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## Energy and the Environment – Panel Discussion

### Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February: 5.30pm – 7.30pm

#### Speaker Profiles:

##### **Nina Skorupska**

**Chief Executive at Renewable Energy Association:** <http://www.r-e-a.net>

Nina has over 25 years of experience of working in the Energy Industry. Qualified as a fuel expert, she became the first female Power Station Manager for RWE npower in the UK. After three years leading the UK Energy Prompt Trading team for RWE, she returned to RWE npower as Director of Technology Services. In 2008 she moved to Germany as RWE Group's Director of Performance Improvement, working with the 25 member Operating Companies to save over €2bn operating costs. Her final role in RWE was to be an executive member of the Board of Essent N.V., RWE Group's Netherlands/Belgium energy business.

As the Chief Technology Officer she was responsible for the successful commercial and sustainable delivery of Essent's Generation fleet, new energy developments and procurement. Whilst at Essent, she also became a member of the Supervisory Board of DNV KEMA, Energy & Sustainability and continues this role. Her time with RWE came to an end in December 2012 and since that time has enjoyed travelling and pursuing other activities such as becoming visiting Professor at London Metropolitan Business School and visiting fellow of the Centre of Progressive Leadership there, creating her own Company with her husband known as Elysian Ark. As of 29th July 2013 she is the Chief Executive at the Renewable Energy Association (REA).

##### **Katya Peremanova**

**Manager at Origination and Research at Better Energy:**

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/better-energy-invest-a-s>

(Previously Analyst at Clean World Capital)

At Better Energy, Katya sources and evaluates renewable energy projects (solar PV, wind, biomass) across Europe with a view to advise on investment in these assets. She is very interested in innovative ways of financing clean energy technologies and projects.

In her role at Clean World Capital she:

- Worked in a dynamic corporate finance and investment advisory in a rapidly evolving analyst role; supported all aspects of advisory mandates.
- Project finance: modelling, data validation, reporting.
- Client acquisition: prepared and delivered pitches for prospective clients.
- Researched renewable energy, electricity and carbon markets and clean energy technologies (biomass, waste-to-energy, wind & solar).
- Drafted project documentation; gathered information for due diligence.
- Managed a team of interns in their research projects.

## **Tobi Babalola**

### **Low Carbon Network Design Engineer at UK Power Networks**

<http://www.lowcarbonlondon.info/>

Tobi is the Work Stream Lead for electrification of transport and heat trials on the Low Carbon London (LCL) project. He is responsible for identifying and testing the options and benefits of monitoring electric (EV) charging points, heat pumps and small scale photovoltaic generation. His role with LCL demands delivery of the Use Cases and Success Criteria with supporting documentation within the prescribed time and budget. After obtaining his MEng in Electrical and Electronics Engineering he completed 18 months with UK Power Networks Graduate Programme.

## **Tom Woolerton**

### **Energy Analyst at EDF Energy Renewables: <http://www.edf-er.com/>**

Tom did a 4-year 'undergraduate masters' in chemistry (MChem) at Oxford University from 2004-2008 with a final year research project in hydrogen fuel cell electrode design. He stayed at Oxford until 2012 to do a PhD in bio-inorganic chemistry, with research in the field of 'solar fuels', specifically the photochemical reduction of carbon dioxide to produce a storable fuel from sunlight and carbon dioxide.

He joined EDF Energy on the 2-year graduate programme in September 2012, on the 'Energy Analyst' scheme. This involves rotations around different parts of the commercial side of the business – he has been in gas storage, 'export' (i.e. procurement of power from small independent generators and businesses who generate their own electricity and sell the excess), and now renewables (working on wind farm valuation and also project management of wind farm projects).

## **Sophie Bennett**

### **Skills and Employment Policy Officer at RenewableUK: <http://www.renewableuk.com/>**

Sophie is involved at the strategic level with developing the trade association's position on skills and employment issues. I work with policy stakeholders and industry representatives to drive practical action to address key skills, employment and education challenges faced by the wind and marine energy industry.

#### **Key responsibilities:**

- Coordination of the RenewableUK Skills & Employment Strategy Group
- Supporting and promoting the National Renewable Energy Apprenticeship Programme with key partners (EU Skills, City & Guilds and Colleges)
- Coordination of the RenewableUK HR Forum
- Outreach on key STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)
- Development of careers publications
- Encouraging greater dialogue between Higher/Further Education and business communities
- Working with relevant Government departments to ensure there is an adequate talent pool for growth in the industry (eg. Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Department for Education)
- Research and consultation activities regarding industry development trends and related employment, skills and training issues
- Representing RenewableUK at events and in the media with regards to skills and employment policy issues.

#### **Further Resources:**

After the event, for additional resources on careers within the energy / environment sector, please visit:

<http://www.careerstagged.co.uk>

and use search tags such as "environment" / "energy" / "renewable energy" etc.