# Energy & Utility Skills Extends CITB Funding for Training Courses Until 2024



Energy & Utility Skills has announced the extension of its CITB funding for training courses until the end of 2024. The program, initially launched in July 2023 in collaboration with CITB, has provided significant support for CITB registered employers in the sector. The initiative, designed to optimize the utilization of the industrial training levy, offers over 30 eligible courses that cater to the specific needs of employers. With positive feedback from the sector, the funding extension aims to continue supporting leadership and management training.

Stephen Barrett, Director of Membership & Strategic Engagement at Energy & Utility Skills, emphasized the importance of the initiative for addressing industry-related skill needs. CITB registered employers can apply for the funding until the end of December 2024.

In related news, a study by the University College of Estate Management (UCEM) highlights a significant gap in green skills within the built environment sector. The research indicates that 77% of built environment professionals believe their organization would lose its competitive edge without sustainability skills. Additionally, 88% of respondents noted that sustainability skills are relevant across all roles in the sector.

The survey also revealed an acute shortage of green skills, with 73% finding it challenging to recruit candidates with the necessary expertise. The need for sustainability skills is expected to rise, with 75% of respondents predicting an increase in demand. Stephen Bartle, Pro Vice-Chancellor at UCEM, pointed out the pressing concern of environmental legislation and the shortage of skills required to meet these regulations.

The research found that 76% of employers are competing for sustainability talent and 87% believe upskilling employees is crucial to addressing this shortfall. Optimizing energy use and reducing carbon emissions were identified as the most sought-after skills, followed by optimizing buildings for health and wellbeing and contributing to sustainability performance.

The findings underscore the importance of investing in sustainability skills training to meet both legal obligations and economic opportunities within the industry.