff to teach students, so ESP helped 17 college staff to achieve Train the Trainer certification on solar thermal and heat pump technologies.



Jim Brown, Director, ESP

"With investment from the Green Economy Fund, colleges are in a strong position to help drive the skills needed to create green jobs and accelerate transition to Net Zero by 2045."

We appreciated the flexibility afforded to ESP and the colleges during the unprecedented COVID-19 situation."

1-4. Energy Skills Partnership, 2021