



Young Energy
Professionals Forum
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Young Energy Professionals Forum

Annual Report

2025



The Young Energy Professionals (YEP) Forum is a free-to-join community promoting the next generation of energy industry leaders, providing opportunities to meet, collaborate, develop and recognise success.

We run insightful events and initiatives that cover the whole spectrum of the energy industry. Join the Forum to hear from industry leaders offering their insight on pressing issues, learn about how to progress your own career and meet like-minded people from across the energy sector.

The Forum is grateful to our continuing sponsor, the National Energy System Operator (NESO), for their invaluable support of our work. With their support, we look forward to building on the success of 2025 together.



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 [Young Energy Professionals Forum](#)

 YEPForum@energy-uk.org.uk

Contents

Our team.....	04
2025 reflections.....	05
2025 events.....	07
Communications and Engagement - a reflection and look forward.....	18
Ambitions for 2026.....	24

The Steering Committee

(SteerCo)

The YEP Forum Steering Committee is responsible for driving the Forum forward and supporting the Forum to meet its objectives. The Steering Committee leads the planning, promotion, and delivery of YEP events, communications, site visits and other initiatives with help from the YEP Ambassadors. It is made up of 16 passionate individuals from across the energy sector, with Energy UK providing the secretariat.

Our SteerCo members are:*



Connor Innes
Libelle Energy Services



James Crawley
WSP



Isabella Oratore
Magnesium Capital



Joe Haigh
Arup



Amie Taplin
Drax



Josh Sebon
Energy UK



Anastasiia Rudkovska
University of Oxford



Mark Williams
EDF



Ben Smith
East Riding of Yorkshire Council



Lucy Allington
SSE



Caitlin Reilly
FTI Consulting



Max McFarland
Energy UK



Charlie Balchin
DESNZ



Gemma Nimmo
Shepherd & Wedderburn



Cissie Liu
Accenture



Promise Ahante
BP



Dia Pareek
Drax



Razi Khan
NESO



Emily Wadsworth
Energy Networks Association



Shammus Sultan
RWE

Please note the above shows the Committee serving for 2025 only, organisations correct at the time of publication

Foreword

A year of evolution and impact



It's clear that 2025 was a year of profound change, not just for the energy sector, but for the YEP Forum too. As the industry navigates a pivotal transition, the YEP Forum needed to evolve alongside this, so we spent time refining our operations and ensuring the YEP Forum is structured to meet the needs of an increasingly complex sector.

To support our growing community of members, we transitioned the Steering Committee into a new operational model centred around three dedicated workstreams: Communications, Events and Apprenticeship Thought Leadership. This structural shift coincided with a major transition in our leadership; as many long-standing Steering Committee members reached the end of their tenures, we launched a recruitment drive to broaden and develop the Forum's skills.

Today, 90% of our committee joined in 2025, each recruited for their specific expertise within our newly established workstreams. While this period of rebuilding naturally led to a slightly slower start to the year, the energy and fresh perspectives this new team brought to the table have been transformative.

Delivering for our members

Despite the internal focus, we never lost sight of our vision to connect and inspire young energy professionals. The YEP Forum delivered more than 20 high-impact events across the UK. From networking in London and Birmingham to our collaborative transatlantic webinar with Female Energy, we ensured geographic boundaries were no barrier to engagement.

Our site visits remained a cornerstone of the YEP Forum member experience. Whether we were visiting offshore wind farms, exploring the NESO control room, or hosting our annual reception at Parliament, these moments provided our members with a first-hand experience of the energy transition.

A core part of our mission is helping young energy professionals navigate the complexities of the sector. This year, we went a step further by looking at how the sector can better attract talent through non-university routes such as apprenticeships. By collecting the views of hundreds of young energy professionals via targeted interviews and surveys, our research into apprenticeships and skills gaps has provided insights into how we can build a more inclusive and resilient workforce. The energy sector touches every part of the UK and every socioeconomic group - our renewed focus on events outside of London and work on apprenticeships tries to reflect this and provide opportunities regardless of people's backgrounds.

Foreword

Strength in numbers

The results of this hard work are clear. In 2025 alone our LinkedIn community grew by 101%, an extraordinary leap when compared to the steady growth of the previous decade. This momentum is a testament to the value the YEP Forum provides at a time of significant importance for the energy transition. None of this would be possible without the tireless dedication of our Steering Committee volunteers, Energy UK, the external organisations that co-host our events, and the unwavering support from NESO and our network of YEP Forum alumni.

As we look back on 2025, we are incredibly proud of the groundwork the Forum has laid. With 2026 already shaping up to be our biggest year yet, we look forward to seeing what we can achieve together.

Connor Innes

Libelle Energy Services
Chair of the YEP Forum 2025

Isabella Oratore

Magnesium Capital
Vice Chair of the YEP Forum 2025



2025 YEP Awards

The Young Energy Professionals Awards

The highlight of the YEP Forum's events calendar was the 11th annual Young Energy Professionals Awards, which this year featured two new categories: Communications and Engagement, and Supply Chain.

The evening started with a forward-looking keynote speech from Kayte O'Neill of NESO, sponsor of the YEP Forum, before moving to a walkthrough from YEP Forum Chair Connor Innes and Vice-Chair Isabella Oratore that covered the exciting things we can expect of the Forum in 2026.



Our Steering Committee at the 2025 YEP Awards

Congratulations to the deserving 2025 YEP Award winners:

Award	Winner
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Focus Sponsored by SGN	Jinkai Chan , JLL
Customer Champion Award Sponsored by Centrica	Connie Duxbury , Croydon Community Energy
Rising Star Award Sponsored by ESB	Nene Yamasaki , UK Power Networks
Communications and Engagement Sponsored by Utility Week	Meghan O'Neil , So Energy Ben Norman , Hinkley Point C
STEM Trailblazer Sponsored by E.ON	Frances Hagen , Centrica
Team of the Year Award	Critical Materials Team Decision Analysis Services
Supply Chain Innovator	Lynsey Shovlin , Crown Estate Scotland
Audrey Gallacher Award for Excellence	Annabel Hall , SP Electricity North West
YEP of the Year Sponsored by RWE	Callum Morgan , EDF

“It’s never been more important to celebrate the achievements of young talent in the UK energy sector. The fact that we continue to grow the list of YEP awards categories is testament to the broad range of excellence present at all levels of our sector. I hope this diversity attracts people from all backgrounds to contribute to our shared mission of achieving a clean and secure future energy system. The YEP Forum is a key contributor to this mission, and I commend its work in representing the best and brightest emerging talent.”

- Dhara Vyas, CEO, Energy UK

The 2025 Young Energy Professionals (YEP) Awards was our biggest and most exciting yet, with 240 people in the room.

We are grateful to NESO for its sponsorship of the ceremony, and the individual award sponsors for their support: Centrica, E.on, ESB, RWE, SGN and Utility Week.

In addition to the YEP Awards, the YEP Forum ran more than 20 free events for its members in 2025, from relaxed networking drinks and speed networking sessions to parliamentary events, expert panels and exclusive site visits. Attendance at events has hit record levels, boosted by the newly formed YEP Forum communications team’s work towards growing its LinkedIn audiences.

Thank you to all our sponsors and well done to the 2025 nominees and winners.

Events

2025

YEP Pub Quiz

The first YEP Forum event of the year, kicking off 2025 with networking, learning and fun.

📍 Elephant and Castle Pub, London

📅 February

The first YEP event of 2025 was the ever-popular sold-out pub quiz at the Elephant and Castle Pub, welcoming more than 50 emerging professionals from across the sector and the YEP Steering Committee's very own Mark Williams acting as quiz master. Featuring general knowledge, music and energy-themed rounds, the evening provided a relaxed and fun setting for networking, with plenty of friendly competition.

“My first ever YEP event and it was so much fun. I didn't know many people outside my company, so it was great to meet fellow YEPs in such an informal and welcoming setting.”

– Daniel Bedford Comte (Energy UK)

YEP We Can! – Energy Career Tips Panel



In-person careers advice and peer discussion.

📍 Energy UK Offices, 120 Cannon Street

📅 April

The YEP We Can! careers panel brought together three experienced professionals to share advice on career development, networking and navigating early-career challenges. Tom Penney (Director - Energy Transition, Morson Edge), Susan McDonald (Energy Transition Lead, Deloitte) and Amanda Balogun (Energy Consultant, GHD) shared their stories and gave some insightful tips. The intimate, in-person format encouraged open discussion, while creating a supportive space for honest conversations about career progression.

“The smaller setting allowed for rich conversations and real peer-to-peer discussion. It felt supportive, informal and genuinely useful.”

– Susan McDonald (Deloitte)



Energy UK / YEP Forum x NESO – Curiosity Corner Presentation

Large-scale introduction of YEPs to NESO employees.

 Online and NESO Offices

 May

In May, the YEP Forum partnered with Energy UK and NESO to deliver a Curiosity Corner session to introduce the Forum to NESO employees and emerging talent. Around 150 joined online and in person. Energy UK and YEP's Max McFarland and YEP Chair Connor Innes provided an overview of the organisations' roles in the energy sector. It was a really fun session!

“From the very beginning, the level of interest and enthusiasm was clear. It was a real pleasure to introduce the YEP Forum to such a receptive audience, and we’ve already seen that enthusiasm translate into new sign-ups and exciting collaboration opportunities.”

– Max McFarland (Energy UK and SteerCo Member)

RWE: Site visit to Little Barford Power Station



Site visit focused on flexible gas generation.

 Little Barford Power Station, Bedfordshire

 May

In May, YEP Forum members visited RWE's Little Barford Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) power station in Bedfordshire. The visit provided a detailed overview of how flexible gas generation supports system stability and complements increasing renewable capacity. The YEPs toured the site, including the turbines and control room, and got an amazing overview from operational staff.

“Seeing a 30-year-old gas power station operating within a decarbonising system really brought current energy debates to life. These site visits are invaluable for early-career professionals.”

– Mark Williams (EDF and SteerCo Member)

Arup x National Grid x YEP Forum - Networking for Net Zero



Major regional networking and discussion event.

 Arup Offices, Birmingham

 May

Hosted by Arup and National Grid in Birmingham, the Networking for Net Zero event brought together more than 80 early-career professionals from across technical, legal and commercial disciplines. Speakers explored the realities of delivering Net Zero, from infrastructure delivery to talent and culture, followed by interactive discussions and networking.

“This event delivered: honesty, challenge and real discussion about the future of the grid. It was energising, grounded and genuinely thought-provoking.”

– Youssef Elrayes (Sonnedix)

NESO Control Room Visit (First Visit)



Behind-the-scenes insight into real-time system operation.

 NESO Control Room, Wokingham

 June

In June, YEP Forum members visited the NESO Control Room in Wokingham for an in-depth look at how Britain’s electricity system is managed in real time. The visit offered a rare insight into the operational complexity of balancing supply and demand across the grid, and the people and systems that keep the lights on 24 hours a day. This was one of the YEP Forum’s most popular visits - huge thanks to our sponsor NESO for hosting us and providing their expertise.

“It was inspiring to see NESO’s control room in person, where moment-to-moment decisions balance supply and demand across Great Britain. The organisation, communication and redundancy strategies were fascinating to see in action.”

– Charlie McMullan (MapStand)

YEP Forum Parliamentary Reception



Flagship policy and stakeholder engagement event.

 Pugin Room, Westminster

 July

The YEP Forum held its annual Parliamentary Reception in the historic Pugin Room at Westminster, bringing together early-career professionals from across the energy sector. The evening featured reflections from political and industry leaders on the critical role emerging talent will play in delivering the UK's energy transition, with discussion ranging from addressing the growing skills gap to widening access into the sector.

The reception provided a valuable opportunity for members to engage directly with policymakers and peers, reinforcing the importance of young professionals' voices in shaping future energy policy.

Speakers included Michael Shanks MP (Minister for Energy), Kirsty Blackman MP, Dhara Vyas (CEO, Energy UK) and Rebecca Beresford (Director of Markets, NESO).

“It was a privilege to be invited to the YEP Forum Parliamentary Reception night. It was great to hear from MPs and sector leaders on the importance of collaboration across the energy industry, as well as the need to inspire the next generation of energy professionals.”

“These events are a brilliant chance to connect with others across industry, while gaining an opportunity to identify synergies and common challenges. The YEP Forum is doing some great work, and I would encourage others to attend future YEP Forum events.”


– Cameron Innes (National Grid)



Zero Institute: First Light Nuclear Fusion and Oxford University visit



Site visit: from plasma to policy

 Nuclear Fusion Site and University of Oxford

 July

In July, the YEP Forum collaborated with the ZERO Institute and the University of Oxford for a unique site visit and seminar, combining exposure to cutting-edge nuclear fusion research with academic insights into energy policy and systems thinking. The visit highlighted the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration in shaping the future energy workforce.

“Establishing a collaboration between the ZERO Institute’s ECR Network and the Energy UK YEP Forum is an exciting milestone for the Oxford Energy Nexus Series. This collaboration is about breaking silos between disciplines, sectors, and generations to shape the talent and minds our energy transition depends on. By connecting early career researchers and professionals with academic and industry leaders shaping the policy, technology, and investment agenda, we are not only advancing the UK’s Net Zero ambitions but also creating opportunities for long-term capacity building and economic resilience.”

– Anastasiia Rudkovska (Oxford University and SteerCo Member)

RWE - Rampion Offshore Wind Farm



Offshore wind operations and sustainability in practice.

 Newhaven and Offshore

 August

In August, members travelled to the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, beginning with a visit to the operations base in Newhaven. After receiving a detailed briefing on the project’s history and day-to-day operations, the group sailed out to the wind farm itself for a close-up view of the turbines. The visit highlighted both the scale of offshore wind infrastructure and the careful environmental stewardship involved in its operation.

“It’s amazing to see how much goes into making clean energy happen, from massive turbines to clever ways marine life is protected. Really inspiring work that shows what sustainable power looks like in practice.”

– Amie Taplin (Drax and SteerCo Member)

“Last week, I had the opportunity to get an up-close look at how a wind farm operates. Alongside gaining insights into the full life cycle of the Rampion Offshore Wind Farm, I picked up a few fascinating facts from the event.”

– Man Chun Tse (Vantage Infrastructure)

Drax: Site visit to Selby Power Station



📍 Selby, Yorkshire

📅 August

The YEP Forum travelled to Doncaster to visit Drax's Selby-based power station, gaining first-hand insight into biomass generation and the future of renewable energy in the UK. Members toured the site, learned about the station's history and operations, and explored the role of Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) in supporting the UK's Net Zero ambitions.

“The visit gave us a real insight into how Drax generates power from sustainable biomass and the innovative role BECCS could play in delivering Net Zero. It was an incredible opportunity to see such a key site preparing for the future.”

– Dia Pareek (Drax and SteerCo Member)

Lewisham School visit

Outreach activity focused on careers and pathways into energy.

📍 Lewisham School

📅 October

As part of the YEP Forum's outreach activity, members delivered an interactive energy careers workshop at a Lewisham school. The session introduced students to the energy sector, explored different career pathways, and highlighted apprenticeships and non-university routes into the sector. The pupils' engagement and thoughtful questions demonstrated strong interest in the challenges and opportunities of the energy transition.

“The students were bright, curious and clearly engaged with the big questions facing our energy future. It was especially inspiring to see such enthusiasm for alternative routes into the sector.”

– Connor Innes (Libelle Energy Services and YEP Chair)

EDF Conference



Engagement with EDF's internal Young Energy Professional network.

 EDF Offices, Birmingham

 October

In October, representatives from the YEP Forum were invited to speak at the EDF Conference in Birmingham, engaging directly with EDF employees and members of EDF's Young Energy Professional network. The session introduced the YEP Forum's mission, activities and impact, highlighting opportunities for early-career professionals to connect, develop skills and collaborate across the sector. The discussion reinforced the value of strong links between company networks and cross-industry forums in supporting emerging talent. Thanks for hosting us EDF!

“Speaking at the event alongside colleagues from EDF Energy was a fantastic opportunity to showcase the work of the Young Energy Professionals network and highlight how important it is to support and connect the next generation in the energy sector.”

– Mark Williams (EDF and Sterco Member)

Online panel – YEP Forum x Female Energy



International discussion on inclusion-focused careers and leadership.

 Online

 November

In November, the YEP Forum collaborated with Female Energy to deliver an online panel focused on careers, inclusion and leadership in the energy sector. The webinar attracted a strong turnout and featured a diverse lineup of speakers who shared candid insights and personal experiences. The session received overwhelmingly positive feedback, underlining the importance of accessible, inclusive spaces for discussion and inspiration across the sector.

“A fantastic turnout, incredible speakers and brilliant feedback. Collaborations like this show the power of bringing communities together to support and inspire the next generation.”

– Becky Bradnam Falder (Female Energy)

EMEX 2025: Speed networking session



Senior leader engagement and career development.

 ExCeL London

 November

At EMEX 2025, the YEP Forum hosted a speed-networking session connecting young professionals with senior industry leaders. The structured format allowed participants to ask focused questions and gain tailored career advice, creating a supportive and high-impact development opportunity.

“The atmosphere was incredibly supportive, and the conversations were thoughtful and generous. It was a rewarding experience for both attendees and speakers.”

– Max McFarland (Energy UK and SteerCo Member)

UCL x Energy UK x YEP Forum Careers Panel



 UCL

 November

SteerCo members Dia Pareek, Razi Khan and Joe Haigh led an evening of student engagement and careers insight at UCL.

“A brilliant evening at the UCL x YEP event! Three of our Steering Committee members joined UCL’s Energy Masters students to lift the lid on the YEP Forum, share how they found their way into the energy sector, and reflect on what YEP has added to their journeys so far. The room was full of great questions, curious minds, and engaged atmosphere - exactly what YEP is all about.”

“A fantastic collaboration and an energising session for everyone involved!”

– Dia Pareek (Drax and SteerCo Member)

NESO Control Room visit (second visit)

 NESO Offices & Control Room,
Wokingham

 November

Following the success of the initial visit, YEP Forum members returned to the NESO offices in Wokingham for a second, fully booked Control Room visit. The day featured a series of presentations, a guided tour of the GB Control Room, Q&A sessions and dedicated networking with NESO staff. Demand was exceptionally high, with all places filled within 15 minutes of opening and a substantial waiting list.

“It was terrific to welcome such an engaged group of YEPs to NESO. The discussions, networking and curiosity throughout the day really stood out, and it was great to showcase both the GB Control Room and NESO’s wider role as a whole energy system planner.”

– Razi Khan (NESO and SteerCo Member)

YEP Forum Social Networking Evening

 The Lucky Pig Cocktail Bar, London

 December

End-of-year celebration and informal networking.

The year concluded with an informal networking evening at The Lucky Pig Cocktail Bar in London, welcoming more than 140 attendees. The event provided space to reflect on a successful year, celebrate achievements across the sector and welcome new members to the YEP community.

“It was the perfect way to round off the year – catching up with familiar faces, meeting new members, and celebrating everything the YEP Forum achieved in 2025.”

– Isabella Oratore (Magnesium Capital and YEP Vice-Chair)

Introduction

The YEP Forum Steering Committee Communications Workstream is proud of the progress we have made since our establishment in June 2025.

We are driven by our purpose and audience; through our communications and engagements, we have gained a unique perspective on our members' experience of the YEP Forum which we will use to attract the next generation of energy leaders.

We have utilised these insights to provide added value to existing and prospective members beyond the YEP Forum's events offering, which has expanded our reach and accessibility.

Our ambition was to improve the visibility of the Forum by spotlighting the diverse backgrounds, experiences and skills of our Ambassadors Network and Steering Committee. In doing so, we aimed to inspire members across a wide range of roles and functions in the energy sector.

We improved the transparency of the YEP Forum by sharing how we work behind the scenes, creating awareness of our decision-making processes on behalf of members.

We prioritised our visual brand and identity, successfully delivering a refresh of all our channels and content in line with our values.

We focused on relationship-building between our membership and key YEP Forum stakeholders, fostering collaboration with the Ambassadors Network, Steering Committee, Energy UK as secretariat, and NESO as our corporate sponsor.

In 2026, we will build upon this momentum to execute a bold strategy that positions us as a leading sector voice for young energy professionals.



Our achievements:



Since starting our work we have seen a

25% increase ↑

in membership

(measured through our email distribution lists).



Since 1 June 2025, the YEP Forum LinkedIn page has continued to evolve, with key performance indicators highlighting its impact:

7,072

page views
since 1 Jun.



6,954

total followers
(2,865 of these are
since 1 Jun).

4,093

unique visitors
since 1 Jun.

41%

increase in
followers
since 1 Jun.



Our 2025 achievements

Our ongoing role in the YEP Forum's communications and engagement

Communications

YEP Awards coverage

We were delighted to showcase the YEP Awards 2025, highlighting our incredible nominees and judges prior to the event and celebrating the exceptional winners following the event via the YEP Forum LinkedIn page.

'Ambassadors Spotlight'

In 2025, we engaged with our valued Ambassadors Network to highlight the diverse career paths available to the next generation of energy leaders. We look forward to promoting our exceptional Ambassadors throughout 2026.

'Meet the SteerCo' campaign

We launched the 'Meet the SteerCo' campaign to share personal insights and professional experiences from our Steering Committee, spotlighting the individuals strategically shaping the YEP Forum's future.

Updated newsletter format

We updated the YEP Forum newsletter by redesigning the format and implementing a structured quarterly schedule to provide engaging updates to members. Following the positive reception of our Autumn 2025 edition, we are excited to maintain this momentum with a full cycle of publications planned for Winter, Spring, Summer, and Autumn 2026.

Utility Week Partnership

For the 2025 YEP Awards, Energy UK secured an agreement with leading trade title *Utility Week* to support the Communications and Engagement award category with a long-running editorial series profiling each winner. Over the course of several months between the 2025 ceremony and the 2026 awards, each winner is being profiled individually using their own words to explain their experience as member of the YEP Forum and to give advice to others. These profiles are supported by comments from the judges of each category to spotlight the winners' successes across the breadth of the energy industry.

Our 2025 Vision

Enhance the accessibility, visibility, and transparency of the YEP Forum for existing and prospective members.

Engagement

Events engagement

Throughout 2025, the Communications workstream strengthened its partnership with both the YEP Forum Events workstream and Energy UK to drive the promotion of more than 20 events across the country. By collaborating on the marketing of events, the two workstreams have ensured maximum reach for the YEP Forum, resulting in a strong year for event attendance.

Steering Committee engagement

We introduced regular Communications Workstream briefings at Steering Committee meetings to align and coordinate all YEP Forum activities. In addition to this, we have actively engaged in strategic discussions on future recruitment plans to the Steering Committee, and look forward to expanding our workstream in early 2026.



Our 2026 ambitions

In 2026, we will advocate on behalf of our members' interests to engage and influence decision-makers, ensuring the influential voices of young energy professionals are heard at all levels.

We will deliver a series of communications and engagement initiatives designed to facilitate a more representative, diverse, equitable and inclusive sector for the next generation of energy leaders.

Our 2026 Vision

Driving influence beyond the YEP Forum on behalf of our members - creating communications and leading engagements that deliver measurable value for young energy professionals in the sector.

Communications

Meeting the Challenge survey

We look forward to promoting the findings of the YEP Forum's second 'Meeting the Challenge' survey, an initiative focused on attracting and retaining the next generation of energy leaders. By capturing the unique perspectives of the future workforce, the survey aims to provide insights which influence the recruitment and retention of talent to support the delivery of the UK's energy transition.

'Powering the Next Generation'

Launched in early 2026, our 'Powering the Next Generation' LinkedIn campaign series features exclusive insights from the energy sector's most influential figures. This exciting initiative aims to inspire YEP Forum members and provide a roadmap for their professional growth by tapping into the expertise of our senior leaders.

Diversity, Equality, Inclusion and Belonging

Following the 'Powering the Next Generation' series, we will begin a new campaign centred around promoting diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in the energy sector. We will also work with external subject-matter experts and organisations who share our values to collaborate on LinkedIn activity and potential events.

Knowledge sharing

We are excited to continue delivering high-quality educational communications and events to our members in 2026, offering knowledge sharing beyond traditional events. 2026 will see the Forum kick off a series of development webinars in partnership with prominent organisations in the energy sector, designed to equip our members with specialist skills.

Engagement

Membership onboarding

To enhance the user experience, we have been working closely with Energy UK to streamline our membership onboarding process. By redesigning the sign-up page and introducing automated welcome emails, we aim to ensure every new member feels immediately welcomed.

Feedback forms

Building on our commitment to member-led growth, we are also working on a new feedback platform in early 2026. Our aim is to ensure the Forum remains responsive to our members' needs and continues to deliver the greatest value possible.

YEP Forum representation at external events

In 2025, the Communications workstream designed and commissioned pin badges for all our Steering Committee members. In 2026, members will be issued with official YEP Forum pin badges to promote our brand at conferences and networking events. The Communications workstream is actively targeting a lineup of opportunities throughout the year where we can represent YEPs externally in line with our communications activities.

The YEP Forum's Network of Networks

We will expand the reach of the YEP Forum through our Network of Networks project which will partner with other prominent energy organisations to provide networking opportunities. By delivering events and thought leadership collaboratively, we will expand the reach of the YEP Forum to new members.



Looking ahead

Building momentum and driving impact



As we look ahead to the coming year, the Young Energy Professionals Forum enters 2026 with strong momentum and a clear sense of purpose. Having invested time in strengthening our foundations, the year ahead will be about building on our existing success – driving impact, expanding our reach, and continuing to evolve in line with the transformation of the energy sector.

A core focus for this year will be translating insights into action. We have conducted research into skills, accessibility, and inclusion in the energy sector as part of our Meeting the Challenge report. The report seeks to understand the motivations of YEPs and how we, as a forum, can continue to build the next generation of energy leaders by shaping and driving change across future training, policy, and support across the energy sector.

In addition, the report has a specific and practical focus on the experiences of apprentices in the energy sector. By highlighting the unique insights and perspectives of apprentices, we aim to promote awareness and deliver tangible improvements in how the sector attracts, supports, and retains talent through non-university pathways.

Dhara Vyas, Chief Executive of Energy UK, said:

“The YEP Forum brings together people working across the energy sector, many of whom will no doubt go on to become the future leaders of our industry. It’s a great initiative that plays a crucial role, welcoming those who are new to energy and helping them to build networks, identify new opportunities, and meet diverse and like-minded people from across the country.

“It is crucial that we continue to attract new and exciting talent into energy, and to invest in their career development. The YEP Forum plays a key role in supporting the industry to achieve that goal.”



Alongside our ambition to be a trusted voice and provide thought leadership on behalf of our members, events will remain at the heart of the YEP Forum member experience. In the year ahead, we will deliver a full programme of site visits, panel events, policy discussions, skills development, and networking opportunities. This includes flagship networking events early in the year, major infrastructure and generation site visits,

and policy-focused discussions responding to the evolving national and regulatory landscape. Through these activities, we will continue to give members direct exposure to the realities of the energy transition and the opportunity to learn from – and be inspired by – the people shaping it.



Kayte O'Neill, Chief Operating Officer (COO) at NESO said:

“The Young Energy Professionals (YEP) Forum brings together the next generation of energy leaders at a critical time for the energy transition.

“This report, highlighting the breadth of important activity, really brings that to life. We are delighted to see that the YEP Forum hosted over 20 events, doubled its LinkedIn following online and attracted over 150 new NESO colleagues last year.

“NESO continues as the official YEP Forum sponsor again in 2026. We're excited to play our part to strengthen, develop and connect this great pipeline of diverse talent – and for what comes next in the months ahead.”



We will also continue to strengthen collaboration across the energy sector, building deeper and more strategic relationships with industry partners, ambassadors and aligned networks. By working closely with partners, we aim to co-design events and content that reflect the full breadth of the sector, showcase diverse career pathways, and respond to shared challenges around skills, workforce development and system transformation.

As our community continues to grow, our priority will be to ensure that this growth translates into meaningful connections, stronger knowledge-sharing, and practical value for both our members and our partners.

With a strengthened steering committee, a clear strategic direction, and an engaged and growing membership, 2026 represents an opportunity to turn momentum into impact. We look forward to delivering on our ambitions for the year – and to welcoming many of you at our events in the months ahead.



For more further information, reach out to:

Connor Innes

connorinnes@hotmail.co.uk

Chair of the YEP Forum

Isabella Oratore

isabella.oratore@magnesiumcapital.com

Vice Chair of the YEP Forum

Guide to Jobs in Energy

Our **Guide to Jobs in Energy** features interviews and insights with almost 20 people from various roles across the energy sector, exploring how they got into the sector, their current role, what skills are important, what advice they would give and their outlook and aspirations for the sector moving forward.

The guide aims to inspire people to join the sector, through driving awareness about the diversity of careers available and the different pathways to entry. It covers technical roles in engineering and STEM fields, as well as innovation, policy influencing, and organisations that provide a service to the sector.

Stay connected



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YEPForum@energy-uk.org.uk



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Thank you

to our ongoing sponsor, NESO, without whom many of 2025's successes would not have been possible. Additional thanks go to our contributors and the YEP Forum Steering Committee.



With thanks to those who contributed to this report:

Connor Innes, Isabella Oratore, Josh Sebon, Emily Wadsworth,
James Crawley, Gemma Nimmo, Max McFarland and all
members of the YEPs Steering Committee

• Connect
• Develop
• Inspire