

SkillsforEnergy

CAREER CASE STUDY



NAME: Esmee Thornton

JOB: Deputy Site Manager

COMPANY: Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy

Can you describe your current role and the skills you use to undertake it?

I am the Deputy Site Manager for the East Anglia ONE offshore windfarm in Lowestoft where we have over 60 employees in the summer months working to maintain 102 Wind Turbines.

I support the planning and execution of daily operations, making sure any turbines that need to be troubleshooted or serviced are done so in a safe and efficient manner. I also line manage the technician team and offer day to day support to all members of the team. I also work closely with the customer and various other contractors. Every day looks different and involves using a wide array of skills from organisation, leadership, team work, time management and more.

How did you get to where you are today?

I started by doing a degree in Environmental Geophysics and worked for a period of time offshore as a Geophysicist doing foundation surveys for Oil and Gas and Offshore Wind. Through this I realised I was passionate about renewable energy, so I went back to university and did a MSc in Energy Engineering and Environmental Management.

After a year travelling, I worked for the local Energy Trade Association. From this I then moved onto my current role.

Is there anything you would do differently?

I have always enjoyed learning through working so I would have considered apprenticeships, however I did enjoy the route I took.



If you could give your younger self one piece of advice, what would it be and why?

Be confident and if you have ideas, don't be afraid to speak up and make your voice heard! It may be daunting but it will likely benefit you and those around you.

What do you enjoy about your current role?

Every day is a learning day and slightly different from the last so it never gets boring!

What challenges/successes have you experienced so far in your career or pathway to your career?

I have definitely had challenges where, as a woman, I have not always been taken seriously by males around me. However, this has been character building for myself and helped me with my confidence, learning to speak up.

I have been trusted with a lot of responsibility in both work places and this has been a great achievement and has helped me build upon my career development.

What attracted you to the energy industry?

It's ever changing and a growth industry – therefore there is a great future for it with so many learning opportunities and different career paths you can follow.

What does the future look like for females within the energy industry?

Exciting! I think there are so many kinds of opportunities and more women joining that there is no reason why we cannot get to a place where we can see a more equal balance in the workforce!



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