



Greening skills through ESF funding

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Context

- Setting the scene:
 - ESF in some EU countries
 - ESF in England
- Case studies:
 - Greenways to Work
 - Recycling lives
- Recommendations

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ESF in some EU countries

- **Germany:** “each state addresses the issue differently and includes environmental skills programmes funded by ESF either as core elements ... or as additional elements of educational programmes
- **Netherlands:** “of the 247 projects funded by ESF, not a single project targeted the promotion of environmental skills or training of people directly or primarily”
- **Italy:** “environmental issues and green skills are unevenly present in the programmes”
- **Poland:** “there are projects which involve green skills training and target Polish employees or unemployed”
- **England:** “ESF has been used to develop a special focus on training for the new jobs that will be created as the economy recovers, especially ‘green jobs’ in a low carbon economy”

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[Source: ECORYS: Programmes to promote environmental skills 30 June 2010](#)



European Social Fund in England

Accession through co-financing: 2 priorities

- **Priority 1:** Extending employment opportunities
- **Priority 2:** Developing a skilled and adaptable workforce
- **Innovation and Transnationality strand**
- **Cross Cutting Theme:** Sustainable development - focuses on ensuring that the implementation of the programme will take account of environmental concerns and respects the principles of sustainable development
- **UKNSRF:** Providers are required to take steps to ensure activities are delivered “ in a way that minimises any negative impacts on the environment... as well as maximises positive impacts”
- **Regional Frameworks revision:** From 2011-13, there should be a special focus on training for the new jobs that will be created, especially green jobs in a low carbon economy

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Project case study 1

Greenways to Work

- **Project rationale:** a social landlord whose tenants suffer from fuel poverty hopes to address the issue by ensuring the houses they manage have fuel efficiency measures
- **Targets:** a wide range of individuals and employers, from employed individuals learning new skills to unemployed individuals looking for work in recycling
- **Provides:** awareness raising, training and capacity building in the areas of recycling, renewable fuels and energy efficiency, formal qualifications for businesses as well as providing training to offer advice on tackling fuel poverty
- **Transnational added value:** learning from Swedish partners, transferring good practice to Polish partners

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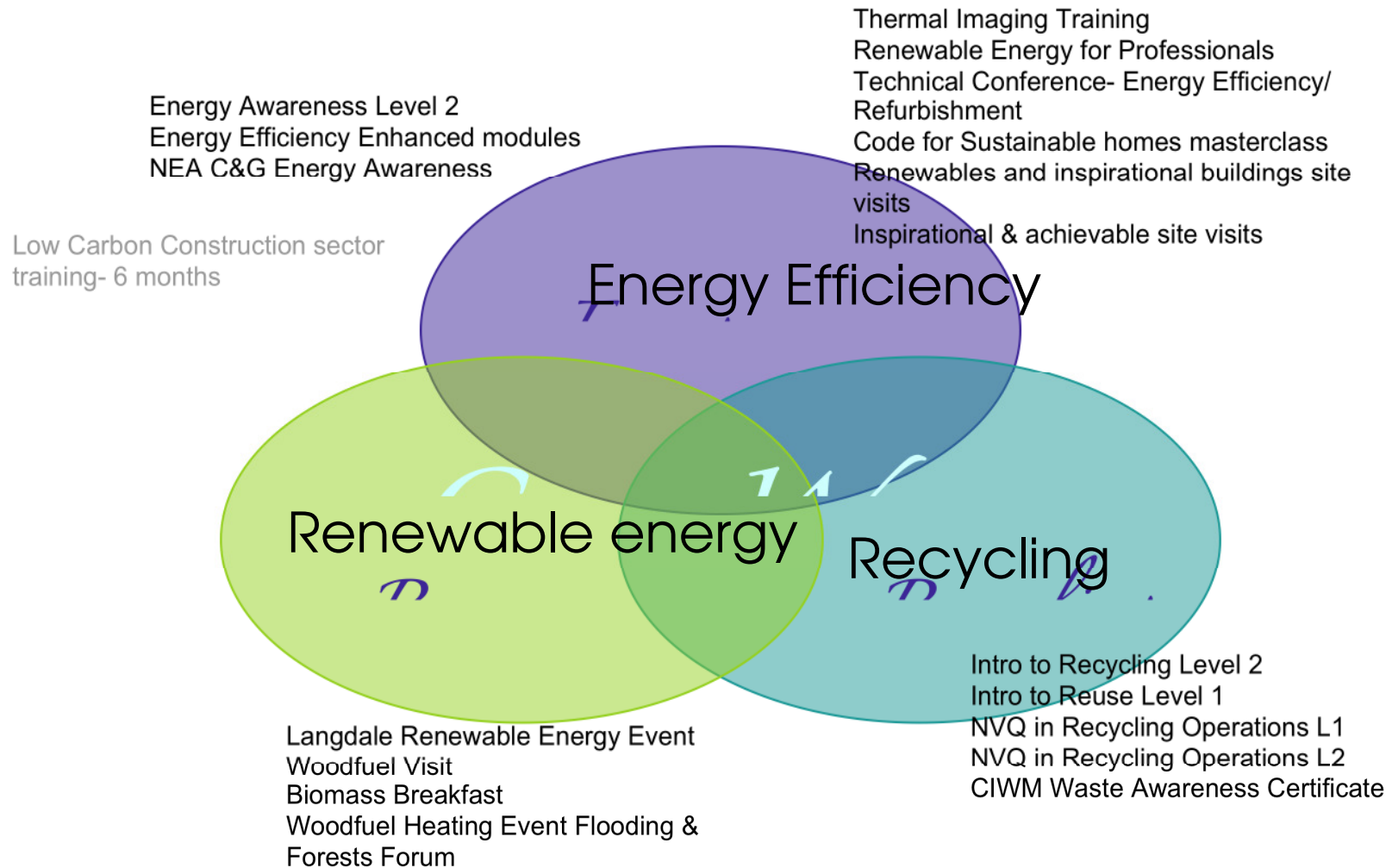
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Greenways to work



Project case study 2

Recycling Lives

- **Project rationale:** reduce reoffending through helping offenders gain employment and learn new skills.
- **Targets:** offenders approaching the end of their sentences
- **Provides:** pathways for offenders to find employment – including training and support to help them prepare for work and 13 week placement in the recycling sector which can lead to permanent employment
- **Added value:** eliminating barriers and creating jobs for marginalised and excluded groups in expanding sectors of the economy

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Welcome to the Recycling Lives Charity

The Recycling Lives charity acts as a safety net for vulnerable and marginalised people. We offer accommodation, education, training and work experience to homeless and long-term unemployed individuals, with the aim of helping them back into full-time work and finding them a place to call their own.

Our charity work is supported by the successful commercial activities of [Recycling Lives Ltd](#), a Queen's Award-winning recycler and renewable energy consultancy.



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June 24, 2011

European Social Fund in England

Climate change and green jobs focused actions

- **Reducing unemployment:** across a range of disadvantaged groups
- **Increasing workforce environmental skills and provision:** meeting needs across wide range of skills and jobs
- **Increasing environmental activities:** meeting climate change objectives by reducing carbon footprint
- **Responding to identified opportunities in the local area:** place based approaches, integration with local sustainable strategies
- **Awareness raising:** knowledge and information exchange

[Further info: GHK - ESF Evaluation of Sustainable Development and Green Jobs](#)

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Recommendations

ESF and Green jobs agenda

- Linking in European Employment Strategy and Employment guidelines with EU 2020 targets on climate change mitigation and social justice policies
- Strengthen links of ESF with other EU funded programmes
- Social partners role essential in inclusive sustainable labour markets

Programme level

- Allow for development of flexible and tailored provision
- What is 'green jobs'? Support from sector specialists
- Role of ESF technical assistance : capacity building & raising awareness

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