

Centre for Sustainable Energy

Applicant information for the post of Community Renewables Manager

About this role

Would you like to be at the forefront of transforming local energy systems?

We are looking for an exceptionally driven and knowledgeable individual with excellent project management, communication and technical skills to help guide and support community organisations around renewable energy technologies, business models and project development processes, at a range of different scales. This might include options for community buildings as well as the development of larger standalone renewables projects, such as wind turbines and solar farms.

CSE has grown significantly in recent years, and we see further opportunities to increase our impact. That's why we're now recruiting a new '**Community Renewables Manager**' to work within the Local & Community Empowerment team on initiatives at the forefront of place-based net zero delivery across the UK, focusing on renewable energy, heat and (potentially) storage technologies.

Through this role you will support local and community stakeholders and organisations to increase their ability to scope, develop and deliver projects by a variety of means, including: the provision of training that is accessible and engaging; developing and strengthening creative tools, accessible guidance and other materials; developing and delivering pro-active local engagement processes that build informed consent and support for renewables in local communities; providing input and guidance to help identify and secure funding and finance for project development and implementation; and developing processes and mechanisms that help to optimise equitable local community benefits from renewable energy projects.

You will combine excellent technical knowledge of renewable energy technologies and the UK energy system, with the ability to engage and communicate effectively with non-technical audiences.

Amongst other things, you could be:

- Exploring the potential for local communities to meet more of their energy demand from local renewable sources by leading [Future Energy Landscapes](#) workshops.
- Further developing the Future Energy Landscapes [methodology](#), exploring viable pathways to renewable energy deployment, working in collaboration with community energy groups and local authorities.

- Creating a new project planning tool for community energy groups wanting to deliver their own renewable energy projects.
- Supporting capacity building in the community energy space across the North-West Net Zero Hub area.

About CSE

The Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) is a Bristol-based national charity that supports people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes.

For over 40 years, we've supported people to take effective action on energy in their homes. We help communities and local councils to understand energy issues, prioritise their efforts and put their plans into action. Our work supports better local and national energy policies, more effective action to cut carbon emissions and reduce fuel poverty and influences the energy system transition to make it greener, smarter and fairer. See <https://www.cse.org.uk/>.

To work towards our mission, we depend on our skilled and committed staff (currently circa 120 individuals) who are based primarily in our offices in central Bristol. At any one time we're working on over 100 different and separately funded projects. Our funders and clients include national and local government, energy companies, charitable funders, research bodies and other voluntary sector organisations. See our latest [Impact Report](#) for details about our six work programmes and how we're creating a fairer, greener energy future for everyone.

More about your team

This role sits within our Local & Community Empowerment team (LACE). The team is responsible for developing and delivering a broad range of projects that enable and support communities, civil society, and local authorities to envision and deliver their climate and sustainable energy goals in a fair and inclusive way.

Our work is dedicated to building knowledge, understanding and capability to act. Our areas of expertise include youth empowerment, local planning policy, local area energy planning and facilitating and supporting inclusivity, community energy activities and local and community-based action and innovation.

The role will also work closely with our Research and Analysis Team (R&A). The R&A team has expertise in buildings and energy systems data analysis, renewable energy and low carbon technologies, energy demand reduction, consumer energy behaviour, modelling and software engineering, and programme evaluation.

You can read more about what it's like to work at CSE and specifically within the Local and Community Empowerment [here](#).

More about you

The ideal candidate for the role will be a quick learner who enjoys problem solving and is looking for a challenging but highly rewarding role, sharing our vision of a world where sustainability is second nature, carbon emissions are cut to safe levels and fuel poverty has been replaced by energy justice.

They will:

- Have experience and knowledge of developing and/or delivering heat, renewable energy, or storage projects, including larger standalone renewables projects, and the ability to research and rapidly synthesise and share key understanding around different renewable technologies.
- Have excellent written and verbal communication skills, with the ability to apply these appropriately to a wide range of people and to relay and translate technical information for non-technical audiences.
- Have a positive 'can do' approach and flexible attitude to work and project delivery, which includes being curious, creative, open-minded and solutions orientated.
- Have the ability to develop fruitful relationships with people – both internally and externally.
- Have a broad understanding of the UK energy system, and the transformations required to tackle the climate emergency.

Please refer to job description for specific requirements.

Note: we understand that people living with disabilities, women and people of colour are less likely to apply to jobs unless they meet every single qualification. At CSE we are dedicated to building a diverse, inclusive and authentic workplace, so if you're excited about this role but your past experience doesn't align perfectly with every qualification in the job description, please get in touch. You may just be the right candidate for this role.

More about our work

CSE has been at the forefront of developing local approaches to energy system transformation for many years. We believe that a sustainable energy system can only be achieved through the active engagement, involvement, action and consent of people as consumers, citizens and members of many communities (from neighbourhoods to workplaces to networks of shared interests). Dimensions of our work include:

- Engaging, empowering and supporting individuals and groups to act.
- Developing practices to bring people together to explore sustainable energy.
- Building understanding and sharing learning.
- Developing tools and models which enable others to improve policy and practice.

We have a strong track-record of working with local authorities to help them address and understand both the technical and non-technical aspects of achieving net zero. For example, in Bristol CSE was commissioned to lead the study that would help both the council, and newly formed One City Environmental Sustainability Board, understand what needs to happen in Bristol and the wider area to achieve the goal of being a carbon neutral city by 2030. Building on this work as well as other renewable heat and energy studies, we developed (together with the Energy System Catapult) [the first method for Local Area Energy Planning](#).

Pay and conditions

The role is full-time (37.5 hours per week). The salary for the role will be on Scale F (£34,788 - £38,229 per annum) depending on the successful candidate's current levels of knowledge, skill and experience. The starting salary is likely to be at the lower end of the range but will be reviewed following successful completion of the 6-month probationary period. Subsequent movement within the scale will be dependent on annual appraised performance against the defined job description for the post.

NOTE: To enable us to consider candidates at slightly different stages of their careers', the job description and salary scale may, in exceptional circumstances, be reviewed and updated as part of setting up the employment contract. So, if you're interested in the role and you don't quite match the job specifications listed or believe that you might exceed them, please do get in touch. We'd love to hear from you.

Application procedure

Applications should be made on the application form, available at <https://www.cse.org.uk/jobs-volunteering/>. Your application should demonstrate how your skills and experience relate to the person specification. **CVs and supporting letters will not be considered as part of the application process.** The front sheet of the application form containing personal information will be removed prior to the details of the form being read by the selection panel.

Applications should be sent by **email** to Job@cse.org.uk or by **post** to: Reception, Centre for Sustainable Energy, St James Court, St James Parade, Bristol BS1 3LH.

The **closing date** for applications is 12.00 midnight on **Sunday 1 December 2024**. If you have not heard from CSE by midday Tuesday 10 December, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.

Interviews will take place in-person at our offices in Bristol on **Thursday 12 and Friday 13 December 2024**.