

Transformative Leadership in our new Green Economy

6 – 7 February 2025

Bedruthan Hotel, Cornwall

Two-day residential intensive training programme

Funded through the *UK Shared Prosperity Fund*

Delivered by the University of Exeter in Cornwall under ‘The Future is Green’ project, this UK Shared Prosperity Funded two-day in person residential at the Bedruthan Hotel in Newquay, explored the transformative leadership skills needed to enable Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly to harness the opportunities, and face the challenges, of the new eco-industrial energy revolution towards the future green economy.



[Image: Flyer for Transformative Leadership in our new Green Economy residential]

Examining strategic regional sectors including clean energy, power and construction; the aim of this delivery was the incubation of skills for visionary, diverse and inclusive leaders of the future to effectively lead sectorial economic activity towards a carbon neutral future in our region.

Individuals in Cornwall working on offshore wind, onshore solar, heating, engineering, planning and construction were specifically invited to join a cohort of 25 delegates. We specifically selected individuals who demonstrate either current, or potential leadership skills. We also aimed to represent diversity across attendees, including a balance of gender, age, background and career stage, aiming to facilitate highly valuable diverse and supportive new networks and connections. When asked to outline why they wished to attend this event, delegates said:

“I’m incredibly passionate about helping Cornwall to secure a just transition through the growth of the Cornish supply chain and local skills, for floating offshore wind and see it as one of the biggest opportunities to help clear a positive impact in the region.”

“As a Cornish environmental scientist and business leader I’m excited about the opportunities offered by further renewable ‘green’ energy development in Cornwall. I’d like to bring my expertise in ecology, landscape, planning and renewables to work with and learn from a group of likeminded people.”

“Working in sustainability within the mining industry, which is a heavily male dominated industry, I am very keen to upskill myself and develop my leadership skills. By attending this training I would hope to learn new ways of approaching leadership and overcoming challenges, and also to expand my network of people within the renewable energy space in Cornwall.”

“As a female engineer, I have witnessed the industry's evolution and the increasing push toward sustainability and diversity. Attending the Transformative Leadership in Our New Green Economy training aligns with my commitment to driving meaningful change in the engineering sector.”

“I work in the technical team for a developer of offshore wind projects... I am still at the early stages of my career and recognise that I have much more to learn. Having often found myself in male-dominated spaces... I am particularly keen to inspire and support women and other underrepresented groups to enter and thrive in the renewable energy sector and make a tangible difference in achieving a sustainable future. The programme’s focus on diverse and sustainable leadership aligns perfectly with my ambition to grow as an effective leader who empowers others to join and succeed in the renewable energy sector.”

The event was supported by four inspiring guest speakers from related industry, including Chris Coonick (*National Grid*), Kerry Hayes (*Simply Blue Group*), Steve Berry (*Kensa*) and Amanda Forman (*Planet A Solutions*). They spoke of their own career journeys, provided insights into their company’s leadership practices and their own personal approach to inclusive and effective transformative leadership within their related sectors.

A series of workshops, supported by academics from the *University of Exeter Business School* (Allen Alexander, Ruth Cherrington, Hollie Kirk) further explored transformative leadership skills, including innovative net-walking sessions, exploratory *LEGO® SERIOUS PLAY®* workshops, communication style debating activities, and from *Planet A CIC*, an Ikigai three stands of purpose workshop.



[Image One: Delegates exploring leadership styles through delivery of Lego workshop]

[Image Two: Delegates exploring management theory through Innovation in the Wild workshop]

Valuable new connections and networks were formed across the group while these leaders of the present and future green economy were supported on their professional skills development journey. After the event attendees said:

"I found the whole event very engaging. The group of people present were really inspiring and I think we have all built some lasting connections."

Amanda Forman, Founder and Director, Planet A Solutions

"Having only been in my own leadership role for a couple of years, this was an excellent opportunity to self-reflect on the things I do well but also how I can be a better leader moving forward."

Zoe Hilditch, Environmental Sustainability Manager, Cormac Ltd

"... the best part were the brilliant people I got to meet who live and work in Cornwall. The diverse mix of experience, backgrounds and conversations was what made the event so special."

Emily Summers, Development Engineer, Simply Blue Group

"It was a brilliant event which brought together such a diverse range of people who all aspire to help lead the clean and green transition. I've gained a fresh perspective on shaping the green economy, along with valuable new connections and like-minded friends who share my passion and drive."

Becky Fowell, Project Manager, Regen

"It was well executed and full of great content and networking opportunities, right on our doorstep."

Theresa Frost, Assistant Quality Manager & Apprentice Lead, Cormac

"The event was an incredibly positive and insightful experience. It brought together many different disciplines and perspectives which served to enrich the discussions and sessions. The facilitation of the event was also well above the standard that is expected at such events, with activities seamlessly transitioning and everything very well organised, allowing a relaxing space to engage and contribute."

Jason Blanchard, Technical Asset Manager, Elgin Energy

Our thanks to all who attended; including the VIP - or should that be VIW - humpback whale who joined us from Mawgan Porth bay!

Businesses Represented:

Bennamann Ltd
BVG Associates
Centre for Energy Equality
Cormac Ltd
Cornish Lithium
Cornwall Council Housing Strategy, Partnerships and Engagement
Cornwall Environmental Consultants / Falmouth Harbour Commission
Cornwall Housing Ltd | Homes and Investment Team - Cornwall
Council
Eden Geothermal Ltd
Eden project
Elgin Energy
Kensa
Marraum Ltd
MintMech Ltd
Regen
RJ Working
Robotmother Ltd
Simply Blue Group
Geothermal Sole Trader
Solis Marine Engineering
Tugdock Limited
University of Exeter (Post Grad Student)

Speakers & Workshop Facilitators:

University of Exeter Business School - Allen Alexander
University of Exeter, Exeter Innovation - Mary Hesling
Kensa - Steve Barry
National Grid - Chris Coonick
Planet A CIC - Amanda Forman
Simply Blue Group - Kerry Hayes
University of Exeter Business School - Ruth Cherrington
University of Exeter Business School - Hollie Kirk

Project Team:

University of Exeter, Exeter Innovation - Katie Riesner
University of Exeter, Exeter Innovation - Matthew Cahill
University of Exeter Engineering School - Julian Gregory

