



Career in Energy Management

The Energy Managers Association aims to encourage and enable more professionals to enter the world of energy management and environmental roles. Being an energy manager may not seem like the most obvious career for many. The EMA has taken on a challenge of changing the perception of energy management, by raising the sector's profile and sharing its members' – leading energy managers - insights into their career progress and achievements. In this issue we have asked Rebecca Douglas, Energy Manager at Tesco and the winner of the 2017 EMA Junior Energy Management Professional of the year about her career in energy management so far.

What made you choose energy management as a career?

I have always been interested in sustainability and human impact on the environment. This is why I studied Geography as my Undergraduate Degree and Environmental Protection and Management as my Masters Degree at the University of Edinburgh.

The opportunity to work at Tesco as an Energy Manager was a great prospect for me. I would have the chance to be involved in many different projects to help reduce the carbon footprint of the 3rd largest retailer in the world!

My career in Energy Management began with a collaborative project

between Global Action Plan (an environmental behaviour change charity) and Tesco. The project involved working with Store Colleagues and Management to improve energy efficiency though the way equipment is operated. The project was very successful and, to our delight, won the 2015 edie Sustainability Leaders Award for Employee Engagement and Behaviour Change.

Since then, I have worked on and been involved in a number of energy projects at Tesco.

off when they were not in use and ensuring colleagues knew how long equipment took to heat up.

The 'Energy Matters' engagement programme trial was successful, and over a 6 week duration, we saw a 15.8% reduction in Bakery energy consumption compared with the control stores, which saw a 3.5% reduction.

The successful trial was Highly Commended at the 2017 EMA Awards for Energy Reduction Project through Organisational Behaviour Change. The programme is now in the process of being rolled out to all large format stores.

“THE ENERGY WORLD IS EXCITING AND INVOLVES ADVANCES IN TECHNOLOGY, ENGAGING OTHERS TO WORK IN MORE EFFICIENT WAYS, SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND REDUCING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT. I FEEL THAT THE MORE WE SHARE THE EXCITING PROJECTS THAT TAKE PLACE IN THIS SECTOR, THE MORE IT WILL INSPIRE OTHER PEOPLE TO GET INVOLVED.”

I also look after Tesco's Climate Change Agreement (CCA), which we have in place for most of our Bakeries and Hot Counters. The Climate Change Agreement allows us to receive CCL discount and CRC avoidance on energy consumed at these sites.

What does your role at Tesco entail?

At the moment, one of my main projects in Tesco is Energy Engagement with store colleagues.

Again, collaborating with Global Action Plan, we ran a 165 large store Energy Engagement trial called 'Energy Matters'. The programme focused specifically on energy reduction in two of the highest energy using areas in stores that are not controlled remotely: Bakery and Hot Counters. We focused on simple behaviours such as turning ovens

I ensure savings retention and have also developed a robust plan to enhance Tesco's CCA benefit going forward. To do this, I have identified appropriate sites to add to our CCA and improved sub-metering allowing Tesco to increase the number of sites included in our CCA by 119 sites.

I also sit on the Property Trials Governance, and review proposed projects from an energy perspective. It is great to have an overview of all of the exciting projects that happen across the company and to be involved from an energy and environmental viewpoint.

What is the most exciting part of your job?

It is exciting to see how much energy and carbon can be saved from doing a project rolled out across many stores. Tesco is such a large company and small changes can make a big difference.

What is your biggest achievement to date?

Winning the EMA award for Junior Energy Management Professional of the Year. It was such an honour. I would really like to inspire and support other young people to get involved in the exciting world of Energy Management! I wouldn't have been able to be where I am today without the continuous help and support of my management, colleagues and mentors and I really hope that I am able to do the same for others.

What is the best approach to attract women into energy management sector?

Energy and Engineering can be a male dominated environment but I feel that this is changing. I am proud to be part of it and show that it's an area where females work too. I feel that anyone, whether male or female, should be encouraged to be involved in Energy Management.

The Energy world is exciting and involves advances in technology, engaging others to work in more efficient ways, sharing knowledge and reducing our environmental impact. I feel that the more we share the exciting projects that take place in this sector, the more it will inspire other people to get involved.



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