



WHAT IS DOMESTIC RETROFIT?

The UK is undergoing a retrofit revolution to meet its target of reaching Net Zero emissions by 2050 and raise the energy efficiency of UK homes by 2035.

Domestic retrofit is the process of upgrading our homes to make them more energy efficient, reducing carbon emissions and creating homes that are healthier and cheaper to live in.

Typically retrofit involves improving the fabric of a building first. This includes insulating walls and lofts to reduce heat loss; also replacing windows, doors and other elements that are not fit for purpose. Crucially, good retrofit involves making a building air tight but also ensuring it is well ventilated to avoid problems with damp and mould.

Once the fabric has been improved, retrofit involves replacing fossil-fuel central heating and water heating systems with low carbon alternatives. Most commonly this is through installing heat pumps and solar thermal hot water systems.

Finally, retrofit often involves introducing micro-renewables that generate electricity for use in the home. Examples include solar panels or wind turbines.

The important thing about retrofit is that every home is different. Each will require its own decarbonisation plan, developed by people who know what they are doing.

From July 2021, the installation of our domestic retrofit measures must be guided by the specifications outlined in the PAS 2030 document.

Part of this is a requirement that contractors working in domestic retrofit demonstrate that they are on a pathway to gaining an NVQ qualification. This course acts as a pathway to entering the domestic retrofit industry.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN DOMESTIC RETROFIT

Retrofit is a new and exciting sector of the economy that should offer rewarding careers for thousands of people. Anybody currently working in this sector or thinking of working in it in the future would benefit from holding the Understanding Domestic Retrofit qualification. Here are some of the key occupations in the retrofit sector.

- Trades: Plastering, Joinery, Carpentry, Rendering, Heat Pump Installer and Solar Panel Installer
 - Professions: Retrofit Advisor, Retrofit Assessor, Retrofit Coordinator and Retrofit Designer
- In addition, there are job roles in sectors such as social housing where this qualification will be valuable. For example, Tenant Liaison Officers, Asset Managers and Energy and Sustainability Officers.

The government is investing heavily in retrofit projects as it begins to ramp up its decarbonisation drive. Schemes like the Energy Company Obligation (ECO), Local Authority Delivery (LAD) scheme and the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund amount to around £2 bn per year.

Employers in the retrofit sector include local authorities, housing associations, installers, energy companies, contractors and sub-contractors. Many people are also self-employed or set up their own businesses.

All these job roles will require additional qualifications. However, Understanding Domestic Retrofit is a great place to start your career in the sector.



ABOUT THE COURSE

The National Open College Network (NOCN) Level 2 Award in Understanding Domestic Retrofit (UDR) is an Ofqual regulated qualification.

If you're new to the world of domestic retrofit, it will give you a comprehensive and easy to follow introduction to whole-house retrofit. If you have some experience of energy efficiency projects already, it will build your knowledge to give you the bigger picture of domestic retrofit.

Learners will gain an understanding of what domestic retrofit is, what it is supposed to achieve, what you need to know when working in the industry, and what to look out for when installing energy efficiency measures in homes.

The course is designed to improve the employability of learners. Employers are increasingly seeking staff who understand the fundamentals of retrofitting.



COURSE CONTENT

The NOCN Level 2 Award in Understanding Domestic Retrofit builds on The Retrofit Academy's expertise in retrofit training and has been developed by some of the UK's leading experts in retrofit.

It features seven eLearning modules with extensive, interactive teaching materials, and self-tests to check your understanding along the way.

1. Introduction to Domestic Retrofit

- Busting all the jargon, introducing key concepts like Fabric First and Whole House Retrofit.

2. Domestic Retrofit Information

- Getting to grips with the different types of information and documents used in retrofit projects.

3. Health and Safety

- Understanding the current legislation relating to domestic retrofit, how to respond to and report emergencies and workplace accidents and how to identify and report risks and hazards.

4. Domestic Retrofit Materials

- Becoming familiar with the types of materials used in domestic retrofit projects and how to ensure they are up to standard.

5. Protecting The Work Area

- Everything you need to know to minimise risks in the workplace and dispose of waste properly.

6. Retrofit Contract Information

- Understand the basic principles of domestic retrofit, including pre-installation requirements, installation details and installation problems.

7. Common Domestic Retrofit Installation Processes

- An overview of installation methods, including internal and external solid walls, cavity walls, roofs, suspended and solid floors and windows and doors.