

# ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

<b>Main contact name</b>	Leah Bond
<b>Email</b>	leah.bond@essex.gov.uk
<b>Award category</b>	Delivering Clean Growth
<b>Project Title</b>	The Harlow and Tendring Retrofit Pipeline for Economic Renewal
<b>Local authority entrant</b>	Essex County Council (ECC)
<b>Partner/s if applicable</b>	The Retrofit Academy (TRA) CIC

## Headline summary (150 characters max.)

In 2022, ECC and the TRA delivered the Harlow & Tendring Retrofit Pipeline for Economic Renewal funded by the Gov Community Renewal Fund (CRF).

## Delivering clean growth: How is this project delivering clean growth, not just now but into the future – demonstrating ambition and vision, anticipating future challenges and future proofing growth including developing the workforce for the future? (150 words max)

When the partnership was formed, Essex was home to just nine accredited Retrofit Assessors. The project has expanded and protected this workforce, guaranteeing local capacity to deliver green growth into the future.

By offering Levels 2 to 5, ECC and TRA ensured there was a learning opportunity for all residents; however, they knew training alone would not solve the problem. The project therefore embraced business support, research and even the development of a new qualification (Level 3 Award in Domestic Retrofit Advice) to offer new, exciting options for years to come.

The partnership also realised the low take-up of the Level 4 Award was down to few residents having the pre-requisite Domestic Energy Assessor Qualification. TRA therefore developed a new partnership to deliver the DEA programme, accelerating the Level 4 take-up and demonstrating a supportive teaching model for future cohorts.

## Delivering clean growth: How is this project working across boundaries and with different partners to achieve long lasting clean growth? (150 words max)

Recognising the need to do things differently, ECC teamed up with TRA, the UK's leading retrofit skills provider, for the first time. By focussing on their individual strengths, partners were able to deliver engaging and accessible green skills provision across Essex. ECC drew on its understanding of local communities, businesses and residents, while TRA concentrated on its in-depth knowledge of retrofit expertise, meaningful training and business support. In effect, a new team was created, described by an independent consultant as a 'one team feel' with a 'strong and trusted partnership throughout'. Both organisations formed additional partnerships to support training delivery and clean growth. TRA joined forces with Generation, a non-profit providing employability bootcamps, as well as certification experts, enabling SMEs to gain their PAS 2030 certifications. ECC enlisted the support of Adult

Community Learning Essex, utilising their local training experience and to launch the brand-new Retrofit Academy: Essex alongside TRA.

**Delivering clean growth: How is this project proactively engaging with business to tackle problems and find solutions, stimulating the clean growth sector at the same time? (150 words max.)**

At the start of the programme, very few local businesses had the Trustmark certification needed to work on retrofit projects. Working together, ECC and TRA established a supply chain of SMEs poised for retrofit opportunities and able to diversify to capitalise on future growth.

Recognising the need to upskill and support local businesses, TRA joined forces with TradeEngine and British Assessment Bureau to help 25 SMEs gain PAS 2030 certifications. These SMEs can now access multimillion pound government-funded retrofit schemes, helping to keep money within the local economy.

The partnership also delivered Fit for Retrofit, the first bespoke training of its kind. This programme took a whole organisation approach, upskilling social housing and housing associations employees, helping to stimulate the local clean growth sector. It bolstered opportunities to secure funding through social housing decarbonisation funding, which will create more energy-efficient homes and further stimulate the local supply chain.

**Delivering clean growth: How is this project going beyond the 3-5 year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges including the use or consideration of innovative funding solutions? (150 words max.)**

By joining forces with Adult Community Learning (ACL) Essex, TRA and ECC were able to launch the Retrofit Academy: Essex, the UK's first licensed domestic retrofit training provider outside of Staffordshire. With a new, permanent local provider, trained and ready to deliver TRA's courses, this has left a lasting legacy in Essex. ECC, ACL and TRA are now establishing a phase 3 delivery model to boost confidence in the local retrofit market and deliver ongoing training.

Since the pilot, ECC has also secured further DESNES funding to deliver training in Basildon, Colchester and Castle Point. This will help ECC to support the socio-economic outcomes of residents in some of the county's most deprived areas and Levelling Up priority places.

ECC's Sector Development Strategy explores longer-term plans for the economy, prioritising funding and financial support for clean growth until 2050, ensuring ECC has the greatest impact possible on residents and businesses.

**All categories: please add anything else that supports your award entry**

68% of all Essex properties have an EPC of D or below, meaning 422,000 properties need retrofitting, yet the retrofit sector is underdeveloped, with a significant skills shortage. This project recognised the need for an innovative approach, creating a new partnership and utilising £703,000 from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities via the CRF.

The project took a system-wide approach to kickstarting the future retrofit workforce, targeting two of the UK's most deprived boroughs – Harlow and Tendring. By delivering qualifications from Levels 2 to 5 directly to residents, via businesses and through the UK's first franchised domestic retrofit training provider, the partnership saw 248 residents receive fully funded PAS 2035 qualifications.