

Powering Progress

Unveiling North Wales

A focus on low carbon energy



Partneriaeth Sgiliau Rhanbarthol
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Regional Skills Partnership





Introduction

The North Wales Regional Skills Partnership is key to establishing the skills required for future low carbon projects in North Wales. It has a strong working relationship with developers in the area and is ensuring the correct conversations are taking place. The work commissioned for the prospectuses and the skills gap will ensure we have a clearer understanding of what is required in North Wales in addition to the fantastic offer we already have.

The Net Zero Action plan, launched in February 2023, recognises that skills and workforce are crucial in enabling us to take advantage of our transition to a net zero economy. In Net Zero Wales (2021), we re-state our commitment to a just transition away from the fossil-fuelled economy of the past to a new low carbon future. Delivering a just transition means that no-one gets left behind. In my discussions with businesses in Wales, they are always impressed by the extent of what we to offer, but often companies are surprised to hear of the opportunities we have. I want them to realise the strong economic ecosystem we are creating here in Wales. Part of this is allowing businesses to be confident that the skills and future requirements will be met.

I am always looking for ways to make businesses aware of how we can help them evolve, and the prospectus intends to ensure we continue to promote what we already have. This piece of work is part of a package of work for North Wales which will support low carbon projects, specifically in the first instance, fixed offshore wind. Universities and colleges across the region have

been delivering expert courses for years and are, by now, global leaders in academic and practical skills provision for the green sector.

This prospectus also delivers on some of the priorities in the Regional Economic Framework for North Wales. Skills and workforce are considered a priority for the region. The Framework, co-produced with our regional partners, plays a key role in aligning activities at all levels to focus resources where they can have greatest impact. Communities are central to creating a just net zero economy. We are committed to delivering a stronger regional voice for North Wales and to using an approach that builds on the existing collaborations and partnerships in relation to the economic and community development.

North Wales not only has the physical resources to support sustainable economic opportunities, but also has the workforce. Universities and colleges are in a strong position to support the

future delivery of skills for fixed offshore wind and other low carbon projects, across a wide spectrum of required skills. These skills go beyond engineers. We need environmental experts, decision makers, graphic designers, and individuals with strong communication skills, to name a few.

Creating these opportunities will also help protect the Welsh language by ensuring we support future generations to develop the skills they need to take advantage of low carbon projects in North Wales. The development of a range of bilingual courses in further and higher education will allow students to develop careers rooted in the region. Utilising the strong collaborative skills capability in the region, North Wales has a lot to offer businesses.

Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Economy





Powering Progress

A focus on low
carbon energy

When you think about North Wales what comes to mind?

Perhaps it's mountains, beaches, and beautiful landscapes or even as a holiday destination.

You wouldn't be wrong. But the region has much more to offer and is making a real name for itself in the low carbon energy sector. It's the place to be.

We're well used to welcoming visitors. But why not consider us as a destination for businesses and investment? Together with our welcoming partners, we can ensure the low carbon energy sector thrives.

A gateway to resources...

Behind our stunning landscapes, we have the natural resources and facilities to service and promote an ever-growing green energy industry. Our knowledge, our passion for collaboration and our support networks all create an environment where sustainable businesses can prosper.

A strong industrial heritage linked to energy generation means the expertise is already here, along with an existing skilled workforce and supply chains primed to work with new investors. Excellent R&D and second to none training facilities further strengthen a region which is committed to a greener future.

North Wales is the perfect investment hub for the low-carbon energy business.



A gateway to infrastructure...

With exceptional transport links, the area benefits from well-connected road networks, including the A55 east-west corridor. The dual carriage way serves as a vital route, facilitating access to major cities and ports across the UK. The area is also well-served by an extensive rail network, providing transportation options for commuters and businesses alike. And, with international airports close by at Liverpool and Manchester, we have global connectivity on our doorstep.

Established grid connections and storage facilities along with willing partners also position North Wales as an ideal location for this sector, facilitating inward investment and development.

We understand that without robust digital connectivity, business can't prosper. This is why our partners are working together to put networks in place which are fit for the future and enable businesses to access markets and connect with suppliers and customers wherever they are.

With this as a backdrop, universities and colleges in North Wales are fully geared up to support businesses and employers in the low carbon energy sector. Through cutting-edge research, specialised training programmes, and active community engagement, our academic institutions are nurturing a generation of skilled professionals and driving innovation in renewable energy technologies. Their commitment to sustainability is paving the way to a more environmentally conscious future in a region where business are supported to thrive.

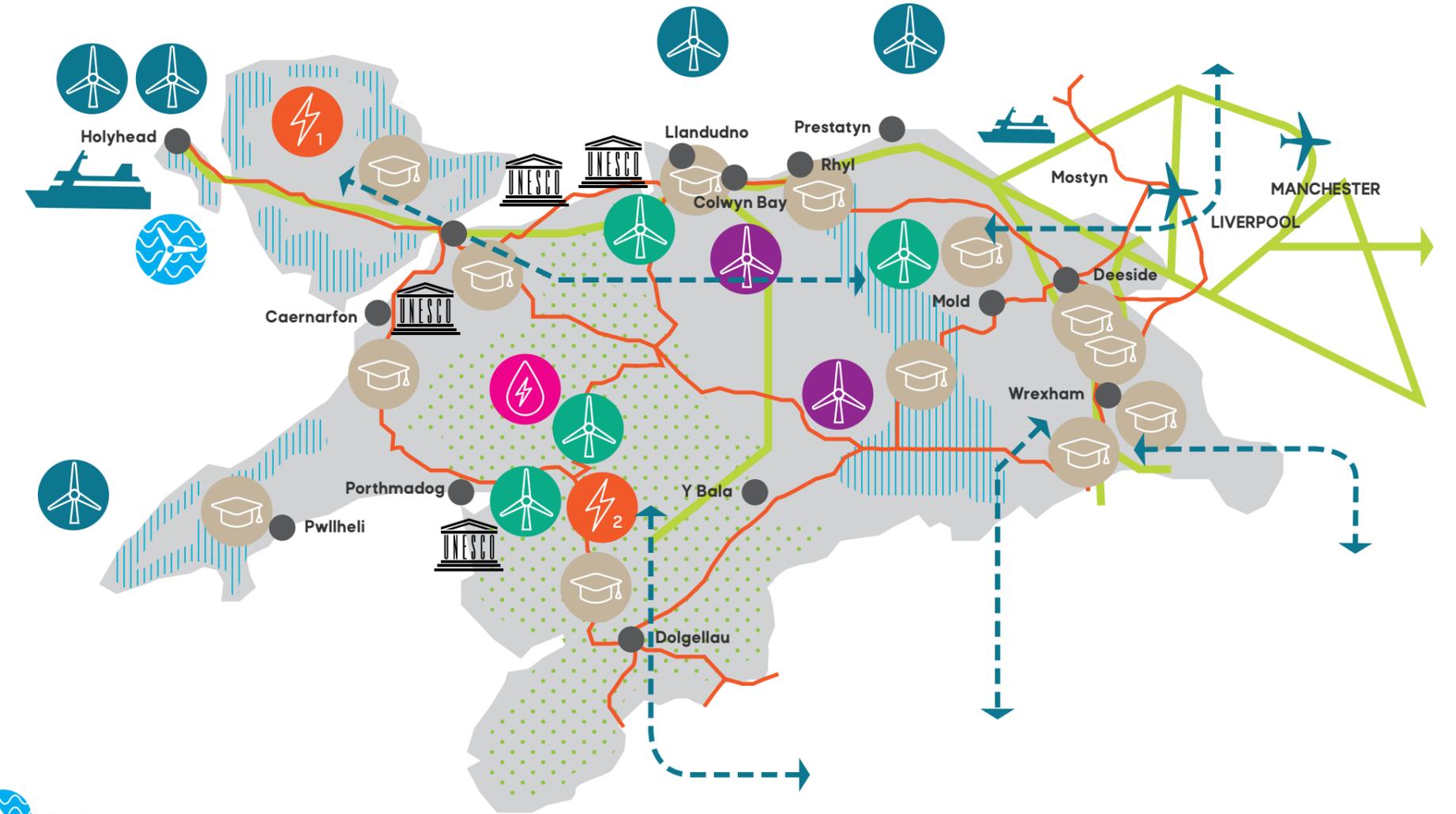
A gateway to your future...

If this sounds like the kind of place where you'd like to work, or your business is already established in the North Wales low carbon sector, then come and speak to us at the North Wales Regional Skills Partnership (RSP). We can broker conversations between employers and training providers about skills needs. We can make partnerships happen that will benefit businesses, boost the region's economy and contribute to our common goal of reducing carbon.

The RSP actively identifies current and future skills needs, working across sectors to ensure the most suitable and relevant provision is available for future generations. We are part of the Welsh Government's broader approach to regional economic development, including the commitment in the Economic Action Plan to strengthen regional strategic planning. Positioned at the heart of the sector and equipped with the latest knowledge, we can also guide employers to Welsh Government support and funding.

The North Wales RSP supports the North Wales Growth Deal by working with project partners to scope and deliver the skills requirements of the Growth Deal investment.

... universities and colleges in North Wales are geared up to support businesses and employers in the low carbon energy sector.



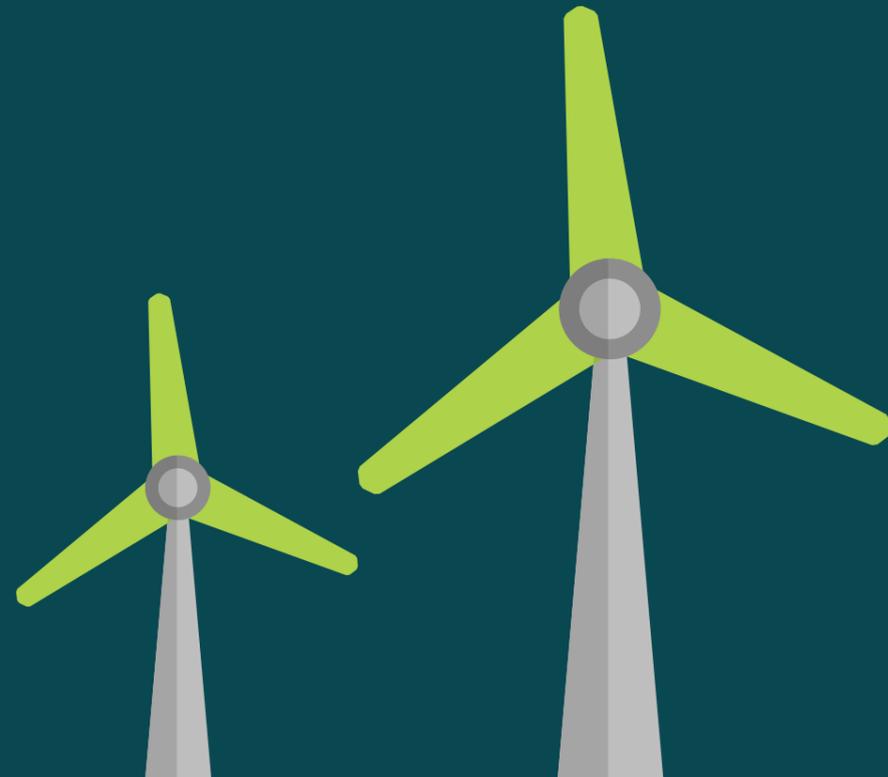
Powering the Future

A focus on low carbon energy

As global awareness of the importance of transitioning to low carbon energy grew, North Wales swiftly entered the arena. The region has become a hub for green energy innovation, offering opportunities for skills development in cutting edge training facilities, and supply chain growth.

From the earlier windfarms, and solar energy schemes to more recent tidal stream, nuclear, offshore wind and hydrogen projects - North Wales has emerged as a vibrant area that not only embraces low carbon but also focuses on developing a skilled workforce and a robust supply chain.

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Progressing skills...

The region's universities, colleges, and training centres collaborate closely with experienced industry stakeholders to provide specialised programmes from project management to engineering and environmental sciences. These initiatives ensure a pipeline of skilled professionals ready to contribute to the growing low carbon energy industry. The focus is to equip an already experienced workforce with the necessary skills to thrive in the evolving renewable energy sector.



Progressing training...

North Wales is home to cutting-edge training facilities that simulate real-world scenarios, allowing workers to gain hands-on experience. These facilities offer practical expert training by investing in latest technology to ensure North Wales is ahead of the curve and can nurture a competent workforce to drive the transition to sustainable energy.



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Progressing supply chains...

We understand that a robust supply chain is also vital for the success and growth of the renewable energy sector. The region actively supports the development of local suppliers and encourages collaboration between businesses, ensuring an efficient flow of goods and services. This approach creates a sustainable economic ecosystem that benefits both the local community and industry.



Focus on Partners



Bangor University

Bangor University has long led the way in collaborative low carbon energy and environmental research. With its current work advancing the agenda for future energy generation and sustainability, the university's work is recognised as world class.



Current research includes...

- New **advanced technology nuclear fuels** and research capability across the whole **nuclear fuel** cycle, including reactor design and materials
- **Solar energy application** and organic molecules in plastics and polymers for plastic solar cell development
- New materials to enable **fusion energy** to become commercially viable
- **Marine renewable** energy technologies including wind and tidal
- **Micro-hydro turbines** deployment in community hydro projects

Its impressive research base is expanding to include skills provision like the new undergraduate engineering programme as well as degree apprenticeship provision focused on the low carbon energy sector.

Bangor's offer to business is soon to be further enhanced by the Egni project. Part-funded by the North Wales Growth Deal and Welsh Government, Egni will provide an estimated 2,500m² of new business incubation and research space at the university's science park, M-SParc on Anglesey. It will focus on supporting the low carbon energy sector, fostering collaboration between academia, industry, researchers, and engineers – firmly placing Bangor University, M-SParc and the North Wales region at the forefront of UK innovation in this field.

Bangor University is also home to the the Sêr Cymru National Research Network for Low Carbon Energy and Environment as well as the Nuclear Futures Institute (NFI). The Network has over 36 partners made up of research institutions, government bodies, industry partners and over 80 researchers. It promotes sector

cooperation with a focus on low-carbon energy, the bioeconomy and climate change mitigation.

The Nuclear Futures Institute is building a world-leading nuclear energy research centre here in North Wales. The group covers the fuel cycle, reactor design, materials behaviour, and regulation. Using cutting edge technology, the institute aims to create a network to advance this field as well as to reinforce local expertise. To add to its impressive resumé, Bangor University is also a partner in the EPSRC (Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council) Centre for Doctoral Training in Nuclear Energy. The postgraduate training consortium includes Imperial College London, Cambridge University, and the Open University.

Far from limiting itself to working on land-based technology, Bangor is known globally for its work at the Centre for Applied Marine Sciences (CAMS). The highly respected centre looks at increasing the impact of marine research on real world applications – this includes renewable marine energy. It works with industry, international partners and government on strategic programmes and provides consultancy support to businesses. The university also equips its students with the skills necessary to identify and quantify the potential of the ocean as an energy resource with its MSc in Marine Renewable Energy. The course puts an emphasis on wave and tidal resources and the challenges linked to the deployment of devices in the marine environment. The university is also proud to jointly own the only fully seagoing research ship within the UK's higher education sector, the R.V. Prince Madog. In an important development to decarbonise the marine sector, the Prince Madog is set to reduce its emissions by up to 60%, thanks to a pioneering hydrogen power initiative.

Together, these Bangor University initiatives are establishing North Wales as a global centre of expertise, helping to develop a new generation of scientists and engineers to meet the need for low carbon energy and energy security around the world.

M-SParc

Bangor University's Menai Science Park (M-SParc) on Anglesey is an important part of the region's low carbon economy. The Egni (energy) team at M-SParc provides specialist support to the sector and is geared up to work with investors who want to make the most of the wide range of opportunities in North Wales. The team is passionate about developing the low carbon energy sector in North Wales, working across projects, from off-shore wind to new nuclear, to help build capacity, projects and partnerships.



Grŵp Llandrillo Menai

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai has been a pioneer of innovative hands-on training in low carbon energy technology for many years.

With campuses across North Wales, it leads the way in developing the right skills for a greener economy. The Grŵp not only prepares students for low carbon industries, but also works with businesses to build a skilled workforce.



As a training provider, the Grŵp has developed state of the art facilities including the Construction Skills Centre, the Energy Centre and the Heavy Plant Training Centre at the Llangefni campus. It also has the Low Carbon Centre in Rhyl - with a solid focus on developing key skills for a range of low carbon sectors, from hybrid vehicle maintenance and repair, to engineering for solar, wind, marine and nuclear energy.

Colleges deliver full time courses for young people, ensuring they are equipped to meet the demands of an evolving sector.

Through Busnes@LlandrilloMenai, the Grŵp's business-facing arm, specialist services are on offer to industry to ensure the right skills are in place for future growth and inward investment. This includes green skills through the Personal Learning Accounts. The team is experienced at delivering training tailored to specific business needs at facilities that are second to none.

A key part of the provision is the Centre for Infrastructure Skill and Technology (CIST) at Llangefni. The high-quality infrastructure skills training centre is dedicated to delivering training in partnership with industry to promote innovative solutions and products. It is rapidly becoming the preferred site for private sector companies looking to upskill their workforce. Its scale and scope make it a UK-first. With an unrivalled portfolio of courses and ability to innovate, the centre is designed to support employers in an ever-changing environment.

Grŵp Llandrillo Menai is also one of the leading partners along with housing association, Adra and Bangor University for 'Tŷ Gwyrddfai' in Penygroes. The site is to be transformed into a decarbonisation hub to ensure North West Wales is at the forefront of the decarbonisation agenda, working with communities and businesses to retrofit over 18,000 homes over the next 10 years.

Micro-businesses and small businesses in Gwynedd and Anglesey benefit from Busnes@LlandrilloMenai's 'Green Digital Academy', which enables business owners to work with a mentor and develop a plan to access training and funding to help reduce their carbon footprint.

By fostering sustainable innovation and delivering specialist courses to students and business clients, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai plays a pivotal role to ensure North Wales has a skilled workforce capable of meeting industry demands.

Courses available across Grŵp Llandrillo Menai include:

- **Engineering for solar, wind, marine and nuclear energy**
- **Repair and maintenance of EVs**
- **Installation of EV chargers**
- **Solar panel installation and maintenance**
- **Green construction skills**



Wrexham University

Beyond the energy sector – putting low carbon on the agenda across business communities.



One of the youngest universities in Wales, Wrexham has quickly established itself as a valuable business partner. It has a growing reputation for working with organisations across all sectors to reduce their carbon footprint and ensuring it becomes a key theme across all business functions.

Having recently been awarded city status and attracting global exposure thanks to its football success, there has never been a better time to take a closer look at what Wrexham and the university have to offer. With great transport links and proximity to the economic hubs of north west England, the university has been a key partner in recent positive developments. This, coupled with its innovative courses and business support, makes Wrexham University a partner of choice for companies looking to develop their workforce and competitive edge.

As awareness increases around the urgency for us all, including businesses to take action to reduce carbon, Wrexham University has taken bold steps to broaden its offer. This includes the Low Carbon Energy, Efficiency and Sustainability degree apprenticeship which has been designed to meet the skills needs of local industry. The programme explores key aspects of how to create systems, products and services that limit adverse effects on the environment.

An engineering-based course, it aims to ensure learners can fully implement solutions to improve the sustainability and efficiency of their organisation. With modules on workforce management and engagement, as well as low carbon systems, the focus is as much on implementing the change that's needed as it is on the technology that can drive it forward.

With an eye on catering for different types of business, Wrexham is always ready to be flexible in its support. The short course on sustainability has been developed as part of this continuous quest to work in a way which fits in with industry and to plug skills gaps. The fully funded online course has been developed to inspire businesses in Wales and beyond to act on sustainability and carbon reduction. It offers flexible learning and assessment frameworks to stimulate engagement and looks at the challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable business practices.

Beyond the classroom, Wrexham University also has a long-standing and highly regarded reputation for delivering groundbreaking Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) projects. Bringing together experts from industry and academia, they help businesses improve their competitiveness and productivity by using the knowledge, technology, and skills within the university.

Based on expertise in a wide range of areas, including engineering and low carbon energy, Wrexham has recently launched its Ladder of Innovation which provides industry with a staged approach to academic collaboration. It allows businesses to progress more gradually towards a full KTP, offering collaboration opportunities depending on their need.

With a focus on projects that embed new technologies and those that develop management capability, Wrexham is an important part of our region's transition to a sustainable economy. By actively participating in the North Wales skills offer for low carbon industries, the university is preparing individuals for the jobs of tomorrow as well as actively contributing to the development of a knowledgeable, confident, and capable workforce.



Coleg Cambria

Having recently celebrated its 10th anniversary, Coleg Cambria has grown into one of the UK's largest colleges with around 6,000 full-time and 20,000 part-time learners.



Across five sites in north east Wales, Cambria delivers an extensive range of qualifications – from traditional academic post-16 courses to practical, industry-focused training in target sectors.

Since it was established, Cambria has worked with over 1,000 employers from around the UK, offering high quality apprenticeship opportunities. An important part of its offer to industry and in particular the low carbon energy sector is the Coleg Cambria Institute of Technology (IoT). As an employer-focused function it brings together crucial construction, science, technology, engineering, and maths subject areas (CoSTEM).

In partnership with employers and leading universities across Wales and the UK, IoT specialises in developing and delivering higher and technical qualifications to meet the specific needs of industry. They include:

- **Level 2 and Level 3 full-time vocational courses**
- **Apprenticeships and higher apprenticeships**
- **Degree and degree apprenticeships**
- **Industry and part-time courses**
- **Specialist bespoke provision**

Courses range from Aerospace and Automotive Engineering to Advanced Manufacturing and Digital and Cyber Security.

Cambria's IoT strategic vision is centred around becoming an enabler of sector-leading technology and addressing future skill needs. To achieve this vision and as an example, Cambria works closely with Bangor University and the Open University through the Medru Skills Factory initiative.

With a clear focus on low carbon energy, renewables, engineering, and digital, the new partnership develops and delivers courses designed to provide transferable and agile skills in areas of high demand and future growth. These include, Environmental Management, Exploring Current and Emerging Technologies, Green Energy, Artificial Intelligence, Cyber Security, Data Analytics, and Data Science.



Driven by the need for a highly-skilled STEM-based workforce, Cambria, Bangor University, and The Open University are revolutionising training by defying accepted patterns of education and learning based solely on age and qualifications. As a new type of skills academy, Medru can collaborate closely with employers to address their future skills needs through applied technology research and flexible ongoing training. This approach also opens up exciting opportunities for the workforce to access employment in STEM sectors and discover new pathways to rewarding careers.



Spotlight On Success



Industry and FE college partner to develop future talent

North Wales firm, Jones Bros Civil Engineering UK, and Coleg Cambria have joined forces to modernise higher apprenticeships. They have been working together since 2018 to develop the next generation of civil engineers.

As the first intake graduated from their four-year course, the scheme has seen its apprentices successfully working across the UK on a range of developments, including major renewables projects.

The move has seen a shift from traditional apprenticeships to a modular delivery to suit business needs. It is one of the first of its kind in the UK – a real reflection of the innovation that exists here in North Wales.

Apprentice Twm Tudor, from Anglesey, is part of the most recent cohort. He is continuing his studies at Coleg Cambria whilst gaining valuable on-site experience with Jones Bros as part of their £23.5 million contract with tidal energy scheme, Morlais.

Jones Bros is responsible for the construction of onshore infrastructure for Morlais, including the landfall substation and cabling to the grid. Led by Anglesey-based Menter Môn, the renewables project has a potential generating capacity of 240MW of clean low carbon electricity. A key part of the venture is a commitment to creating jobs and training opportunities locally. The Coleg Cambria Jones Bros partnership is playing a key role in ensuring that this happens.

Twm is one of 10 higher apprentices who are benefitting from the Coleg Cambria Jones Bros collaboration, completing the Level 4 Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Construction and the Built Environment. As part of the course, he gets valuable hands-on experience on site as well as getting to grips with the theory during a block of classroom-based work.

Established in the 1950s, Jones Bros owns one of the largest plant fleets in the UK and employs approximately 500 people. The company is currently working on contracts in various sectors including renewable energy around the UK.

In addition to the partnership with Coleg Cambria, the company runs an award-winning apprenticeship scheme, which has produced nearly 50 per cent of its current workforce, with many of its senior managers having started out as apprentices or in a trainee role.

The collaboration between Jones Bros and Coleg Cambria is an example of what can be achieved thanks to the willingness of our education providers to work closely with industry to develop future talent that meets the needs of industry.

“Being able to work in the civil engineering industry in my local area is something I’ve always wanted to do, and to regularly use the Welsh language in the process is priceless. By taking part in this scheme and by working with experienced civil engineers who are also local, I hope that I can progress my career. I enjoy being on site and learning on the job.”

Twm Tudor
Apprentice

“Together with Jones Bros, we are addressing the needs of the modern workforce, providing a more flexible and innovative approach to apprenticeships and learning which reflects advances in industry. At Cambria, we put our students and apprentices at the heart of everything we do, preparing them for their chosen careers. Jones Bros has the same ethos and this ground-breaking higher apprenticeship programme is testament to that.”

Nick Tyson
Vice Principal – Institute of Technology
Coleg Cambria

“We are always keen to build on our award-winning apprenticeship programmes, and we believe this approach for the higher apprenticeship improves the experience for our apprentices and the business. This is a fantastic example of a college listening and responding to an employer’s needs. Giving people a chance of employment, learning skills, and getting recognised industry qualifications has been at the heart of our company since it was founded more than 60 years ago.”

Huw Jones MBE
Chairman
Jones Bros



Low carbon champion and industry giant put skills at heart of a new partnership

Westinghouse Environmental Services has recently opened a decommissioning hub at Menai Science Park on Anglesey. Impressed by M-SParc's low carbon track record, the US firm is keen to establish itself in North Wales, close to current decommissioning work at Wylfa and Trawsfynydd.

M-SParc opened the doors of its iconic building in 2018 as the first dedicated science park in Wales. Since then, it has had a significant impact on the low carbon energy sector – developing skills, promoting innovation, and working with business to support supply chain opportunities. It's unique position between industry, academia, skills, and finance, and its location at the heart of the community was a real draw for Westinghouse.

The team at M-SParc is driven by a vision “to ignite ambition and innovation for a sustainable Wales” and have developed a name for themselves as key players in the shift to a greener economy. A dedicated in-house team has been set up under the Egni banner to ensure continued momentum and to maximise the offer and potential of the North Wales low carbon sector.

With Egni in place, there has been even more activity by M-SParc in this field. More capacity has meant enhanced support for existing and new tenant companies, this includes Westinghouse.

The move has also led to a renewed emphasis on skills. A recently launched Skill-SParc programme aims to plug the skills gap in the region as well as stimulate an interest in the next generation in potential careers in low carbon energy with companies such as Westinghouse. Included in this is STEM-SParc, a comprehensive programme designed to support the new curriculum for Wales and to provide young people with an insight into topics which focus on low carbon.



The Egni team at M-SParc has worked closely with Westinghouse from early on to facilitate its move to the region. Meet the buyer and meet the employer events have taken place with a view to promoting upcoming job opportunities and commercial contracts. With one local company already signed up, Westinghouse also aims to create additional employment during its first 12 months here. Collaboration and engagement have successfully paved the way for a smooth transition to the region, fostering job opportunities and establishing promising commercial partnerships for the future.



“Our partnership with Westinghouse has meant we have been able to offer tailored support from the word go. We have provided them with access to our well-established network of contacts and stakeholders across North Wales. The company fits well with our vision and focus on low carbon sector – I’m looking forward to seeing how our relationship will develop for the benefit of their business and our communities here in North Wales.”

Dr Debbie Jones
Low Carbon Innovation Manager
M-SParc

“As part of our futures strategy, we chose North Wales due to the nuclear capability in the region and capacity in proximity to Wylfa and Trawsfynydd power stations. We want to tap into this capability to invest, grow and develop specific nuclear decommissioning solutions. As well as working with local supply chain businesses, we are aiming to create 15 jobs in the first 12 months with a growth aspiration beyond this.”

Mel Jones
Director of Reactor
Decommissioning

Collaboration has been key to the success of this **partnership** between M-SParc and Westinghouse

Top UK energy company launches green qualification

RWE, one of the largest energy companies in the UK and the largest renewable generator in Wales, has launched a new three-year green qualification to be delivered through Grŵp Llandrillo Menai. This is the latest development in a partnership that goes back over 10 years.

Like any successful business, people are at the heart of delivering RWE's ambition of achieving Net Zero by 2040, 10 years ahead of both UK and Wales government's target. As well as expanding its green generation capacity to 50 gigawatts, with £15 billion earmarked for the UK, RWE is committed to attracting and developing the next generation of green energy professionals with quality training and skilled roles for the future. By co-investing and working with Grŵp Llandrillo Menai's colleges, the company is fully funding the studies of 23 employees to gain a Higher National Certificate (HNC), or Higher National Diploma (HND) in Engineering.

Learners progress at their own pace and can access lectures delivered by both Coleg Menai and Coleg Llandrillo virtually. One-to-one tutorial sessions are offered, and all resources are made available online, so that they can be accessed at a time to suits employees, around their work and personal commitments.

This isn't the first time the partners have worked together. RWE Renewables developed a national apprenticeship hub at Coleg Llandrillo where it has already successfully trained over 30 apprentices since it first launched in 2012. The programme was set up to develop skilled wind technicians to meet the growing needs of the offshore wind sector.

A purpose-built workshop for RWE apprentices and staff is also to be housed in a brand new £14 million Engineering Centre currently under development at the college's campus in Rhyl.



"We are pleased to support RWE as it upskills its workforce. Our existing partnership with them aims to lead the way in promoting skills in an ever-growing green energy sector. Courses are developed so that the students can access the learning materials and resources from anywhere 24/7 - making our learning flexible to suit our students and their work in industry."

Alwyn Jones
Programme Area Manager for Engineering
Coleg Llandrillo

RWE launches new course in North Wales college to upskill green workforce

"We have a strong relationship with Coleg Llandrillo, and upskilling our workforce is fundamental to our growth strategy. The college has already won many awards with our apprenticeship programme, which is proving very successful. We hope to duplicate this success with the new scheme. Developing our workforce is central to the way we work, and I am delighted that so many of our employees have joined this scheme, enhancing their skills and helping us on our energy projects across the UK."

John McKenzie
Head of UK Offshore Operations
RWE

Multi-agency approach to innovation

Collaboration across sectors and institutions is something which makes North Wales stand out from the crowd when it comes to business development and investment. A perfect example of this is Wynne Construction's pre-construction services agreement with Wrexham University for the design and build of the Enterprise Engineering and Optics Centre (EEOC).

The planned 2,000m² site will deliver state-of-the-art facilities to explore optics, photonics and composite materials as lightweight alternatives to reduce carbon within the manufacturing sector. It will also look at promoting the adoption of hydrogen as a fuel.

A North Wales Growth Deal project, the £30m EEOC will create a space for the university to support and work closely with the private sector to undertake research and design innovative new products. By working together, project partners hope to drive commercialisation within regional businesses, to create jobs and develop skills as well as attract inward investment.

Project benefits



Collaboration with 40+ businesses to reduce carbon emissions



Upskill up to 1,000 people and 40 businesses in targeted technologies



Generate up to £85m net additional GVA



Create up to 90 jobs in the region

Wynne Construction is leading on the extensive collaborative stakeholder engagement process and design of the facility, to be situated at Wrexham's flagship Plas Coch campus, close to the city centre. The scheme is part of the university's Campus 2025 strategy to deliver a high-quality academic and industry engagement environment for students from Wrexham and around the world to develop innovative solutions to real-world problems.

Designated as one of two high value manufacturing projects under the North Wales Growth Deal, the centre aims to bring additional investment to the region as part of a transition to a low carbon economy.

"We are confident that by working with the team at Wynne, our new facility will set the standard in design, functionality and in demonstrating significant carbon emission reduction, while delivering significant social value to North Wales."

Aulay Mackenzie
Deputy Vice-Chancellor
Wrexham University

"This is a great project and highlights what can be achieved through collaborative working. The EEOC will create a first-class building to benefit the whole region, extending beyond job creation and development opportunities within our supply chain. The design process is already underway, and we look forward to bringing our expertise to this scheme."

Chris Wynne
Managing Director
Wynne Construction

"This programme will promote innovation and commercialisation of technology in the manufacturing industry, building on the existing strength of the sector within our region. In doing so, the programme aims to secure high-value employment and training opportunities and support manufacturing businesses to decarbonise in line with national and global efforts."

Hedd Vaughan-Evans
Head of Operations
Ambition North Wales



Prifysgol Wrecsam
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