



Bringing energy to your door

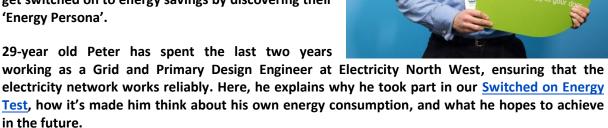
Peter Roddis

Persona: Energy Busting Beth



Our energy landscape is rapidly changing and it's vital we alter our behaviour towards the way we use electricity in our homes and businesses – if we do, not only will we reduce the need for costly new infrastructure, but we will also ensure future capacity and affordability and a low carbon green future.

Peter Roddis from Salford was one of over 1,500 people to complete the Electricity North West Switched On Energy Test – a test which helps people get switched on to energy savings by discovering their 'Energy Persona'.



Peter already has a real passion for reducing his carbon footprint on the planet, both at work and at home.

"I undertook the Energy Test to find out how well I'm doing in terms of energy efficiency in my day-to-day life. It's always good to know how you're getting on and whether there's room for improvement. We all have a role to play in limiting our impact on the environment, and those that do often find themselves better off when it comes to their bills."

Although Peter scored highly in our Switched On Energy Test, identifying as Energy Busting Beth, he's very aware that there's a lot more he could be doing, and wants to share his story so others can join him on his journey to becoming an energy hero.

Reducing energy usage at home and at work

With energy efficiency at the forefront of his mind, Peter has recently made some changes to help reduce the amount of electricity and power he uses.

"I recently changed all of our lightbulbs to LED ones, which has considerably reduced our energy consumption, and with it being winter, I've also been looking at the draught proofing in our house. That's made a big difference to how quickly the house warms up, and how long it stays warm for, meaning we don't need the heating on as much, therefore reducing our bills."

Peter also takes steps to save energy in the workplace: "At work, I try to use the electric pool car rather than a petrol or diesel one because that cuts down on air pollution. And when we take a tea break, we're all very conscious to only fill the kettle with as much water as we need."

The sky's the limit

Eventually, when he buys his own home, Peter wants to install solar panels. While Government grants and free solar panels are no longer being offered, the solar Feed-in Tariff is still available until April 2019. Rewarding homeowners who install solar panels, the Government pays you for every kWh of energy your panels generate.

"You get paid for both the energy you use - the generation tariff, and the energy you don't use - the export tariff," explains Peter. "Not only will your energy bills drop significantly, the money you receive is tax free and index linked."

The scheme applies for 20 years and you can expect a good return on investment; typically you can earn and save up to £8,080 over this time.



It's time for the British public to take a stand

"We all have a responsibility to reduce our energy consumption and look after the planet," says Peter. "We've recently been seeing all kinds of extreme weather conditions which are only going to get worse if we don't take steps to reduce our carbon footprint. I want to do my part by being considered and careful with the energy I use.

"It's time for the British public to take a stand. When we burn fossil fuels for electricity we are emitting greenhouse gases which stick around for 100 years. The early effects of climate change we're already experiencing are going to get

worse, so we need to stop wasting energy now. We might only be a small country, but by reducing our energy consumption we can make a difference to what is a global problem. And on a micro scale, it'll mean a drop in everyone's energy bills – which is always a bonus."

A critical role in encouraging and supporting energy efficiency

As an energy saving champion, Peter has some valuable insights on the future, and believes Electricity North West will play a critical role in encouraging and supporting energy efficiency.

"The biggest change we're seeing at the moment is the number of distributed generators connecting to our network, and increasing levels of renewables such as wind farms, solar farms, and batteries, as opposed to coal fired power stations. Integrating all of this into the network could be a big challenge for the energy industry.

"Going forward, I wonder whether we might move away from electricity always being available on demand, to people using their energy at times when we have a surplus available. Electricity North West's award-winning CLASS project has already successfully demonstrated that cutting edge voltage control can reduce demand for electricity, without customers noticing a difference to their supply. As we bring batteries on to our network, that will make a difference as well. It's a very interesting time."

Inspire others to adopt more energy efficient behaviour

By sharing his story, Peter hopes to inspire others to follow in his footsteps when it comes to energy efficiency: "There are still some people who see energy efficiency as curtailing what they can do. But that's a very short-sighted view.

"By getting involved in this campaign, I really hope to encourage others to adopt more energy efficient behaviour. I would like to live in a city with clean air for us and our children that isn't

polluted by diesel and petrol cars and fossil fuel fired power stations. I would also like to do my part to try to avoid irreversible climate change."

The role of Electricity North West

Electricity North West owns, operates and maintains the North West's electricity distribution network, connecting 2.4 million properties, and more than 5 million people in the region to the National Grid.

Our aim is to effectively manage energy in order to transform the communities we work with and help to sustainably generate cleaner, greener energy to enable and enhance 21st century life.

By switching customers onto energy efficiency, we aim to inspire people to rethink energy and how they use electricity in order to drive long-term, sustainable change.

Have we inspired you to join the Big Energy Conversation? If so then get in touch with us!