

Briefing Note: North West HEI Activity – Low Carbon Economy

The North West region has key strengths in nuclear fuel processing, operations, maintenance and decommissioning and renewable technology development. A robust industry sector is supported by significant capabilities across all areas of activity in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) including research, teaching and knowledge transfer.

The North West's universities¹ offer over 280 courses in energy or environmental disciplines ranging from Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to full foundation, bachelors and postgraduate degrees. Increasingly, these are developed in partnership with employers: the Open University in the North West, The University of Liverpool and the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN) are all University Associate Members of the National Skills Academy Nuclear (comprising three of only four HEIs engaged nationally); the Dalton Nuclear Institute at the University of Manchester offers MSc, CPD programmes and a Nuclear Engineering Doctorate Scheme in association with employers; the Nuclear-graduate programme co-ordinated by Lancaster University has been funded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and is backed by more than 20 leading companies including Rolls-Royce and BAE Systems; the North West Higher Level Skills Pathfinder² funded UCLAN, in partnership with employers, to develop foundation degrees and CPD for work based learners in nuclear waste management, nuclear project management and nuclear related technology. The HLSP has now been extended to support the development of new provision in Energy and Environmental Technologies.

¹ University of Bolton, University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), University of Chester, University of Cumbria, Edge Hill University, Lancaster University, The University of Liverpool, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool John Moores University, The University of Manchester, Manchester Metropolitan University, The Open University in the North West, University of Salford, Royal Northern College of Music.

² The HLSP is funded by the NWDA and delivered by the NWUA. More information available at: www.nwua.ac.uk/HLSP