Royal Mail launches Â£1m apprenticeship fund to build green skills and support UKâ€™s low-carbon transition

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Royal Mail has launched a £1 million apprenticeship levy fund to help businesses develop the green skills necessary to benefit from and support the growth of a lowâ€‘carbon economy, with plumbers and electricians among the tradespeople set to benefit.

The funding can be used for a wide range of Government-approved green skills apprenticeships, helping build capabilities in areas including low-carbon heating, electrical vehicle infrastructure, energy efficient construction and sustainable supply chains.

The UK is undergoing a structural shift towards a lowâ€‘carbon economy, characterised by cleaner energy, greater electrification, and systemâ€‘wide emissions reduction. This can unlock significant benefits, including lower energy costs, reduced operating expenses, improved resource efficiency, productivity gains, and greater resilience against fuel price volatility.

The initiative will help close the growing gap between the roles needed to support the UK's transition and the availability of people with the skills needed to fill them.

Opportunities range from tradespeople training to fit solar panels or heat pumps or to install electric van charging infrastructure, to professionals taking on degree apprenticeships such as environmental practitioner or sustainability business specialist.

Why Royal Mail is investing

As one of the UK's largest companies - and the only provider delivering to all 32 million addresses in the UK - Royal Mail has an important role to play in supporting the UK's transition.

Royal Mail's own Steps to Zero strategy is well underway, including the electrification of its fleet and network efficiencies such as reducing domestic flights. However, meeting its target of Net-Zero emissions by 2040 also depends on an economyâ€‘wide transition, with supply chains, customers, and infrastructure all evolving in tandem.

This fund is designed to help accelerate the transition by building the skills needed across

the wider economy.

Royal Mail's Head of Climate Strategy, Miles Durrant, said:

"As lowâ€'carbon technologies become established, the challenge is no longer just innovation but deployment. Advances in areas such as electrification and sustainable construction must be matched by a workforce capable of deploying them at scale and driving down costs. This fund is about helping to build that capability across the economy."

Minister for Industry, Chris McDonald, said:

"The clean energy transition is expected to support more than 860,000 jobs by 2030 – that means we need to double the current workforce. Apprenticeship schemes like this will help train the next generation into secure well-paid jobs for life, ensuring we continue to grow our skilled workforce to support the economy whilst tackling youth unemployment head on."

Sarah Mukherjee, CEO of the Institute of Sustainability and Environmental Professionals (ISEP), said:

"The evidence is clear that the green economy is one of the UK's strongest areas of job growth. Royal Mail's decision to unlock apprenticeship levy funding is a strong example of how large organisations can use their influence to build capability in a practical and scalable way, supporting businesses right across the economy.

"And with close to one million young people in the UK currently not in employment, education or training, initiatives like this show how the transition to a low carbon economy can become a powerful engine for opportunity. Green skills are not only critical to delivering net zero — they are essential to creating more inclusive pathways into meaningful work."

How to apply

The fund is now open for applications to businesses and organisations in England and Wales. To apply, visit the Royal Mail website.

The fund is financed through the apprenticeship levy applied to businesses with a wage bill of £3 million or more. As an employer of 130,000 people, Royal Mail is one of the biggest levy-paying businesses in the UK. Royal Mail also has a separate £1m apprenticeship levy fund to support its small and medium businesses with up to 250 employees.

Source: International Distribution Services

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