THE CLIMATE PATH

Building workforce skills through sustainability education

PPN 026 (2026) shifts the central government Social Value Model towards jobs, skills and opportunities.
Sustainability education may contribute, where it addresses a demonstrable, contract-relevant skills need and meets the applicable tender criteria. NHS procurement requirements must be checked separately.

The Climate Path, hosted on CPDmatch, offers structured climate and environmental education, reflection and organisational monitoring. It can support workforce capability-building commitments where these are relevant to a specific contract, with evidence of participation, learning and subsequent action.

The Climate Path alignment to PPN 026

PPN 026 criterion	What it seeks	How The Climate Path can help
2a - Training and retraining	Support training or retraining linked to identified skills needs and opportunities.	Provide foundational climate and environmental learning where a relevant skills gap is evidenced.
2b - In-work progression	Support skills development and meaningful progression for people already in work.	Use structured learning and reflection as one element of a wider, evidenced development offer.
2c - Talent pipeline	Support access to skills and employment opportunities, including for people facing barriers.	Offer accessible learning within a wider, targeted skills or employment programme; education alone is insufficient.
Cross-cutting: delivery and measurement	Commitments must respond to the chosen award criterion and be specific, proportionate and verifiable.	Set relevant targets, monitor learning and report outcomes beyond participation or completion.

Example tender commitment

"Where the published tender criteria allow, and an additional contract-related skills need has been identified, we will offer targeted climate and environmental learning to 100 participants within the eligible target group in the first 12 months, aiming for 90% completion. We will evidence the skills gap, track participation and learning, and report the resulting skills development and practical outcomes."

From commitment to evidence

COMMITMENT → EDUCATION → CAPABILITY → ACTION → MEASUREMENT → EVIDENCE

Important: Training or a subscription is not automatically social value. Eligibility depends on the contracting authority, procurement, published criteria, additionality and measurable contract-related benefits.

The proposition

The Climate Path can help organisations develop climate and environmental literacy and record progress.
Where an eligible procurement identifies relevant skills needs, this evidence may support a wider, credible social value commitment. Its value ultimately depends on demonstrable capability and outcomes, not course completion alone.

Policy basis: Cabinet Office, PPN 026: The Social Value Model (2026), and associated guidance, especially Outcome 2 (Skills), award criteria 2a–2c. Application to individual NHS procurements must be checked against the contracting authority's published requirements.