

AMBITIOUS

CREATIVE

COLLABORATIVE

SUPPORTIVE

JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE:	Technical Advisor (Energy) South West Energy Hub
MANAGED BY:	Technical Manager - South West Energy Hub
GRADE:	8 Fixed Term until March 2023

BACKGROUND

The Employer: The West of England Combined Authority (WECA)

The West of England is an economic leader with an economy worth over £33 billion a year. With a population of over 1.1 million people, one of the highest rates of employment in the country, and over 45,000 businesses, the region competes on a global scale. The West of England is a place where highly-skilled people work, where ideas flourish, and where businesses grow. It's also a place that a diverse population of people call home.

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) was formed in 2017, to champion the region and drive clean and inclusive economic growth. As a result, significant powers and funding have been transferred to the region through the new Combined Authority and West of England Mayor.

Our aim is to deliver economic growth for the region and address some of our challenges, such as productivity and skills, housing and transport.

Covid-19 has had a big impact on the West of England, and we are leading the regional economic recovery, bringing people together to ensure our region remains a thriving, successful and innovative place to live and work. By joining WECA, you will be helping us with this important work.

WECA is made up of three of the local authorities in the region - Bath & North East Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire. Building on a strong track record of partnership working in the region, the West of England Combined Authority continues to work closely with North Somerset Council. The Combined Authority also the accountable body for the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership.

WECA is an equal opportunities employer, in line with the Equalities Act 2010, and invite applicants to contact us to identify any additional support they may need during the recruitment process.

The Service: The South West Energy Hub

The BEIS funded Energy Hubs is a nationwide initiative to support the identification, development and implementation of energy projects across five regional hubs. The initiative has five core objectives aimed at stimulating local investment in energy projects.

1. Increase the number, quality and scale of local energy projects being delivered
2. Raise local awareness of the opportunity for and benefits of local energy investment
3. Enable local areas to attract private and/or public finance for energy projects
4. Support rural community energy project development
5. Deliver initiatives to improve energy efficiency in housing

Projects can be supported across a range of scale, with Hub assistance available to accelerate routes to market for programmes stuck in early feasibility stages. The South West Energy Hub (SWEH) is currently supporting three key programmes - Local Capacity Support for strategic regional energy projects, the Rural Community Energy Fund, for smaller, community led energy projects and the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery Scheme.

The Energy Hub offers support to eligible project owners at any point through the development stages, from feasibility, business case, design and planning to financing. Where possible, the Hub will look to maximise benefits across the region by aggregating solutions to drive economies of scale.

Additionally, the Energy Hub also serves as a new conduit between local energy actors and central Government, providing a combined voice for pan-regional energy issues, connecting local institutions and sharing best practice across the five Hub regions.

The South West Partnership:

The South West Partnership, made up of the seven Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and their accountable body authorities in the south west region, is an important supporting partner of the Hub. The Partnership members are:

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly LEP and Cornwall Council
Heart of the South West and Somerset County Council
Dorset LEP
Solent LEP and Portsmouth Council
Swindon and Wiltshire LEP and Wiltshire Council
GFirst LEP and Gloucestershire County Council
West of England LEP and West of England Combined Authority

The West of England Combined Authority is leading the Hub on behalf of the South West Partnership.

PURPOSE OF THE JOB

Reporting to the SW Energy Hub Technical Manager, the Technical Advisor will advise on and support the Hub's public sector partners in increasing the number, quality and scale of energy projects across the South West.

The post holder will work with a team of regional project managers to help identify and define the best packages of support to enable selected projects to progress to financing and construction. Where possible, they will look to aggregate needs across the region, identifying joined up initiatives to unlock economies of scale.

They will draw on existing knowledge of a wide range of low carbon energy solutions as well as experience developing technical appraisals to provide a mix of high-level direct support and indirect support through the Hub's Local Capacity Support (LCS) service.

They will work with both WECA procurement colleagues and the private sector consulting market to increase the effective spend of the LCS service, identifying where specialist external input is required and overseeing the subsequent procurement of external consultant appointments and managing delivery as required.

The post holder will be experienced in delivering technical support services for sustainable energy projects, spanning a range of technology deployment, throughout the project development process.

The Technical Advisor will require excellent communication skills to engage with and translate between both technical and non-technical stakeholders alike. They must be highly numerically literate and comfortable with understanding and interpreting both energy and financial models in various forms.

The position offers an unrivalled opportunity to straddle the gap between private sector consulting and public sector delivery, taking a leading role in helping to drive the implementation of recent Climate Emergency declarations, kickstarting both new and stalled energy projects across the South West.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Support the development of distributed energy projects across the South West Energy Hub area
- Input high quality technical understanding into the development of projects including feasibility, business case, design and planning (including DSO and external consultant liaison)
- Communicate and advise on technical issues, design concepts, constraints and solutions relating to development of sustainable energy projects to a range of stakeholders
- Develop models, tools and templates to support the technical progress of projects at various stages of development
- Promote the service provided by the SW Energy Hub, liaising with public sector institutions, raising awareness with business and communities
- Support the wider team to ensure that technical risks associated with projects are effectively managed

- Identify where external support is required and develop specifications for this work, aggregating procurement exercises to benefit other projects being developed by the hub
 - Identify, articulate and communicate actual and foreseen barriers to the delivery of projects in the pipeline, and work with stakeholders to identify and implement solutions
- Use knowledge of energy markets to provide insight into suitable technologies to supply those markets

PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL (MUST HAVE)

Qualifications and Knowledge

- Educated to degree level or equivalent relevant to the role
- Knowledge of the energy system, technologies and markets
- Knowledge and understanding of appropriate regulations (e.g. planning, grid, permitting) and standards

Experience

- Working in a range of sustainable energy sectors and related technologies
- Undertaking technical due diligence activities
- Technical features of energy project development
- Project technical appraisal, feasibility studies, scheme design, working with planners and DNOs, project construction and commissioning
- Providing advice of a technical nature across a range of complex projects, representing these issues clearly and persuasively both internally and externally
- Working within a similar technical role in the sustainable energy sector

Skills and Competencies

- Thorough understanding of energy project development, gained through direct experience
- Ability to analyse problems, situations and information and present innovative and feasible solutions
- Ability to analyse complex data, identify solutions, draw conclusions and communicate recommendations.
- Able to research new technologies and provide improved project design, including equipment specification
- Ability to identify opportunities, risks, and resources required to achieve results within the project development stages
- Highly developed skills in partnership working and ability to deal professionally across all levels of the organisation
Excellent written and oral communication skills with ability to create reports and presentations to a high standard

DESIRABLE

- Advanced professional qualification in engineering e.g. MEng, CEng, EngD
- Experience of energy modelling packages such as SAP, PHPP and Energy Pro

REWARDS AND BENEFITS

WECA staff receive:

- 25 days annual leave, rising to 30 after five years' continuous service, plus bank holidays, pro rata
- Auto-enrolment into the Avon Pension Fund
- Cycle to work scheme and secure bike parking
- Free eye tests for all display screen equipment (DSE) users
- Commuter Travel Club - WECA employees can sign up to receive discounted monthly bus tickets, unlimited bus travel for work or leisure within your chosen zone, automatic ticket renewal and price freeze for 12 months.