



DIVERSITY

..... in Energy

Speakers Directory.....

Increasing the visibility and voice of people from **Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME)** backgrounds at industry events and in the media by highlighting experts from across the sector.

#DiversityinEnergy

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Introduction



Energy UK has long been proud to lead the sector in driving forward positive change on diversity and inclusion. Following the success of our LGBT+ network, Pride in Energy, we launched a cross sector Equality and Diversity Forum to bring the industry together to network, share best practice and hear from external experts through our free workshops and events – culminating last year in our inaugural Inclusion and Diversity Conference.

We want to drive progress on diversity and inclusion including in areas where there has been little within the energy sector– most notably on ethnicity.

So, we are now actively working with partners, Ofgem and Citizens Advice, to all elements of diversity, including ethnicity, are a focus for activity. There is a lack of visibility and voice for under-represented groups in the energy sector. The criticism is our sector is ‘male and pale’ – perhaps a justified preconception when looking at the spokespeople in the media or speakers at industry events. But there is a wealth of diverse talent in the sector and we want to shine a light on that talent.

ofgem

**citizens
advice**



Introduction



We want to highlight experts – from our engineers to communications leaders, our policy experts to campaigners – to help support event organisers and media outlets to broaden the range of voices and better represent people within the sector from BAME backgrounds.

We also hope this will help provide greater visibility for the diverse talent we have in the energy sector – a sector at the centre of an exciting transition and at the forefront of driving decarbonisation across the economy.

SIGN UP! We would love to highlight as many speakers from across the sector from BAME groups. This Directory is a live document which will continue to be updated to include more speakers.

We would also welcome your support in sharing news of the directory within your organisation to encourage colleagues to sign up, and share the directory via your social channels and networks using the hashtag **#DiversityinEnergy**

If you would like to register or get involved, please email: diversity@energy-uk.org.uk

Energy UK team



Speakers list

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Speakers List



[SIGN UP](#)

This list is constantly being updated with new speakers.



- Power generation, maintenance, operations outage management, HV electrical systems, power assets innovation



Amitoj Singh

Engineering Manager, SSE

Amitoj Singh is an energy industry professional with over 15 years of industry experience. Since July 2018 he has been the engineering manager at SSE – Peterhead Power Station, Scotland’s largest CCGT site. He manages a multi-disciplinary engineering team of 25 responsible for providing safe and efficient asset management solutions.

Prior to that he was the lead electrical engineer at SSE – Engineering Centre for about 2 years. Prior to that he worked as a senior electrical engineer with Genesis Energy in New Zealand for about 10 years. He has previously published/delivered numerous presentations at conference venues in New Zealand, Australia, France, Ireland, UK and US. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical) degree and is a chartered engineer with IET.

Contact



- Retail energy market, consumer issues, digital exclusion, urban action on climate change, buildings, air quality, co-benefits of climate action, equality, diversity and inclusion.



Arun Rao

Senior Policy Researcher, Citizens Advice

Arun's role at Citizens Advice involves engaging with energy suppliers, Ofgem and the government, advocating for greater consumer protections in both the domestic and non-domestic energy sectors.

Arun is also part of the Energy Team's Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity working group, which seeks to improve on internal working processes to be more inclusive. The group also helps improve the team's external research and advocacy work, incorporating the organisation's EDI goals.

Contact



- Decarbonising heat



Ashita Anand

Innovation Project Lead, UK Power Networks

Ashita Anand is an Innovation Project Lead at the UK Power Networks. In this role, she is developing and advancing a strategy to decarbonise the heating sector, the single biggest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the UK.

Ashita is a seasoned power systems engineer with international experience in utility regulation. She graduated with a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering from University of British Columbia (Canada) and is an MBA Candidate at Imperial College.

Contact



- Corporate communications issues
- Crisis management,
- Diversity and Inclusion
- Media coaching
- Communications strategy



Bieneosa Ebite

Deputy Head of Group Corporate Communications, Centrica

Bieneosa Ebite is Deputy Head of Corporate Communications at Centrica. Her role involves helping to deliver the corporate communications strategy and management of the financial calendar. She is also co-chair of the Centrica Women's Network and is passionate about building an equitable workplace culture for all.

Outside of work, Bieneosa is co-host and producer of News Bants, a podcast that has featured in the 'Top 100 News Commentary Apple Podcasts' in the UK.

Contact



- District heating and heat networks, energy efficiency, fuel poverty, decarbonisation, heat policy, customer protection, customer experience and service, community energy and stakeholder engagement.



Bindi Patel

Head of Customer Experience, Vattenfall Heat UK

Bindi is Head of Customer Experience at Vattenfall Heat UK, where she is responsible for Vattenfall's end-to-end customer journey. Prior to Vattenfall, Bindi was the Director of Heat Trust where she led work on new regulatory standards for heat networks, with a focus on customer protection.

With over 12 years' experience, Bindi has worked on energy efficiency and fuel poverty policy at Energy UK, advised local authorities on climate change and energy strategies, and was Lambeth Council's lead officer on sustainability and energy efficiency in the built environment.

Contact



- Retail energy expert
- Sustainable energy
- Energy transition
- Net-zero future



Chetan Lad

Senior Commercial Manager, London Power

Chet has 20 years of experience and expertise in the energy markets across retail, wholesale and services from one of the UK's largest energy companies, and more recently with the biggest challenger in the business energy market. He currently manages London Power, which was founded by the Mayor of London to bring fair, affordable and green energy for Londoners.

He has held senior commercial roles covering strategy, policy and regulation, renewable PPA procurement, demand forecasting, hedging, pricing and product development.

Chet has been working in sustainable energy for 15 years across renewable energy, big and small, energy efficiency and energy services, and is passionate about helping the energy transition to a zero carbon future.

Contact



- Downhole production
- Wireline field engineering
- Monitoring custom tool strings



Chinenye Mbonu

Wireline Field Engineer, AOS Orwell Ltd

Chinenye is an oil and energy professional passionate about solving the problems of the nation and extremely positive about attaining energy security. She is competent in seismic interpretation, sub-surface imagery, well completion/intervention, wireline services and operational geoscience.

She is interested essentially in well-site geology, project management and reservoir management. She is also an experienced project engineer with strong leadership and communication skills garnered from the Toastmasters International.

Contact



- Smart energy innovation, net zero, clean growth, international smart grids, mission innovation, climate change



Iliana Cardenes

Head of Energy System Flexibility Innovation, BEIS

Dr Iliana Cardenes leads on energy system flexibility innovation for net zero, in the Science & Innovation for Climate & Energy Directorate within the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. She holds a PhD from the University of Oxford's Environmental Change Institute, with a focus on water and energy infrastructure, a Masters in Climate Science and Policy from Columbia University's Earth Institute in New York City, and an undergraduate degree in Environmental Science from the School of Civil Engineering and the Environment at the University of Southampton.

Before joining BEIS, Iliana worked as an energy and climate change specialist at Oxford Policy Management. Previous roles include working on Climate Change Policy for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Mexico City, on Environmental Statistics at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) in New York City, and at the European Commission in Brussels on Environmental Policy.

Contact



- Economics, academia, government, industry, consulting, regulation, market design, incentivising investment in flexibility services



Jagtar Basi

Regulation Manager (Ireland and UK), ESB (Generation & Trading)

Jagtar is an economist by training having held roles in academia, government, industry and consulting since 1992. He now specialises in regulation, market design and facilitating the transition to low carbon energy across gas, power and trading in Great Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

He is currently a member of Ireland's DS3 committee which advises EirGrid on how more renewable energy can be accommodated on the system. He is and has been a member of several industry committees at European and domestic levels. Outside of work he provides coaching services and previously chaired the Board Oversight Committee for a community financial institution with assets over €380 million.

Contact



- Inclusion and diversity, learning and development, black inclusion and mental health, programme management and strategy



James Jackson

ED&I Partner and Director, UK Atomic Energy Authority, NXTGEN

Through developing people and positive business relationships, James has transformed UK programs of learning & workplace culture, including the creation/build of learning academies for technical training. James has worked internationally re-introducing L&D workstreams back into the UK.

He is the former BAME UK lead and founded the 1st BAME Steering Group & Employee Network within E.ON UK. Former member of the Inclusive Companies D&I Leaders consortium & founding member of the BlackLeaders.co.uk. James has received national award recognition for his work in the ED&I space (2019).

James is the Co-Founder of #spacetotalk. In 2020 he established NXTGEN Learning LTD and became ED&I Partner to Oxford Advanced Skills on behalf of UK Atomic Energy Authority.

Contact



- Energy development, planning, utility connections, land, project development



Keila Abreu

Head of Development, FPC Electric Land Ltd

Keila Abreu is the Head of Development at Electric Land, the energy branch of Foundation Property and Capital, a specialist real estate company investing in land for energy infrastructure use in the UK. She is an expert on the identification of locations with energy generation potential and the development of projects from inception to construction.

From 2015-2019, she was the Senior Manager for Project Development at UK Power Reserve, responsible for the identification and development of over 500MW of Gas fuelled power generation and 200MW of Battery Storage. She was selected as part of the Forbes 30 under 30 list in Europe for designing a strategy for project development in Energy.

Contact



- Operational change and performance

Mahir Uddin

Strategy Analyst, Centrica

I am currently on the Centrica Business Leadership Graduate Scheme building an understanding of the fundamental components of an energy business whilst specialising in business strategy and transformation.

I am a member of the Young Energy Professionals Steering Committee as I believe it's a great forum for expanding your knowledge on the energy industry, being able to meet like minded individuals.

The energy sector is currently going through a huge transition as companies look to meet their sustainability targets – it's exciting to be a part of this!

Contact



- Policy, economic regulation, analysis, diversity and inclusion

Maureen Paul

Interim Chief Economist, Ofgem

Maureen Paul is the Interim Chief Economic Advisor at Ofgem, ensuring that Ofgem's decisions are supported by robust analysis. She oversees the work of Ofgem's Office for Research and Economics directorate, with over 30 members of staff. Maureen has responsibility for advising on Ofgem's biggest priorities, including network price regulation, charges for the use of the networks, and retail and wholesale energy market issues.

Maureen is devoted to improving inclusion and diversity within the energy sector. She has leadership responsibility for D&I initiatives at Ofgem and regularly collaborates with other organisation within the sector and academia on D&I.

Before joining Ofgem, Maureen worked with the Competition Commission and the Office of Fair Trading on a number of market studies, Competition Act cases and mergers cases. She has a PhD in economics from the University of Warwick.

Contact



- Policy and regulation, strategy, consumer protection, innovation

Meghna Tewari

Head of Retail Market Policy, Ofgem

Meghna has significant experience across energy regulation and financial sector leading market wide regulatory reform and change programmes. Meghna is an economist with a background in competition policy and consumer protection. Currently, she leads Ofgem's Retail policy team covering vulnerable, household and business consumer segments. She is also responsible for Ofgem's Innovation Link function.

Other than her Ofgem role she serves as a non-executive member on the Provider Risk Committee for the Office of Students (Higher Education regulator). Prior to Ofgem she worked in the area of banking, development finance and sustainability policies advising south Asian governments on developmental projects. She is a passionate champion of diversity in the workplace, loves to read and travel.

Contact



- Energy law (power, renewables), Procurement and regulation of offshore transmission and generation projects, network regulation

Nitya Boora

Associate, CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP

Nitya is an Associate in the Power team at CMS Cameron McKenna Nabarro Olswang LLP. Having qualified in 2017, Nitya has experience advising on a wide range of matters relating to the power and renewables sectors.

Nitya's particular specialisms focus on the development, procurement, operation and regulation of large-scale offshore transmission and generation projects, including those with cross-border elements.

Nitya also advises on the regulation of networks more generally in GB. Alongside the day job, Nitya co-chairs the CMS BAME Network and has experience leading on diversity and inclusion issues in the workplace.

Contact



- Low carbon energy strategies, sustainability, power distribution efficiency, net zero, techno-economic models of low carbon energy and infrastructure systems, diversity in engineering

Oyin Talabi

Energy Engineer, Buro Happold

Oyin Talabi is an energy engineer at Buro Happold. Her work mainly focuses on developing energy strategies for new and existing developments using low and zero-carbon technology.

She has experience of producing energy plans and techno-economic models for low carbon energy and infrastructure systems.

Her work focuses on districting heating and cooling, power systems and smart grid systems. Oyin is an advocate for diversity in engineering, she is keen to ensure engineering is made accessible to all.

Contact



- Relationship management,
- Corporate communication,
- Sales
- Problem solving,
- Networking

Paola Orrego

Account Manager, Wood Mackenzie

Originally from Colombia with a degree in communication and corporate relations and a postgraduate diploma in Marketing. Before moving to the UK in 2008. She was the Marketing manager of a local hair product company. Coming to London meant starting again, she used my communication skills and built a successful career in customer support at Bloomberg, internally promoted to global data with a focus in company and fund holdings. Her career took a turn to financials.

From Bloomberg she moved to Genscape where she became account manager, working with commodities data, with a portfolio of power clients across EMEA and APAC. Genscape was acquired by Wood Mackenzie in 2019. A year ago she decided to go back to university and she is currently in her 2nd and last year of MSc in International Management at Birkbeck.

Contact



- Cleantech innovation, electric vehicles, solar and storage, connected cars, smart homes, net-zero energy and transport, cross-sector collaboration

Rubina Singh

Lead E-Mobility Technologist, Centrica

Rubina leads ideation delivery at Centrica. She specialises in e-mobility and cleantech, and also serves as an Advisory Expert to the Solar Impulse Foundation. Her previous roles span across technology development, innovation consulting, establishing new business divisions and running cleantech innovation programs having worked in the UK, USA and Australia.

She has published more than 10 papers on distributed energy technologies in international journals including IEEE, TechCrunch and PV Tech Power and is a regular speaker at international conferences. Rubina holds a M.Eng. in energy systems engineering from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a B.Eng. in electronics and sustainable energy from the Australian National University.

Contact



- Chemical engineering
- Petroleum engineering
- Business,
- Oil and gas law
- Energy transition
- Politics

Sanjoy Sen

Chemical Engineer CEng FIChemE, Self-Employed

Sanjoy is a chemical engineer with 20+ years' experience in industry and government, working in a range of organisations from start-ups to consultancies to multi-nationals. A strong supporter of the energy transition, he writes regularly in a number of industry and political outlets.

Sanjoy ran as a Conservative candidate at the 2019 UK general election and came within 200 votes (0.5%) of taking the seat of Alyn & Deeside. He holds an MSc in Petroleum Engineering, an MBA and an LLM in Oil & Gas Law. He has a range of experiences in diversity and inclusion which he is keen to share.



Contact



- LNG and gas regulation, LNG and gas market design, transmission tariffs, European and UK energy policy, energy market implications, mentoring, net-zero skills gap

Sinead Obeng

Regulatory Affairs Advisor, Self-Employed

Sinead Obeng joined Gazprom Marketing and Trading in 2018, providing expertise on gas transmission and LNG regulation in Europe. Sinead has been an active contributor in industry discussions on the implementation of the EU Tariff Code in Great Britain and within EFET working groups.

Prior to her role at GM&T, Sinead worked as a Commercial Analyst for South Hook Gas and has also held commercial roles in upstream oil and gas.

Sinead is an economist by background and sits on the board of trustees for the Energy Institute.

Contact



- Retail policy, settlement reform, smart metering, smart grids and European policy

Tabish Khan

Retail Energy Policy, Centrica

Tabish has worked in the energy sector for over 13 years having worked at Elexon, the energy regulator Ofgem and now at Centrica the parent company of British Gas. He specialises in retail energy policy having worked on diverse programmes and areas including smart metering, faster switching, peer to peer energy trials, settlement reform and electric vehicles.

Tabish has spoken at numerous conferences on behalf of Centrica and has chaired and moderated many panels as well as hosting the Energy UK annual conference in 2018.



Contact



- Chemical engineering, government funding for energy innovation, industrial energy efficiency, low carbon hydrogen production, careers in STEM

Yasmin Ali

Energy Innovation Project Manager, BEIS

Yasmin Ali is a chartered chemical engineer, managing energy innovation funding at the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), with the goal of helping the UK reach Net Zero by 2050. Her expertise includes innovation for industrial efficiency, industrial fuel switching, and low carbon hydrogen production.

Prior to joining BEIS, Yasmin worked in operations and project development in conventional power generation, oil and gas exploration and production, and district heating. She is also an avid promoter of engineering careers and diversity in engineering, and regularly writes and presents.



Contact





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