

Project Managers back UK's Net Zero goal but call for action on skills gap

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A new survey by the [Association for Project Management \(APM\)](#) reveals optimism among project professionals regarding the UK's ability to achieve its 2050 net zero target. However, the survey also highlights concerns over the project management talent pipeline needed to deliver these critical initiatives.

The poll of 1,000 project professionals, conducted by Censuswide, found that 91% are confident the UK will meet its legally mandated 2050 net zero target. Confidence stemmed primarily from actions taken by both their sectors and companies (48%), followed by government measures and legislation (43%). These findings come amidst ongoing government efforts to decarbonise the economy, including the [2023 Net Zero Growth Plan](#), though recent policy adjustments have drawn some criticism.

Despite this optimism, 61% of respondents expressed concerns about the adequacy of the project management talent pipeline for future net zero projects. This concern aligns with APM's previous survey, which identified an 83% perception of a skills shortage within the profession.

"Project managers are at the forefront of the UK's transition to net zero," said Andrew Baldwin, Head of Policy and Public Affairs at APM. "They shoulder a wide range of responsibilities – from strategic planning to resource management – while tackling complex challenges like stakeholder engagement and technology adoption. It's encouraging that a vast majority believe we can achieve net zero."

"However," Baldwin continued, "our profession recognizes the need for further action. The talent shortage warning cannot be ignored. As the chartered membership body for project professionals, APM remains committed to ensuring our concerns are heard and addressed."

The survey also revealed an age-related confidence gap, with those aged 55+ expressing the highest confidence (94%) in achieving net zero, while 25-34 year olds were most likely to agree there's an insufficient talent pipeline (71%).

The UK's commitment to net zero is enshrined in law through the Climate Change Act 2008 (2050 Target Amendment) Order 2019. For businesses and project professionals seeking to elevate their project management practices, APM offers qualifications leading to Chartered Project Professional (ChPP) status. More information can be found on the [APM qualifications and training webpage](#).