



Rachel Ward Reflects on her Career Path in Energy Management

The Energy Managers Association has taken on a challenge to raise the sector's profile by sharing its members' – leading energy managers – insights into their career progress and achievements.

What made you to choose energy management as a career?

I always had an interest in environmental issues from a very young age and set up a recycling scheme when I was at Primary school. My interest grew from there. I enjoyed science and computing at High school and went on to study Chemical Engineering. After this I undertook a MSc in Clean Technology.

The course was a mixture of teaching and a 3 month work placement. The work placement was a steep learning curve – I realised I wouldn't be able to change the world quickly but did learn a lot of skills I needed to make a change. I absolutely loved this course and knew this was the career path I wanted to follow.

“ TO BUILD UP MY KNOWLEDGE OF ENERGY MANAGEMENT AS PART OF MY TRAINEE SCHEME, I APPROACHED A COUPLE OF EXPERIENCED ENERGY MANAGERS TO HELP MENTOR ME. ”

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

Unfortunately after the MSc work placement, I struggled to get work as there weren't many entry level positions available at that time. I volunteered with the environmental charity, Groundwork through helping other companies to reduce their resource use and also implementing ISO 14001 within the office.

I then went on to work in the pharmaceutical industry for AstraZeneca and Johnson & Johnson in regulatory affairs.

I continued my interest in sustainability by undertaking a PgC in Sustainable Waste Management for Business during my annual leave and volunteering my free time to undertake waste projects and assist in 14001 accreditation.

After this experience I was able to get a job as a trainee energy manager at a small energy consultancy. My first job was to work on an EU funded project called Business Energy Efficiency Services offering free audits to business and I continued to undertake audits for mainly manufacturing organisations during my consultancy career.

To build up my knowledge of energy management as part of my trainee scheme, I approached a couple of experienced energy managers to help mentor me. They took

me on site visits, talked me through audits and helped me write technical reports. This experience was invaluable. This helped me realise the incredible range of skills you need to be an energy

manager: project management, numerical skills, communication, influencing, knowledge and of course enthusiasm.

I progressed from Trainee Energy Manager to Principal Consultant in consultancy and decided to work in-house as an energy manager and was fortunate enough to be employed by London Metropolitan University to undertake a wide range of energy projects.

What is your greatest contribution to the energy management sector?

At London Metropolitan University, as their first energy manager, I was able to make a big difference to their energy consumption. I'm really proud of the work I've

done and we've been named as the number 1 University for carbon reduction in England and Wales through reducing our carbon emissions by 47%. This exceeded our 2014 target by 10%. As a result of this work we have won several awards including a Green Apple, Public Sector Sustainability Award and Highly Commended in the Green Gown Awards.

What is the most exciting part of your job?

I really enjoy being able to see the projects I have implemented. I've recently completed the installation of 221 solar panels which is the University's first renewable energy. In recent days we've generated enough electricity to make 11,500 cups of tea.

My job works closely with students which I really enjoy. Through the projects I undertake, I try to involve students wherever possible to help them gain work experience. Recently we completed a project called Transforming Energy Efficiency at Central House (TEECH) to upgrade a

single glazed 1960's building to double glazed. I worked with 4th year architecture students who created a charette of designs as part of their course and the designs from this were used in the final window design. I also worked with students from MSc Low Energy Architecture to undertake monitoring of the building before and after the installation.

What are your long term goals?

We have some exciting plans ahead at London Met. We are undertaking a project called "One Campus, One Community" to relocate our 3 campuses to one. This gives me a great opportunity to include technologies such as CHP, rainwater harvesting, green roofs, energy zoning etc in the design.

I'm also very keen to try and develop a sustainability course at the University. I think there are huge opportunities in the industry and hope that students would love the career as much as I have.

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



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 UHNM. 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."



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."



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."

FOR MORE INFORMATION

VISIT:
WWW.THEEMA.ORG.UK

EMAIL:
ENQUIRIES@THEEMA.ORG.UK



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SUCCESSFULLY DEMONSTRATED THE KNOWLEDGE AND
SKILLS IN ENERGY MANAGEMENT.**