Foreword

Welcome to Energy UK’s Young Energy Professionals Forum.

In December 2016, I was appointed as Chair of the Young Energy Professionals (YEP) Forum having been involved previously in the Steering Committee. It is an enormous privilege to have the opportunity to continue to work with such an enthusiastic, committed and diverse group of members that represent organisations with an interest in energy. I am sure that we can work together to build on our recent successes, and continue to support our focus on the promotion, development and celebration of careers and role models in the energy industry.

This is an exciting time to be working in our industry. Changes in societal and customer demands are driving business changes across the energy sector. As a result, energy networks, retail companies and energy markets are having to respond and adapt quickly to meet this pace of change and meet customer’s energy demands innovatively, economically, efficiently and sustainably. Importantly, young professionals working within the energy industry have the opportunity, now more than ever, to help shape the future of the industry, play a pivotal role in delivering these changes and have stimulating and rewarding careers.

For me, the activities of the YEP Forum plays a key role in providing professional development opportunities to young energy professionals. We seek to broaden their knowledge of the industry by providing access to leadership and insight talks as well as site visits. With over 1,300 members across many different industries, alongside our successful events programme, the Forum offers a unique platform for young professionals to network with peers.

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As a result, I am delighted to introduce this year’s Young Energy Professionals Forum Annual Report. This report highlights the key activities and outputs that the committee delivered in 2016, and puts a spotlight on our flagship annual YEP Awards ceremony where we celebrate tomorrow’s energy leaders. It also sets out our strategic priorities for 2017, which include continuing to grow the Forum’s membership, deliver leadership and insights talks and site events, and showcase and celebrate careers in the energy industry.

Along with my fellow Committee members, I look forward to working on your behalf and hopefully meeting you over the course of the New Year at one of the many events on offer.

Susan McDonald, Deloitte
Chair of the Young Energy Professionals Forum
Highlights

This year has seen the YEP Forum continue its growth, now with over 1,300 members spanning across 230 different companies. The range of these companies has broadened too, with the Forum now having representatives from the legal sector, engineering and chemical industries, consultancies and academia plus many more.

The Forum started 2016 with young professionals from across the industry heading to Edinburgh for the first YEP Forum to discuss where value will be found in the GB energy market in coming years. This particular event took place at an opportune time – Amber Rudd’s policy re-set speech had just begun to gain traction and several coal-fired power plants had announced plans to close early. Organised by InterGen.

The next event saw networking and cross business sector issues taking centre stage, with the concerns facing not only the energy industry but retail companies also focusing the discussion. It proved of particular value with an array of industry perspectives there to voice the challenges being faced by other consumer driven organisations. Organised by E.ON.

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The mentoring theme gathered pace with our first student focused event at Durham University, followed by the third Forum event of the year with the Fueller’s offering their expertise, knowledge and advice to YEPs at the EY offices in London. This gave attendees a rare chance to learn first-hand from experienced energy professionals what it takes to be successful within the industry. Organised by Energy UK, EY and the Fuellers.

Innovation was the focus of the final event of the year with an interactive virtual reality demonstration and a panel discussion on the future role of technology consisting of representatives from companies both in and out of the energy industry. This gave an insight into how companies can approach innovation, the right conditions needed for innovation and the barriers that are being overcome. Organised by EDF Energy.
Site visits
Once again the YEP Forum arranged a variety of interesting site visits, commencing with E.ON’s district heating scheme in Cranbrook, Exeter which is one of the largest and newest district heating schemes in the UK. On the same site visit, YEPs headed over to the Met Office to learn about the long history of weather forecasting not only in the UK, also globally, and how they have been working in the area of climate change for more than two decades.

The second site visit of the year saw 40 YEPs visit Drax’ coal and biomass plant, just outside Doncaster. Our YEPs had the opportunity to see the contrast of an old coal power station to the new biomass site, and consider the difference in technologies and the huge amount of time and investment in the supply chain that was necessary to make it happen.

The final site visit was to SSE’s hydroelectric plant, Sloy just outside Glasgow. This site visit gave YEPs the opportunity to understand what operating in the market today is like for a Scottish hydroelectric plant, which is completely unique in itself.

YEP Awards 2016
Energy UK held the second annual Young Energy Professionals Awards in London on 16 June 2016. The awards are an opportunity to recognise the great work young energy professionals deliver across the whole supply chain. The winners and those shortlisted are all remarkable individuals and teams who have contributed to and, had a positive impact on, the energy industry, all with under 10 years’ experience.

The winners for the evening were:
- **EY Young Energy Professional of the Year** - Christine Waata, EDF Energy.
- **Engineer of the Year** - Claire Coombes, Sofinel
- **Customer Focus Award** - Jonathon Griffiths, E.ON
- **Innovation Award** - Tom Keyworth, EDF Energy
- **Rising Star Award** - Kirsty Duncan, Centrica
- **Team of the Year Award** - ESB eCars, ESB

SNP Energy and Climate Change spokesperson, Callum McCaig MP, held a captive audience as he delivered the keynote speech at the ceremony, which was attended by around 200 young energy professionals spanning the breadth of the industry.

We would like to thank our YEP award sponsors EY, UK Power Reserve, ESB and CGI and our judges; Ann Robinson, Robert Davis, Dr Simon Evans, Averil MacDonald, Lawrence Slade and Miranda Kirschel for their contributions to a brilliant awards evening.

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In September 2015, a new agreement was signed with EY which secured funding for the YEP Forum activities for one year.
## Progress against 2016 objectives

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<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Success measures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Grow YEP membership base</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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<td>Expand representation of EUK membership on YEP Steering Committee</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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<td>Secure continued funding for 2017</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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<td>Successful delivery of four YEP Forums</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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<td>Deliver a second successful YEP Award event with new award categories</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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<td>Deliver at least two site visits throughout the year</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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<td>Launch the first ever mentoring programme</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expand and diversify YEP membership base, including through outreach to universities</td>
<td>Objective met</td>
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The core objectives for 2016 have been met by the Young Energy Professionals Forum this year. This year has seen the YEP membership base grow from 800 to now 1,300, with over 1,000 people now active on the YEP Forum LinkedIn page. This increase in membership has transpired into an increased representation of YEP Steering Committee members with 16 different companies represented, compared to 11 in 2015. Furthermore it has helped the YEP membership base progress to include university students at various levels of their academic studies.

Additionally, funding has been secured for 2017, with EY continuing their role in helping towards the Young Energy Professionals Forum’s success. It is this funding which has helped in the delivery of four YEP forums, three site visits and the annual YEP Awards. Finally the mentoring programme was launched with a specific mentoring event in the third Forum of 2016 with the Fuellers.
2017 objectives

Grow the YEP Forum by 30% between December 2016 and December 2017 with a view to broaden the membership to outside of the industry.

Successfully deliver the events programme for 2017. Track ‘successes’ via collation of post-event feedback forms.

Build on the launch in 2016 of mentoring opportunities and expand into diversity awareness.

Create two newsletters highlighting events past and future, useful information and key resources.

Collaborate with other similar networks and universities to promote jobs in energy through the use of the industry prospectus.

Members of the YEP Forum Steering Committee 2016
The YEP Forum Steering Committee is the decision making entity of the YEP Forum. Comprising representatives from a range of members from across the energy industry, the Steering Committee determines the direction of the YEP Forum.

Steering Committee members are expected to contribute to YEP Forum activity, via attendance at meetings throughout the year and support the work of the YEP Forum in order to meet its objectives. The primary function being to arrange, manage and develop the activities of the Forum. The 2016 Steering Committee members are as follows:

- British Gas
- Centrica
- C40 Cities
- Deloitte
- Dong Energy
- Drax
- Energy UK
- EDF Energy
- E.ON
- EY
- Flow Energy
- InterGen
- National Grid
- Npower
- SSE
- UK Power Reserve
- Wood Mackenzie

Closing remarks
Young professionals working in energy have the opportunity, now more than ever, to steer the future of the energy industry. Iconic urban and rural landscapes are constantly adapting, energy infrastructure is modernising at a rapid pace, and the retail market is innovating further day by day. The importance of young people within the energy industry is indisputable. They encourage new ideas, develop change, and generally have a natural thirst for knowledge.

We are delighted to be able to provide the platform and opportunity for such thriving individuals to network, collaborate freely and share and learn from each other’s experiences for the collective positive development of themselves and their wider businesses.

This report has offered an insight into previous Young Energy Professionals’ events which we can now build upon for the coming year. It should act as inspiration for where to go next and how you can be involved.

Kate Godding, Vice Chair of the Young Energy Professionals Forum