

CAREERS SERVICE

CAREERS OCCUPATIONAL
INFORMATION UNIT (COIU)

NEWSFLASH

TOP GREEN JOBS LIKELY TO BE IMPORTANT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY



Department for the
Economy

An Roinn
Geilleagair

www.economy-ni.gov.uk

WHAT IS A GREEN JOB?

There is a wide range of evidence and terminology used to define what constitutes a green job and the sectors which it covers.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) uses the definition “**employment in an activity that contributes to protecting or restoring the environment, including those that mitigate or adapt to climate change**”. It provides estimates using three approaches: industry-based, occupation-based, and firm-based. There are overlaps between each of these approaches; for example, an individual may have a green occupation in a green industry, so each should be considered in turn and should not be added together.

The Green Jobs Barometer¹ created by PwC defines a Green Job if the role involves the following:

- ▶ Producing and providing environmentally-friendly products and services;
- ▶ Adapting work processes to become more environmentally-friendly or use fewer natural resources; and
- ▶ Supporting the green economy indirectly.

1 [Green Jobs Barometer 2023, PwC](#)

RESEARCH EVIDENCE

ANALYSIS OF GREEN JOB INDICATORS

The PwC Green Jobs Barometer provides comprehensive analysis on a range of key pillars relevant to green jobs over time.

The transition to a net zero economy offers the potential of new, well-paying jobs in a range of sectors which are likely to be increasingly important to our economy.

The latest evidence ranks Northern Ireland 5th amongst UK regions in the economic region ranking, which takes into account the range of five pillars and creates an overall ranking. NI ranks highest in 'sunset jobs to disappear'² (1st), and well in green job creation³ (4th) and additional jobs impact⁴ (5th).

However, NI ranked lowest (12th) in carbon intensity of jobs⁵ and 11th for green workplaces⁶, although there have been notable improvements compared to previous years in workers' sentiment towards green workplaces.

This evidence indicates that while NI is performing well on a range of key pillars, there are challenges to be addressed and opportunities to be explored.

- 2 Proportion of jobs lost by 2030 as a result of net zero activity
- 3 Percentage of job advertisements that are considered green
- 4 Indirect employment impacts via multiplier effects of green investments across supply chains
- 5 Carbon dioxide emissions per employee
- 6 Worker sentiment about what the green transition means for their own role and workplace

RESEARCH EVIDENCE ANALYSIS OF GREEN JOB INDICATORS

The prevalence of green jobs, as a proportion of all jobs being advertised, has seen a small increase since the 2022 edition of the barometer, with the NI rate increasing from 2.0% to 2.4%. The 2023 figures for NI are just above the UK average of 2.3%, but this has seen NI move up 7 places in the overall ranking of UK regions since 2022, where NI is now ranked 4th.

As well as green jobs being created, there are also wider benefits which are measured in the green jobs barometer using an employment multiplier. Against this pillar, NI is in line with the UK average (2.4), where for each job created, on average an additional 2.3 jobs are created elsewhere across supply chains and/or across other sectors.

COMPANIES WITH MOST VACANCIES ACROSS NI

Using Lightcast⁷ software to look at unique job postings from May 2023 to April 2024, the following companies had the most vacancies when searching by the keywords “renewable”, “low carbon” and “environmental”:

- ▶ Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks
- ▶ ESB
- ▶ Jacobs Engineering Group
- ▶ Energy Saving Trust
- ▶ AECOM
- ▶ MSC Group
- ▶ GE Aerospace / Vernova

⁷ Lightcast, a software package that scans job postings from more than 40,000 sources posted online (through recruiters, job websites or company sites). Analysis is carried out on skills, education, experience, and work activities required

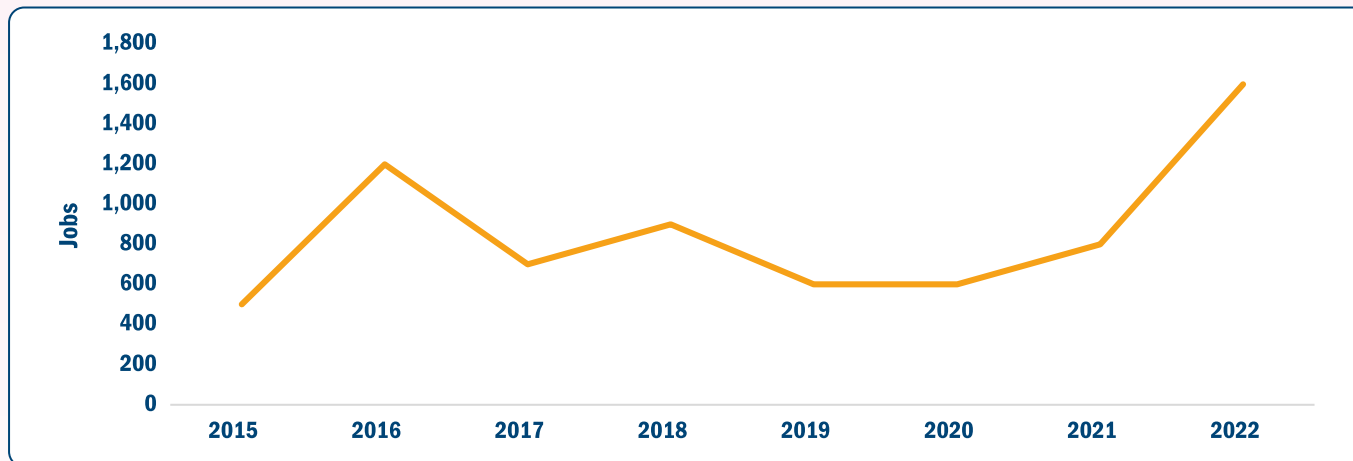
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT TRENDS AND JOB ADVERTS

This report examines the employment trends and job adverts across the **top three broad sub-sectors, by employment numbers**, from experimental estimates from the Office for National Statistics (ONS): **renewable energy; low carbon; and environmental**.

Using Lightcast and filtering by these sectors as key words, this section shows unique job postings, top occupations, job titles, special and common skills.

RENEWABLE

Figure 1: Renewable energy jobs estimate for Northern Ireland, 2015 to 2022



Source: ONS, Experimental estimates of green jobs, UK, 2024

Figure 1 shows estimates of the number of renewable energy jobs in NI. This demonstrates that **the number of renewable energy jobs in NI are estimated to have doubled between 2021 and 2022** (to 1,600), which is the highest annual increase since 2016 where the number of renewable energy jobs more than doubled from 2015. From 2017 to 2021, jobs in renewable energy had fluctuated from 700 to 900 jobs before a jump in 2022 to 1,600.

The latest evidence from Lightcast⁸ shows that there were approximately 1,400 job postings (May 2023 – April 2024) in Northern Ireland that included the word ‘renewable’ in the posting. For April 2024 alone there were 110 postings, which was a 14% increase compared with April 2023. The number of unique⁹ postings has shown an increase each year since 2020 and a 200% increase since May 2019 – April 2020.

The most common qualification needed, where listed, for these job postings is a bachelor’s degree or equivalent, with 64% of postings listing this as a minimum requirement with a further 15% requiring at least a Master’s degree or equivalent. The most common employer was Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks.

8 Lightcast – May 2023–April 2024.

9 Multiple postings that list the same job, same company, and same region are reduced to 1 unique posting

TOP OCCUPATIONS



- ▶ Project Support Officers
- ▶ Electrical Engineers
- ▶ Production and Process Engineers
- ▶ Engineering Professionals
- ▶ Programmers and Software Development Professionals

TOP JOB TITLES



- ▶ Renewable Energy Engineers
- ▶ Renewable Energy Managers
- ▶ Quantity Surveyors
- ▶ Project Managers
- ▶ Energy Engineers

TOP SKILLS



SPECIALISED SKILLS

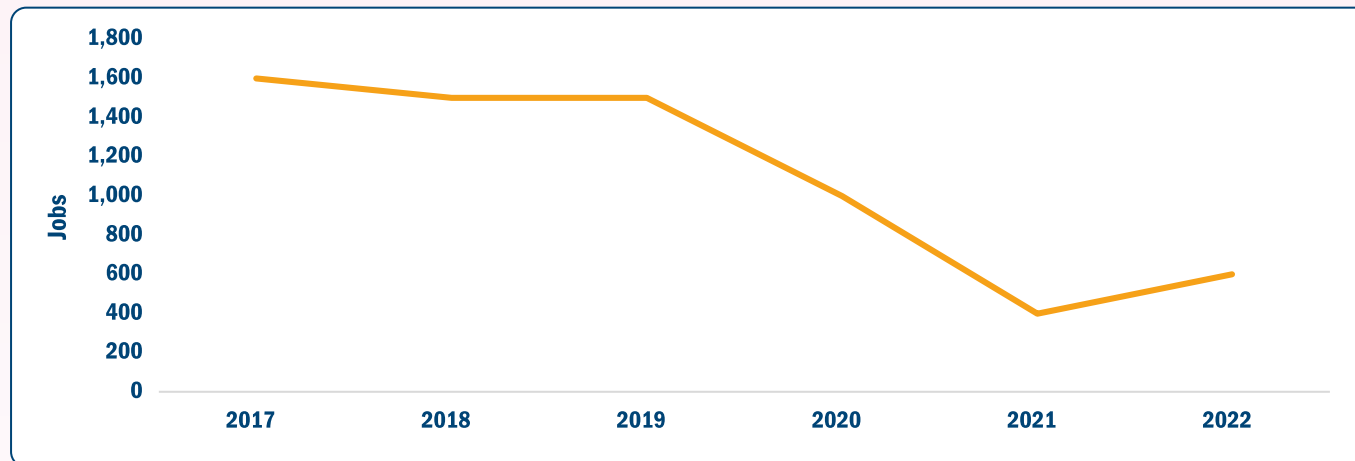
- ▶ Renewable Energy
- ▶ Project Management
- ▶ Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- ▶ Business Development
- ▶ Auditing

COMMON SKILLS

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Management
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Detail Oriented
- ▶ Operations

LOW CARBON

Figure 2: Low Carbon Transport Jobs (NI) for Northern Ireland, 2017 to 2022



Source: ONS, Experimental estimates of green jobs, UK, 2024

ONS estimates show that jobs in low carbon transport had seen a steady decline since 2017 from a high of 1,600 jobs to 400 in 2021, although there has been an increase in 2022 to 600.

The latest evidence from Lightcast shows that **between May 2023 and April 2024 there were 510 job postings¹⁰ that included the words ‘low carbon’ in the posting.** This represents a considerable increase (870%) from 2019-2020, where there were 50 job postings.

The most common qualification needed within the low carbon sector is similar to the renewable sector, where almost three out of five job postings required a **bachelor’s degree or equivalent** (of those postings that included education requirements). There was a further 15% requiring at least a **master’s degree or equivalent**.

¹⁰ Lightcast – May 2023–April 2024.

¹¹ [£64m zero-emission bus investment a ‘huge step forward’ says Infrastructure Minister John O’Dowd | BelfastTelegraph.co.uk](https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/news/uk/infrastructure/infrastructure-minister-john-o-dowd-says-64m-zero-emission-bus-investment-a-huge-step-forward-1.6144444)

The Department for Infrastructure has recently invested £64m in 100 new **electric buses** to be added into Translink’s fleet¹¹ which have been built by Co. Antrim manufacturer Wrightbus.

As well as helping towards the net-zero target, this investment will also ensure employment in **low carbon transport jobs**. Wrightbus has seen their workforce double from 900 to 1,800 **highly-skilled green jobs** within a year and it estimates that every job in Wrightbus creates another three jobs in the **supply chain** within **local communities**.

DID YOU KNOW?

TOP OCCUPATIONS



- ▶ Electrical Engineers
- ▶ Engineering Professionals
- ▶ Engineering Technicians
- ▶ Managers and Directors in Retail and Wholesale
- ▶ Project Support Officers

TOP JOB TITLES



- ▶ Field Sales Executives
- ▶ Power Systems Engineers
- ▶ Energy Engineers
- ▶ Credit Administrators
- ▶ Principal Engineers

TOP SKILLS



SPECIALISED SKILLS

- ▶ Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- ▶ Project Management
- ▶ Renewable Energy
- ▶ Net Zero
- ▶ Auditing

COMMON SKILLS

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Management
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Operations
- ▶ Planning

ENVIRONMENTAL¹²

The latest evidence from Lightcast shows that there were **over 4,450 job postings¹³ from May 2023 to April 2024 with the word ‘environmental’ included in the posting.** Although there have been two consecutive years of decline in postings (2022/23 & 2023/24), there has been a 47% increase since 2019/20. From a qualification perspective, 44% of job postings, of those that included education requirements, ask for at least a **bachelor’s degree or equivalent** with a further 18% requiring at least a **Master’s degree or equivalent.**

TOP OCCUPATIONS



- ▶ Health and Safety Managers and Officers
- ▶ Civil Engineers
- ▶ Engineering Professionals
- ▶ Natural and Social Science Professionals
- ▶ Project Support Officers

TOP JOB TITLES



- ▶ Health and Safety Officers
- ▶ HSEQ Managers
- ▶ Environmental Health Officers
- ▶ Production Operatives
- ▶ Advisors

TOP SKILLS



SPECIALISED SKILLS

- ▶ Environment Health and Safety
- ▶ Project Management
- ▶ Auditing
- ▶ Risk Analysis
- ▶ Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)

COMMON SKILLS

- ▶ Communication
- ▶ Management
- ▶ Planning
- ▶ Customer Service
- ▶ Operations

COIU would like to thank the Department for the Economy’s Analytical Services Division for their work on this feature.

Thank you!



12 No data on employment trends included in this section as not enough data available.
 13 Lightcast – May 2023 – April 2024