

EMA Recognised Energy Manager

The Energy Managers Association is pleased to announce that Dewi Day, the Energy and Sustainability Advisor at Aberystwyth University, has joined the ranks of the EMA Recognised Energy Managers after successfully demonstrating the knowledge and skills in energy management through the Knowledge and Skills Gap Analysis Interview.

The EMA runs the Knowledge and Skills Gap Analysis Interview to help energy management professionals to not only pinpoint areas that may need expanding but also to show that often energy managers know far more than they think they know.

The Interview is a professional discussion with other energy management professionals touching upon your current areas of professional knowledge, whilst at the same time identifying any potential gaps, and suggesting ways to fill those gaps either through learning or mentoring. If interviewees demonstrate all the necessary knowledge in the core energy management competencies

during the interview they will be awarded the official EMA endorsement of the Recognised Energy Manager.

The core competencies are:

- Technical and Operational Competency
- Energy Assessments, Measurements and Verification Competency
- Behavioural Change and Motivation Competency
- Regulatory & Legal Compliance, and Carbon Management Competency
- Energy Management Strategy and Plan Competency
- Waste Management Competency
- Energy Procurement Competency
- Energy Efficient Transport Competency
- Water Management Competency
- Information Technology Competency

For more information regarding the EMA Recognised Energy Manager status and the interview process, please contact jana.skodlova@theema.org.uk or call 0203 176 2834.



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An Interview with the EMA Recognised Energy Manager

How did you become interested in energy management?

My BSc and MSc were both in environmental management but after working in the industry for a few years as an environmental consultant in soil and water quality, I realised that the area of sustainability that interested me most was carbon management and this was heavily linked to the design and operation of our buildings. This wasn't something I knew much about so whilst working full-time, I did a distance learning PGCert in Energy and Sustainable Building Design which I really enjoyed. About 3 years later an opportunity came to move into energy management as an assistant energy manager at QinetiQ. That was 3 years ago now, and since then I had 3 months as acting Head of Energy at QinetiQ before moving on to Aberystwyth University as their Energy and Sustainability Advisor.

What does your role at Aberystwyth University entail?

In my current role as Energy and Sustainability Advisor, I am both the energy manager and environment manager combined. Therefore the role is very broad and varied - my responsibilities include managing the utilities across our estate (approx. 3.5 million budget), developing a new sustainability strategy, identifying and managing improvement projects, the implementation of management systems such as ISO 14001 and 50001, managing compliance, setting budgets, tenant billing,

energy analysis, producing Display Energy Certificates, annual reporting, setting and monitoring objectives and KPI's; delivering training, etc.

What is the most exciting part of your job?

The main thing that attracted me to this job was that the university was looking to develop an entirely new sustainability and carbon strategy, and that I would be responsible for both identifying the strategic direction and detailing how it would be delivered. I am quickly realising that this is more challenging than I thought but I am still very excited by the project. Whilst daunting, the other aspect I relish about my current role is the ability to take a project all the way from conception through to completion. It has been a steep learning curve and I have learnt a lot in the past year, especially in terms of project management and public sector procurement.

What is the most frustrating part of your job?

I wouldn't call it frustrating, but one of the most difficult parts of my job, just as with many organisations, is that funding limitations mean that energy projects can sometimes focus on the low cost - quick wins. These smaller projects take a lot of time and it can sometimes feel as if there isn't enough time to make progress with the bigger, more significant improvement projects. We have however recently made some progress with larger projects, and are currently exploring energy performance contracts and renewable feasibility studies.





Can you describe your typical day?

As my role is so broad, I don't really have any typical days. The variety of tasks can be extremely different. One day I can be dealing with reducing single-use plastics in our catering outlets, the next I am advising on f-gas compliance, and the next I am looking at a business case for an energy efficiency project.

What drives you?

I feel fortunate to work in a sector that I am genuinely passionate about. Sustainability is something that I am equally conscious of at home as I am in work. I want to feel that I am helping to minimise our impact on the environment. It saddens me that we live in a world where progress on sustainability issues can be very slow and that future generations may be burdened with the impacts of our activities and lifestyles.

What qualities should a good energy manager possess?

In the relatively short time that I have been in the industry, I have realised that there are many kinds of energy managers out there so the importance of your skill sets depends on what kind of energy manager you want to be. Some energy managers focus on energy procurement and bill validation, some focus on energy efficiency project delivery, some on sustainability strategy. Being able to understand and interrogate energy and emissions data is an essential skill. Being able to develop good robust business cases for energy projects will also get you a long way. It's also worth noting that I have come across many business cases with overcooked paybacks and whilst this may help get a project approved it will likely lead to lack of trust in future business cases.

Which energy efficient innovation can revolutionise the global economy?

I am not sure if you class battery storage as an energy efficient innovation but I think that it could have huge

impacts on the industry if the costs can be brought down. It could play a vital role in issues such as variability of renewable energy generation and energy demand management.

What prompted you to undertake the Knowledge and Skills' Gap Analysis Interview with the EMA?

I actually didn't think I was ready and was planning to wait another year. I was about halfway through a two-year plan working my way through the core competencies via a variety of training courses and workplace learning. I had already completed many of the training courses and had been heavily involved in almost all aspects of energy management at QinetiQ, and my manager at the time had a lot of belief in me and convinced me that I was ready to go for it.

Do you think that the EMA Recognised Energy Manager status will allow you to highlight your credentials as an energy manager?

I believe that an energy management training programme like this is an important aspect of my career development and has helped broaden my skillset. I have learnt a great deal from the modules that I completed as part of this programme as well as other professional training courses. Shortly after gaining the EMA Recognised Energy Manager status, I was recognised as a star performer in my department at QinetiQ. I also believe that having a recognised energy management qualification can strengthen a CV and help future career progression.

What does next year hold for you?

The next year is shaping up to be a big year for sustainability at the university. We are investigating investment in a number of relatively large scale energy projects under the RE:FIT framework.

We are also developing a new carbon and sustainability strategy for the university so I am expecting a very busy year, but hopefully one that I will learn a lot from.