



electricity
north west

Bringing energy to your door

Stephen Neild

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 also ensure future capacity and affordability and a low carbon green future.

43 year old Stephen Neild from Swinton, Manchester currently works in Electricity North West's business improvement team as a System Support Analyst. Contributing and assisting the improvement programme by acting as a catalyst to enable change, providing guidance and support to our people who are striving to make things better.



In a nutshell, he designs and develops the systems which help inform customers of important messages, such as: “Your electricity connection is up and running”.

Here, he explains why he was one of more than 1,500 people to complete the Electricity North West [Switched On Energy Test](#) - which helps people get switched on to energy savings by discovering their ‘Energy Persona’:

Stephen says: “Working in the energy saving industry, I wanted to test my knowledge was still up-to-date and learn any new measures and tips I could implement to help reduce my energy, save precious natural resources and cut down on pollution.

“Energy efficiency helps us keep more resources on the earth longer. Everyone has the ability and a responsibility to reduce the environmental impact of the energy they consume so I wanted to make sure I was playing my part.”

Stephen scored highly in our Switched On Energy Test, identifying as Energy Busting Beth however, he knows there's still more he can be doing, which is why he is now sharing his story with the aim of helping others.

Stephen's tricks to reducing energy use

At home, Stephen is very conscious about how much energy he is using and has taken measures to limit how much electricity and power he uses.

“I have had loft and cavity wall insulation installed which means my house warms up quicker, stays warm for longer and reduces heating bills. In addition, I only heat the rooms required by using individual thermostats.

“In the kitchen, I only fill the kettle with the amount of water required, I turn off all appliances from standby mode, unplug chargers when not in use and energy saving light bulbs are used in every room. Baths are off-limits; I only ever use a shower, and I have flow tap aerators and regulators and smart meters installed.”

Looking to the future

In addition to the above, Stephen is still looking into even more energy efficient tactics to implement in his home over the next five years, such as an Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP).

Such pumps provide an alternative way to heat your home and could be the ideal solution if you're looking to save money on your energy bills. They work by taking heat from the air and boosting it to a higher temperature using a heat pump. While the pump needs electricity to run, it should use less electrical energy than the heat it produces. What's more, air source heat pumps are often eligible for payment through the Renewable Heat Incentive, a government scheme that provides payments to homeowners who generate their own heat.

Stephen explains: "Due to the increase in wholesale gas prices, I believe that installing an ASHP would reduce my bills considerably."



Everyone has a role to play in reducing energy consumption

Stephen believes it's critical for us all to act now to reduce our energy consumption.

"Directly or indirectly, everyone in the world will be affected by climate change. If enough people take action, global warming could be halted and even reversed.

"It is clear that reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions is a priority and this provides many opportunities for individuals to make an impact by changing their behaviours and practices."

Simple changes pay for themselves

So what advice would Stephen give to people thinking about adopting measures to reduce their energy consumption? "There are lots of simple changes that people can make that will pay for themselves quickly, and make their home more comfortable at the same time. These include turning things off when you're not using them, replacing old, broken appliances with more efficient ones, installing LED lightbulbs and ensuring your home is well insulated.

"Of course, it's not just about what you do at home. Colleagues should be energy mindful in their workplace too. Easy ways to reduce energy consumption would be to ensure all computers are turned off rather than left on standby, all lights are switched off when not required, air conditioning to be used only when necessary, reduce the thermostats where possible by 1C, and when boiling the kettle, only use the amount of water required."

A critical role in encouraging energy efficiency

As an energy saving champion, Stephen has some valuable insights on the future, and believes Electricity North West will play a critical role in encouraging and supporting energy efficiency thanks to our transformational work within communities.

“Possibly the biggest challenges in the energy industry are the increased use of renewables, and the huge increase in the sales of electric powered vehicles, which will place extra demand on all electric networks. As a distribution network operator, Electricity North West needs to be able to match this extra demand, which is why our work is vital – helping to transform the networks and ensure they can support modern communities.”

Start your journey

By getting involved in this campaign, Stephen hopes to inspire others to follow in his footsteps when it comes to energy efficiency.

“I feel my experience and contacts within the energy saving industry gives me credibility to pass my experience on to others so they can share my journey with their friends and family and play their part in saving energy and consumption. Just making small changes will make a real, positive difference to your quality of life, your wallet...and everyone’s future.”

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!