

Sector Spotlight **Plant based food**

Did you know? Leeds is home to a rapidly growing cluster of plant-based food businesses, supporting the ever-increasing popularity of the vegetarian, vegan and free from food industry.

What do they do? Whether it's working in a laboratory developing the latest craze in plant-based food, ensuring it gets onto supermarket shelves across the globe, or being in a hands-on factory environment helping to manufacture the products, there is a job in the plant-based food industry for you.

Who are they? Larger businesses include Quorn, who house their commercial functions here, Meatless Farm, who operates its UK head office here, and Arla, whose Lactofree range is worth 70.8% of the UK's lactose free milk market. Smaller but no less important business include Mighty, a plant-based milk producer particularly proud of its eco credentials, and Northern Bloc, who produce delicious plant-based ice cream.

How do I join them? Whatever your skillset, there's a place for you within the plant-based food industry in Leeds. This could include degrees in Food Science, Nutrition or Marketing (University of Leeds has plenty), Lab Tech apprenticeships (Quorn), marketing apprenticeships (Meatless Farm), or experience in sales from a weekend job.

Get skills-ready **What are the top baseline skills requested by employers?**

You probably already have some of these skills – maybe without even realising!



Communication

Have you ever presented your ideas in a lesson? Have you worked with others to succeed in a task?



Creativity

Do you play an instrument? Draw? Write? Dance?



Social intelligence:

Have you ever had to deal with a difficult social situation or mend a fallout? Do you listen well to others?



Problem-solving

Have you ever stayed calm to find a solution to a problem? Have you planned a winning strategy for your sports club or fixed a computer bug?



Planning

Have you planned out your revision to get everything done on time? Have you planned a trip or organised meals for the week?

What are the top specialised skills in greatest demand?

You might have started developing some of these skills. How can you work on them?

- Teamwork/collaboration:** Join a team or club that interests you. Work on a shared project.
- Customer service:** Volunteer at a local charity shop. Get a part-time job.
- Project management:** Take the lead in your next group project.
- Sales:** Work on your persuasive writing. Join a campaign to make a change.
- Teaching:** Tutor a friend or younger sibling. Explain your revision to your parents.

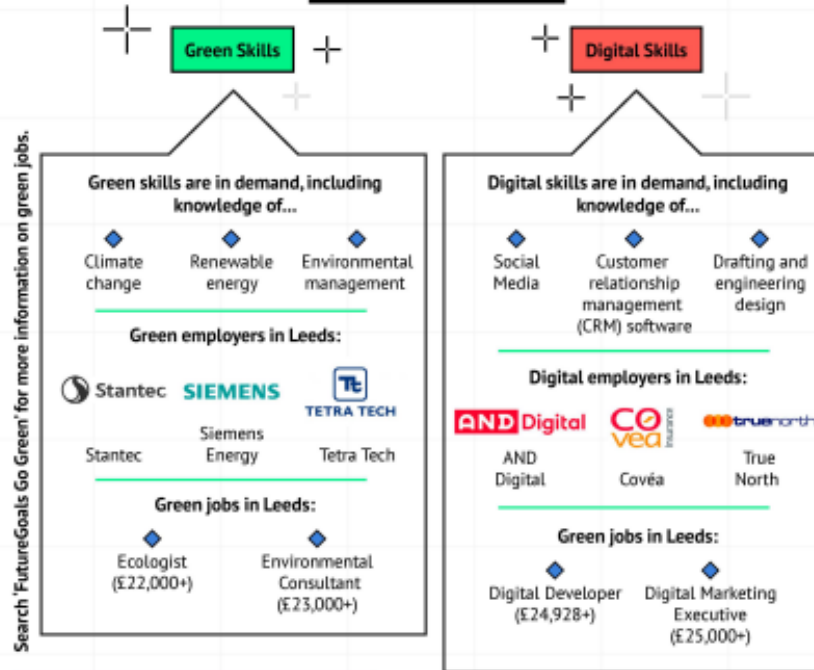


Where are the skill gaps?

These are the skills that employers say people are lacking!

- Time management:** How do you make sure your work is done on time?
- Teamwork:** Have you ever worked on a group project or played a team sport?
- Emotional intelligence:** Have you ever navigated a difficult social situation?

Skills for the future



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