

PET-Xi CASE STUDY



Patryk Dublicki, 32 and living in Rugby, decided to leave his former job in financial administration after being furloughed during the pandemic, and wanted to take control of his working life by starting his own business.

While out of work, the job centre referred Patryk to PET-Xi after he expressed an interest in going into self-employment.

Patryk had an idea of starting a business to install energy-saving measures in people's homes across the Midlands, such as heat pumps, insulation, and solar panels.

He was introduced to the Business Futures programme at PET-Xi, which helps people gain the extra skills they need to move into self-employment.

Support provided by PET-Xi

The free six-week Business Futures programme provides budding Warwickshire entrepreneurs with a range of business support and advice as well as the opportunity to take part in a Dragon's Den-style pitch for the opportunity to receive a £1,000 grant to help launch their idea.

It aims to support jobseekers across the county to develop their entrepreneurial skills to launch a business and become their own boss.

On the programme, Patryk took part in pre-recorded online sessions on various business-related topics, such as business structure, registration, developing a business plan, social media, marketing, and competitor analysis.

Patryk also received one-to-one advice from a business mentor on the programme, who helped him understand the many different aspects to starting and running a business.

After completing the programme, Patryk pitched his business, 'Midlands Eco Domestic Solutions', to a panel of judges, who agreed to help fund the business with a £1,000 grant.

Patryk will use the money to absorb some of the costs of materials and fuel, which will give him a bit of a head start as he looks to grow his business.

Gary Drake, of PET-Xi, said: "Patryk's idea to help homes reduce their energy costs is a brilliant one, especially with energy prices sky-rocketing recently."

PATRYK'S STORY

FUTURES BUSINESSES

“If he can establish his business well and grow it in the right way, we believe he will see plenty of customers using his services.

“The panel all agreed that Patryk’s business has great potential, so it was an easy decision to award him the grant.”

Outcomes

Patryk is already visiting customers in the Midlands, and is hoping to grow his business enough to hire staff to handle the administration and marketing.

His main goal is for his business to be accredited by the government, as people can apply for government grants to have heat pumps installed in their homes by accredited installers. This would bring in much more business for Patryk.

He said: “The Business Futures programme was really useful for me. It opened my eyes to some of the aspects of running a business that I hadn’t considered before, such as business rates, accountancy and staying positive during tougher periods.

“I’m really happy I was awarded the £1,000 grant. It will help cover some of the costs of material and fuel as I begin to grow my business, which is incredibly important when I am just starting out.

“It will take time to grow my business fully and become accredited by the government, but I am confident I can make it work, especially as everyone’s energy bills have risen so much recently.

“If a typical home has proper insulation, a heat pump and solar panels installed, it could save up to £1,000 per year, which is huge when money is so tight at the moment.

“I’m grateful to PET-Xi for showing faith in my business and giving me the knowledge to run it well through the Business Futures course, and I’m looking forward to helping homes all around the Midlands become more energy efficient and helping their occupants save money.”

Together we work as one

Business Futures is a government-funded programme through the UK Community Renewal Fund, which is allocated locally through Warwickshire County Council. The six-week online programme is delivered by PET-Xi and is open to Warwickshire residents aged between 16 and 65 who are unemployed.

If you would like to do the same course as Patryk we would love to hear from you!
To sign up call Gary Drake on: 07852 030 334 or email: gdrake@pet-xi.co.uk