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Innovative training programme upskills up utilities sector

A first-ever Joint Utilities Entry Level Training Programme, aimed at upskilling support workers for subcontractors installing utility assets, has been completed in Northern Ireland.

Developed to build the workforce needed for a netzero economy in the region, the programme represents a partnership between the Construction Industry Training Board Northern Ireland (CITB NI), Department for the Economy (DfE), NIE Networks and Kier.

Participants completing the

22-week programme gained practical and theoretical training including 80 days on site and 30 days offsite. They will receive certificates and industry-recognised registration cards enabling them to work across the four main utility sectors: electricity, gas, water and telecoms. The programme, which was fully funded for paid employees of relevant businesses, is



-R: Gordon Parkes,

suited for new recruits or existing operatives without formal training or certification. Phase two of the programme will reopen for new applications in the autumn. Gordon Parkes, NIE Networks, said, "Like many employers, we struggle to find people with Green Skills, an area where 28,000 jobs are expected in the next 10 years." www.citbni.org.uk

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