



Lisa Ward Reflects on her Career Path 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.

As a Chartered Energy Manager, Lisa Ward is committed to improving the efficiency and sustainability of energy use. She has undertaken a variety of roles in this area over 15 years at organisations such as the King's College London, Chiltern District Council or npower, covering energy auditing, certification and management, most recently in non-domestic buildings.

When did you first hear the term 'Energy Management'?

The earliest of my records I can find is 2008 when I applied for my first 'Energy Manager' role. I don't remember seeing the term before this but I'm sure it existed.

What made you choose energy management as a career?

In 1996 (aged 16) I wrote in my school action plan that I hoped to:

- become an engineer involved with improving things for the environment";
- see renewable energy sources used more widely and help in making this possible".

In 1998 (aged 18), this was refined in my university application form to, "I intend to pursue a career which



I BELIEVE THAT ENERGY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ARE THE BEST WAY FOR ORGANISATIONS TO MAXIMISE ENERGY EFFICIENCY WITHOUT MISSING REQUIREMENTS FOR ONGOING MANAGEMENT SUPPORT AND MAINTENANCE. EVEN ESOS HAS HAD TO BOW TO ITS SUPERIOR POTENTIAL TO BRING ABOUT ENERGY EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS.



involves improving the efficiency of energy use and the sustainability of its sources".

I can't remember quite where I got these ideas from and I recall that people asked me with a puzzled expression why I chose to study Environmental Energy Engineering at university. To me it was just obvious that there was a need for Energy Managers.

How did you progress through the profession to your current role?

I started off working on project management for renewables R&D for 2 years, then in energy efficiency reporting and improvements within the domestic sector for 7 years. Then I saw an 'Energy Manager' role working with non-domestic buildings and had found my career!

What is your biggest achievement to date?

Implementing a BS EN 16001 Energy Management System (the precursor to ISO 50001) at King's College London which was externally certified by BSI. This was really useful in leveraging the support needed for energy management from across the organisation. I believe that Energy Management Systems are the best way for organisations to maximise energy efficiency without missing requirements for ongoing management

THE EMA RECOGNISED ENERGY MANAGER

Professional status awarded for successfully demonstrating the knowledge and skills in energy management.

Does the EMA Recognised Energy Manager status highlight your credentials as an energy manager?



JOEL KIRBY

"Absolutely, and this is one of the main reasons I wanted to become a Recognised Energy Manager. I would like to think that this also helps me to demonstrate competency to key members of staff within my workplace. It has not been long since I got the status, but it has helped from a confidence point of view if nothing else, knowing that your knowledge has been validated and that you do know what you are talking about."

"Yes. It demonstrates a level of competency and knowledge which I have used to assure my organisation of my abilities."



CHARLIE COX

"It is nice to have the official endorsement of the EMA, and I am sure that it will increase my profile both inside and outside of my organisation. My natural position is to think that it shouldn't matter what qualifications or recognition someone has, as long as they do a good job. However, in reality it is essential for an energy manager to be seen as credible by a broad spectrum of colleagues, in order to garner support for the important work that they do."



PAUL GRAHAM



DEWI DAY

"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."



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support and maintenance. Even ESOS has had to bow to its superior potential to bring about energy efficiency improvements.

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

Initially no different to men; responsibility with appropriate authority and a good wage. Both sexes should be made aware of opportunities whilst still at school. Later in life women may feel the need for flexible working (reduced hours or working hours other than 9–5) more than men – and I believe this can be achieved more widely than is currently the case. However, self-employment can allow women and men to work around family responsibilities even if part-time jobs are hard to find. Of course promoting flexible working to men too will allow families to choose the work–life balance which is best for them; thus employers will get the best out of everyone.

What advice would you give to someone looking to become an energy manager?

Go for it! Anyone committed to it will be able to find a connection between what they are doing now and an energy management role. Don't be afraid to move gradually into it if you were previously in or working towards another type of job. Get some hands on experience, even if you have to volunteer your time for free, working alongside someone with relevant experience.

What qualities should a good energy manager possess?

Commitment, enthusiasm and determination. Everything else will follow.