# Green Plant Academy opens in Earls Court to train workforce on zero-emission construction vehicles



A pioneering training facility dedicated to zero-emission construction vehicles has opened in west London, marking a significant step towards addressing both the city's skills shortage in green construction and its ambitious environmental goals. The Green Plant Academy, situated on the future redevelopment site of Earls Court, is the first centre of its kind in the capital, designed explicitly to equip workers with the expertise needed to operate electric and hybrid construction machinery, such as excavators and rollers that produce no tailpipe emissions.

Developed through a collaboration between Transport for London’s property arm, Places for London, The Skills Centre, and the Earls Court Development Company—with backing from key industry players including Sunbelt Rentals, JCB, L Lynch, the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), FM Conway, and the National Open College Network—the academy offers fully funded, recognised training. This hands-on learning environment enables trainees to operate live cutting-edge low-carbon construction equipment, thus preparing a workforce ready to meet the demands of an evolving sector focused on sustainability.

The timing of the academy’s launch coincides with London Climate Action Week, a significant festival running from 21 to 29 June that convenes thousands of organisations and individuals to accelerate global and local climate action. This event not only highlights the urgency of climate initiatives but also underscores London’s leadership role in environmental responsibility. Through offering specialist training during this week, the academy aims to bolster the city’s transition to net zero and ensure a robust pipeline of skilled operatives ready to contribute to upcoming infrastructure and housing projects.

The demand for construction skills in the UK is expanding rapidly; forecasts by the CITB predict a need for an additional 251,500 workers nationwide by 2028. London alone is expected to require approximately 6,200 plant operatives by 2027, driven largely by the city’s ambitious housing pipeline and infrastructure plans. The Green Plant Academy is woven into this wider development framework, supporting the Earls Court masterplan which envisions 4,000 new homes and 12,000 jobs, serving communities across Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham, and Westminster.

According to Laura Miller, construction skills manager at Places for London, the academy is integral for preparing Londoners to undertake sustainable construction careers and assist developers in meeting stringent environmental targets. Similarly, Rebekah Paczek, director of public affairs at the Earls Court Development Company, described the facility as a “major step forward” in cultivating the green workforce necessary for sustained regeneration efforts.

The development aligns with broader city strategies such as London’s Inclusive Talent Strategy and the London Growth Plan, which seek to revitalise adult education and maximise economic opportunities in the green economy. Courses at the academy, delivered in partnership with NOCN and CITB, represent a deliberate effort to integrate vocational training with the capital’s climate and economic objectives.

London Climate Action Week itself serves as a larger platform where various climate-focused initiatives and discussions take place. For instance, alongside the academy’s opening, numerous events are hosted by academic and industry bodies, addressing topics such as sustainable finance, climate risk disclosure, and transparency in consumer sustainability claims. These discussions emphasize the importance of comprehensive approaches to build trust in green credentials and scale up investments aligned with net-zero goals.

Moreover, high-profile interventions during the week, including those by Prince William at a roundtable event, spotlight the critical role Indigenous Peoples and local communities play in global conservation efforts and climate change mitigation. This reinforces the multifaceted nature of climate action, where workforce development and skill-building intersect with broader social and environmental strategies.

The Green Plant Academy’s establishment within this rich context of policy, education, and activism marks a practical advancement in equipping London’s workforce with the skills needed for a sustainable future. By providing training on zero-emission machinery and connecting with key climate initiatives during London Climate Action Week, it highlights how targeted local actions contribute to national and global sustainability ambitions.

### 📌 Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/)
* Paragraph 3 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/), [[2]](https://www.londonclimateactionweek.org/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/)
* Paragraph 5 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/)
* Paragraph 6 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/)
* Paragraph 7 – [[1]](https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/), [[2]](https://www.londonclimateactionweek.org/)
* Paragraph 8 – [[2]](https://www.londonclimateactionweek.org/), [[7]](https://www.reuters.com/world/london-climate-action-week-finance-live-2025-06-19/), [[4]](https://www.carbontrust.com/news-and-insights/events/the-carbon-trust-at-london-climate-action-week)
* Paragraph 9 – [[6]](https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/support-indigenous-people-protect-nature-uks-prince-william-says-2025-06-26/), [[2]](https://www.londonclimateactionweek.org/)

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

1. <https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/skills/londons-first-green-plant-academy-opens-at-earls-court-26-06-2025/> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.londonclimateactionweek.org/> - London Climate Action Week (LCAW) is an annual event that brings together a diverse range of stakeholders to address the climate emergency. In 2025, LCAW is scheduled to take place from 21 to 29 June, marking its seventh year. The event serves as a platform for hundreds of organisations, communities, and individuals to host climate-focused activities, aiming to accelerate global climate action and support London's role as a global climate leader. LCAW attracts over 45,000 attendees annually, making it Europe's largest city-wide climate festival.
3. <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/london-climate-action-week-2025/> - The Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) is hosting several events during London Climate Action Week 2025. These events include discussions on financing climate adaptation, mobilising capital for nature-based solutions, and harnessing AI for climate action. The institute aims to provide a platform for experts to share insights and strategies to address the climate emergency, reflecting LSE's commitment to advancing research and policy in climate change and environmental sustainability.
4. <https://www.carbontrust.com/news-and-insights/events/the-carbon-trust-at-london-climate-action-week> - The Carbon Trust is participating in London Climate Action Week 2025 by hosting a panel session and Q&A at their London headquarters on 23 June 2025. The session focuses on the role of transparency in building consumer trust, particularly through eco-labelling and platforms like Amazon's Climate Pledge Friendly. Experts from the Carbon Trust, Amazon Climate Pledge Friendly, and leading brands will discuss best practices for communicating carbon credentials to consumers, aiming to drive demand for sustainable products and services.
5. <https://www.ft.com/content/9a2118b6-044c-45cf-88a1-59e08570d316> - The World Design Congress, often referred to as the 'Olympics of design,' is set to return to London in September 2025 for the first time since 1969. Organised by the Design Council with support from various UK organisations, the event will be held at the Barbican Centre. The 2025 Congress focuses on 'Design for Planet,' promoting sustainable design practices. It will feature talks, seminars, and exhibitions, highlighting innovative British practices centred on environmental sustainability, and aims to foster collaboration across disciplines to drive responsible design solutions.
6. <https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/support-indigenous-people-protect-nature-uks-prince-william-says-2025-06-26/> - During a roundtable event at St James's Palace for London Climate Action Week, Prince William emphasised the vital role of Indigenous Peoples and local communities in global conservation efforts. Addressing investors, politicians, and scientists, he urged that these communities be recognised as essential partners and leaders in the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss. Prince William highlighted that Indigenous stewardship is among the most effective strategies for protecting nature and stressed the necessity of supporting these communities to achieve meaningful climate and environmental goals.
7. <https://www.reuters.com/world/london-climate-action-week-finance-live-2025-06-19/> - During London Climate Action Week, the Finance Live event brought together policymakers, financial leaders, climate experts, and activists to discuss the role of finance in combating climate change. Key topics included aligning investment strategies with net-zero goals, enhancing climate risk disclosures, and accelerating sustainable finance. Discussions emphasised the necessity for public-private partnerships to scale up green investments and the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) criteria into decision-making. Innovative financial instruments and regulatory frameworks were also explored to facilitate climate-resilient economic transformation.