



## Powering a New Energy Future

A politics degree isn't the obvious starting point for a career in energy. Towards the end of my time at university, I'd applied for various roles, some permanent, some internships for the summer, others graduate schemes across a variety of sectors. I arrived soon afterwards at UK Power Reserve, as an intern in their communications team.

As the leading provider of flexibility to the energy system, including a market-leading 120MW battery storage portfolio, UK Power Reserve's assets flex and adapt to the needs of the system. And as the system starts to change, the companies operating within it do too, and with that change comes opportunity.

The YEP's recent guide to jobs in the energy industry highlights the diverse range of roles available to young people in the energy sector.

UK Power Reserve recently commissioned its own research into the industry's impact in the Midlands, after witnessing its own rapid growth and positive effect on the local community.

The research found that 1 in 3 jobs in the energy sector are found in the Midlands, or some 30,000 people. What is especially encouraging is the specialisation of these roles: the energy sector in the Midlands employs more highly skilled people compared to other sectors, which leads to higher median salaries, which leads to greater investment in the local economy.

The Midlands energy sector supports an additional 77,900 jobs in the supply chain and the combined effect of the direct and supply chain employees spending their earnings in their local communities supports another 54,600 jobs.

Prior to joining UK Power Reserve, I knew very little about the energy sector or considered it as a career. Four months in, I'm trying to make Capacity Markets a dinner conversation for my non-energy friends! Energy touches everyone - we all use it but the level of understanding about how the system works is often poor.

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My role has made me realise the importance of communicating who we are in the industry and what we do.

Working for a company like UK Power Reserve has given me the ideal starting point for doing so.

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