

IET skills for net zero and a green recovery

Examining the engineering skills needed to meet net zero.

The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) carries out an annual skills survey of engineering employers in the UK. In 2020 we focused on the skills requirements for delivering the UK Government's net-zero target by 2050, the subsequent impacts of COVID-19 on engineering employers, difficulties in recruiting engineers, and employer perceptions of the engineering skills gap.

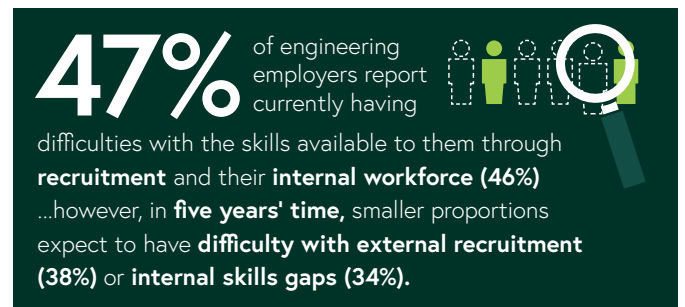
This flyer presents the key facts, themes and recommendations from the full survey.

Key facts and findings

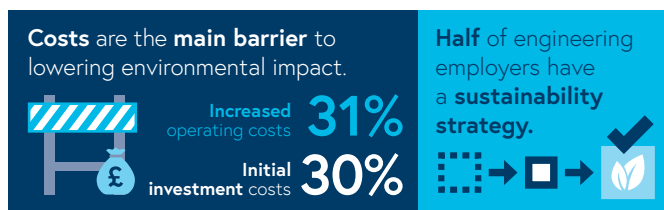
Business views on climate change



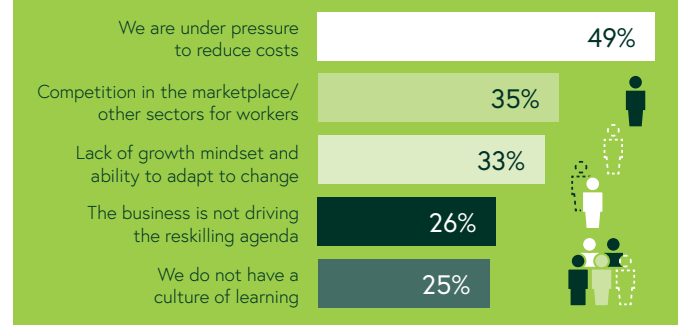
Current workforce needs



Strategies to achieve sustainability



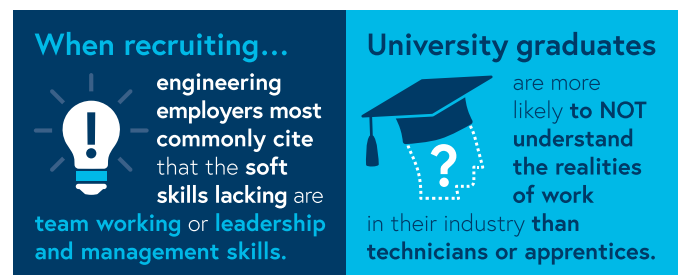
Top reasons for not being able to effectively address skills gaps:



Reaching sustainability: the future



Recruitment difficulties



The business context



Key recommendations

Industry, government and academia need to collaborate to identify the essential skills required to deliver net-zero targets and provide a workforce that's fit for purpose. Based on the results of this survey, we have highlighted the following key action areas:

Education:

1. Collaborate to improve work-readiness of new recruits.

Industry and educators, including universities, further education (FE) colleges and schools, should work together to improve work-readiness and equip young people with the skills needed to tackle complex multi-disciplinary activities.

2. Improve the understanding of the net-zero challenge.

Industry and educators should work together to ensure that young people have a good understanding of the importance of sustainability and the issues around it.

3. Provide meaningful and valuable work experience.

Industry and educators should strive to offer hands-on work experience and placements wherever possible.

4. Encourage greater opportunities in small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Government and large corporates should help SMEs to provide work experience and placements.

Government and policy:

5. Promote a green post-pandemic recovery.

Industry, government and academia need to collaborate to identify the essential skills required to deliver net-zero targets and provide a workforce that's fit for purpose.

6. Provide certainty by long-term planning.

It's essential that government provides long-term planning and guarantees investment in these skills through future governments.

7. Support innovation and drive down costs.

Government, industry and academia must continue to support innovation to provide improvements in efficiency and cost.

Skills:

8. Build a more flexible and agile workforce.

To effectively innovate and deliver in increasingly complex systems.

9. Ensure vital specialist skills aren't overlooked.

Industry should work more closely with schools, colleges and universities to address future needs.

10. Communicate the importance of engineering skills that address climate change.

General public must be engaged and support the skills needed to achieve net zero.



For further information and to read our full survey, visit theiet.org/skills

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