

Distributed Energy – A disruption or here to stay?

Over 50 Young Energy Professionals (YEP) from across the energy industry gathered to learn about distributed energy and discuss whether it's a disruption and whether it's here to stay.

The first ever YEP Forum event was opened by Catherine Heritage, Centrica's Director of Talent, Global Business Units, and chaired by Tabish Khan. Catherine set the scene for the evening, introducing the concept of distributed energy and our four speakers, who each had different perspectives and expertise.

The first speaker was Centrica's own Sam Wevers. Sam discussed the exciting Cornwall Local Energy Market Project and explained how we are collaborating with organisations from across the South West to build a local energy system and trial a local energy market.

Marlon Dey, from UK Power Reserve, then shared his views on why the distributed energy market is growing. Marlon's reasons include favourable government policy, higher demand for flexible capacity and the use of gas reciprocating engines.

The final two speakers were Lynne McDonald, from UK Power Networks, and Ed Slack, from Reactive Technologies. Lynne gave an engaging presentation about why distributed energy will be key in ensuring that infrastructure is agile, smart and nimble enough to support the changing customer needs. Ed followed with an insight into how his team research new technologies in order to get the most out of infrastructure that currently exists.

The audience were then given the chance to present questions to the speakers as part of a lively panel discussion, as well as meet fellow YEP members over a few drinks.

Catherine Heritage summed up the evening: "An excellent event! The speakers were very authentic and demonstrated their expertise, offering a range of accessible perspectives on an exciting and relevant topic. The diverse audience represented a breadth of backgrounds and experience, making for rich networking and a lively panel discussion."

Would you like to get involved in the YEP Forum?

The Young Energy Professionals (YEP) Forum is a network to promote the next generation of energy industry professionals, providing opportunities to collaborate, develop and recognise successes. The forum hosts events just like this one, as well as regular site visits to power stations and an annual awards ceremony. It's a great opportunity for new people to the industry to broaden their understanding of the different aspects of the energy market, and subsequently help further develop future career opportunities.

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