

Bridge Central London Skills Partnership Green case study: Durkan, retrofit in construction

The challenges: retrofitting 29,000,000 homes to reach Net Zero targets requires a construction workforce of 250,000 to 500,000. The sector faces numerous skills gaps and competes with other industries for employees, as well as fragmented supply channels.

Challenges also create opportunities. Durkan is developing a high-quality, repeatable retrofit training model that incorporates cross-contractor partnerships. Currently working with New City College and South Thames College, the training focuses on entry-level positions because the sector lacks skilled installers. If the model is accurate, training and recruitment can be conducted at scale. Durkan's key goal is to move towards guaranteed job opportunities: whoever completes the programme through work placement will secure a job, not just a certificate.

Benefits of working in retrofit construction:

- It isn't minimum wage work; it is a lifelong career with plenty of scope for progression
- Environmentally: huge reduction of carbon emissions and resource consumption. Making an impact on Net Zero
- Socially: reduction in fuel poverty. Combats the poor health and education related to inadequate housing
- Economic: the capacity to create massive social value by reaching people trapped in fuel poverty, and offering a wide range of training to those who most need it. The potential to recirculate money back into the local economy, supporting sustainable, stable, and confident communities.



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“ ***If you can get into construction, it's good money and there is the potential for what is now rare, a lifelong career.*** ”

Kevin O'Connor
Head of Social Value and Delivery
Durkan



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