

Careers in the Renewable Energy Industry - Overview

The Renewable Energy Industry today

Oil and gas are the world's most important energy sources. However, with supplies running out new energy sources are required. This is where renewable energy comes in. Renewable energy sources can be replenished in a short period of time. The five renewable sources used most often include hydropower (water), solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass.

With demand for renewable energy increasing and greater emphasis being placed on being energy efficient, the renewable energy industry is facing a new and exciting future – one that has the power to help improve the world we live in. Perhaps you would like to be a part of that future?

Renewable energy is vital for our future; do you want to help save our world?

What sorts of people are needed?

The renewable energy industry offers a variety of job opportunities. Many are office based, but many include travelling to sites and dealing with clients.

There are engineers designing wind turbines, researching how to optimise production. There are also geologists who check the sites and ground for wind turbines, ensuring they are put in the best place possible.

Somewhere in the renewable energy industry there may be a job for you, whether you are leaving school at sixteen, taking A-levels, Highers or other qualifications, or hoping to go on to university. The higher the qualification the better chance of a job, but what matters most is that your skills match up with the type of job you wish to do.

Careers in the Nuclear Energy Industry

What sorts of qualification are needed?

Choosing the right subjects at school or college is important. For any job, a minimum of three GCSE passes or SCE standard grades or equivalent GNVQs/general SVQs, including maths and English, is essential. After that, the most common requirements will be for qualifications in science subjects.

The same is true in further education. Most opportunities are for students with degrees in engineering and applied sciences. Openings for those who are qualified in the arts, languages, social sciences and business studies will usually be on the commercial side of the energy industry, in areas such as marketing, distribution and trading.

What sorts of jobs?

Consultancy – Consultancy jobs provide opportunities at every level.

Marketing and Distribution – A variety of opportunities also exist in this area. From junior accounts assistant to marketing director, this is an area where non-scientists can make their mark in the renewable energy industry.

Research and Development – The search for new and better ways of optimising production and finding renewable energy sources and how they are used is very important. Engineers or scientists with degrees usually lead to work here.

Commercial Services – The efficient running of all parts of the industry depends on staff specialising in areas such as personnel, finance, contracts, trading, purchase and supply, and information technology.

Careers for Science Students

The renewable energy industry offers a new and exciting industry for scientists. As it is a fairly new industry there is much more new information for scientists to learn and develop, with the world looking for new renewable energy sources it is a dynamic and exciting place to work.

Here are a few examples of jobs for scientists in the renewable energy industry;

- Energy Conservation Officer
- Wind Turbine Design Engineer
- Environment and Sustainability Consultant
- Renewables Project Engineer
- Wind Forecasting Manager

Careers for Engineering Students

For the engineer, this is an industry full of excitement and variety, technical and personal challenge. It's going to be even more so in the future, as we need to take care of our natural resources whilst meeting the world's increasing demands. The renewable energy industry is looking for engineers with ideas, and the personal qualities, skills and ingenuity to make them work.

Here are a few examples of jobs for engineers in the nuclear energy industry;

- Project Manager Offshore Wind Construction
- Wind Forecasting Manager
- Energy and Eco-Design Specialist
- Wind Resource Analyst
- Renewable Energy Consultant
- Energy Conservation Officer

Careers for Mathematics Students

Mathematicians work alongside engineers and scientists to help ease the process and the work and help it to run smoothly.

Here are a few examples of jobs for mathematicians in the renewable energy industry;

- Land/geomatics surveyor
- Plant Manager
- Project Manager
- Finance Director

Careers for Business Students

There are opportunities for arts graduates in every area which involves commercial and business management. There are also opportunities to be found in the numerous companies which provide specialist services to the energy industry, including transport, information technology, business consultancy, insurance and market research.

Here are a few examples of jobs for Business students in the nuclear energy industry;

- Energy and Carbon Manager
- Business Development Manager
- Account Manager
- Marketing Manager
- Personnel Management
- Production Manager
- Plant Manager

What to do next?

Interested? Your next move should be to talk to your careers officer or teacher. They will be able to give you more information as well as supply some of the many leaflets and booklets about working in the energy industry that have been produced by the energy companies themselves.

If you can't get hold of these, or require some more basic information about activities and careers in the energy industry look at our website [Energyzone](#) for lots of useful information to help you plan your career in the Energy industry.