

**energy**  
envoys

**An opportunity to participate**



The National Energy Foundation offers the Energy Envoys volunteering opportunity to 300,000 young people nationwide as part of the world-famous Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Through the Energy Envoys scheme, young people volunteer to improve energy use, energy efficiency and energy management in their communities to complete the Volunteering section of their Award.

We'd love you to help us deliver it.

We're inviting you to collaborate with the Foundation to raise the energy literacy of teenagers and young people – an age group entering adulthood, becoming energy consumers and affecting energy use in the places they live and work. This document explains the opportunity and what you can get out of sponsoring the scheme.

Provided by



**NATIONAL  
ENERGY  
FOUNDATION**



## About us

The National Energy Foundation (NEF) is an independent charity that has been at the forefront of improving the use of energy in buildings since 1988. We aim to give people, organisations and government the knowledge, support and inspiration they need to understand and improve the use of energy in buildings.



We have a charitable educational remit which has serviced through working with schools, community groups, businesses and the general public. As an example of our work with schools, we previously ran a 'Green Energy Machine' which travelled to schools within the South East, for the provision of awareness outreach programmes on the generation and use of energy.

NEF has been licensed by The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) to provide volunteering opportunities as an Approved Activity Provider since December 2014. This means our activity meets DofE's programme and sectional requirements and the quality expected from an Approved Activity Provider. This allows us to offer and advertise a coordinated volunteering activity to participants which is recognised by the Award.



For more information about NEF, visit [www.nef.org.uk](http://www.nef.org.uk).

## What is the Energy Envoys scheme?

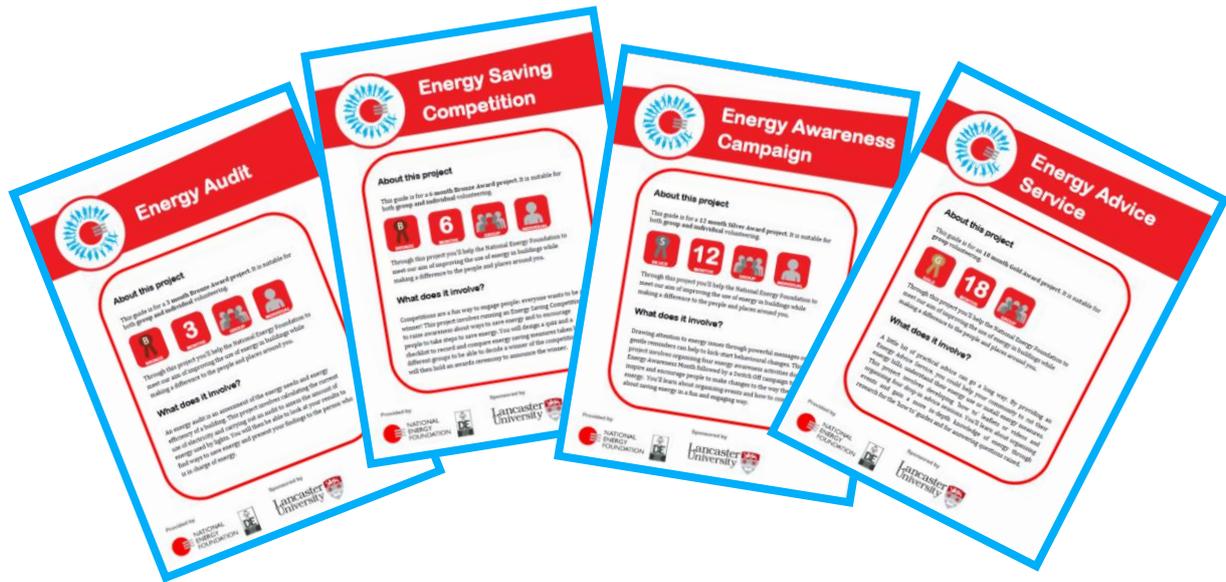
Energy Envoys is a volunteering opportunity developed by NEF alongside DofE for young people aged 14-24 which launched in September 2015. As Energy Envoys, young people with diverse talents will set up voluntary projects in their schools and communities to measure, monitor, manage, reduce or generate energy. They will develop vital life skills and raise energy literacy levels, helping their schools and communities use energy more wisely, save money and reduce carbon emissions.

## How does it work?

DofE participants sign up to volunteer as Energy Envoys via the [Energy Envoys website](#). Their volunteering begins with taking our Energy Quiz to find out how much they already know about energy, before learning all about the big energy challenges of our time and how to tackle real-world energy problems through our online [Energy Tutorial](#).

Next, participants pick an energy project and follow one of our step-by-step guides to help their community improve the use of energy in buildings. Their project could involve conducting energy audits, organising an energy awareness campaign, running an energy saving competition or providing an energy advice service. Participants are also free to build their own project concepts; the ideas and guidance we provide is there to ensure they deliver a good level of benefit and impact whichever project they choose.





Participants are supported by our energy experts as they carry out their projects, and are encouraged to share their learning and stories with their communities. We provide opportunities for participants to share their successes and learning through the Energy Envoys website, events and the wider media, as well as adding to a body of learning and experiences for future years' participants to access.

While completing their project, participants record their progress, collect photos, videos and other materials, and share their achievements with us at the end of their project. When a participant completes their volunteering, we send them a certificate recognising their achievements and thanking them for volunteering as an Energy Envoy. In addition, awards will be provided at each of the three DoFE levels (Bronze, Silver and Gold) to recognise some of the most innovative and impressive efforts to improve energy performance in communities across the UK.



## What are the benefits?

Energy Envoys aims to harness the energy and enthusiasm of young people to help their schools and communities use energy more wisely, save money and reduce carbon emissions. The key benefits of the scheme are:

### 1. Energy savings

Young people are empowered to deliver tangible benefits in their communities – saving energy, money and carbon emissions – whilst improving the comfort of homes and community buildings. Additional impact is created through the rippling of knowledge and ideas between participants, their communities and the many people who work with them. The link between energy, carbon emissions and climate change is made clear throughout the scheme and many participants will be motivated by the opportunity to reduce environmental impacts.

## 2. Improving energy literacy levels

Thousands of young people will be educated about energy use and generation, as well as different energy and building technologies which can improve our energy use. Participants will gain a better understanding of and ability to resolve issues associated with poor energy use, making more sustainable decisions and having the capacity to champion energy as an environmental and social cause. Wider and longer term benefits will come from participants sharing knowledge with parents, teachers and peers, helping to address knowledge gaps and creating a more energy literate society.



A recent survey by NEF demonstrated that the 18-24 age group is the least energy literate in the UK, lacking an essential life skill which will affect their wellbeing, living costs and environmental impact. There is an opportunity through this project to create the next generation of informed energy users and influencers by directly educating and empowering them.

## 3. Encouraging community action

Social benefits will arise from Energy Envoy's delivering energy projects in their local communities. By conducting energy audits, raising awareness and providing advice, Energy Envoy's will connect with their communities, foster community-based initiatives and get a taste of community activism. Where projects target those in need, such as the fuel poor, there will be wider social benefits associated with improving health and wellbeing.

## 4. Inspiring the next generation of energy, building and climate professionals

Energy Envoy's introduces participants to the fascinating and diverse career opportunities available in the built environment and energy sectors. Young people are crucial to our energy future – not only in the buildings around them today, but as the energy buyers, users and decision-makers of tomorrow. The Energy Envoy's scheme provides a unique channel for inspiring young people to consider future study and careers in the field.



## What is the potential reach?

With a rolling registration of more than 300,000 participants and operating through more than 12,700 centres across the UK, DofE provides huge potential for developing a nationwide network of Energy Envoy's. Celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2016, DofE is experiencing rapid growth, with the number of participants up by 10% this year alone.

Volunteering is one of the compulsory sections which all DofE participants undertake, but a range of volunteering opportunities can be difficult for participants to come by, with many volunteering in charity shops or similar. Energy Envoy's offers an exciting alternative for participants who want to try something a little bit different and to have the chance to shape their own volunteering experience.

## Support the scheme

We are looking for a number of co-sponsors to provide £10,000 each to support the delivery of the scheme for the first three years, alongside the funding already allocated by our Trustees. Single-year sponsorship is available if preferred, and individual sponsors will be able to take advantage of Gift Aid.

Sponsors will benefit from exposure of their brand and association with a scheme which has already received very positive media coverage. Sponsors will be recognised on promotional materials, on the Energy Envoy webpages and in the support material provided to participants, as well as in press releases and media engagements. Sponsors will also be able to advertise their support through their own channels and work with us to develop the scheme. We could work with you to develop areas which are relevant to you and your objectives, such as school buildings, homes, faith groups, educational materials, promotional videos, STEM learning, career opportunities, user-friendly apps, web-based tools, tackling fuel poverty, renewable energy information – the list is endless.

## Want to find out more?

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor of Energy Envoy or finding out more about the opportunity, you can contact us by phone or email:

### **Alex Steeland**

Project Manager, National Energy Foundation

M: 07891 841246

D: 01908 354547

[Alexandra.Steeland@nef.org.uk](mailto:Alexandra.Steeland@nef.org.uk)

### **Dr Kerry Mashford**

Chief Executive, National Energy Foundation

D: 01908 354532

[Kerry.Mashford@nef.org.uk](mailto:Kerry.Mashford@nef.org.uk)

## The Duke of Edinburgh's Award says:

“The Duke of Edinburgh's Award welcomes the National Energy Foundation's Energy Envoys scheme as a new activity offered to participants for the Volunteering section of their Award. DofE participants offer skills and enthusiasm to benefit others within their communities. We are pleased to recognise that the principles of Energy Envoys – informing, inspiring and motivating young people – ensure it will represent an excellent opportunity for our participants. We anticipate that the scheme will occupy a unique niche alongside the other Volunteering Approved Activity Providers – capturing the interest of participants with a passion for, fascination with, or future career in energy and its impacts and issues. We are very much looking forward to working with NEF as an AAP.”

**Abigail Saunders**  
AAP Officer, Volunteering

**Lizzie Usher**  
Programme and Quality Manager

## The National Energy Foundation says:

“I am truly delighted to begin what I am confident will be a fruitful and lasting relationship with The Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The approach taken by the DofE Award over its long history harnesses the energy and enthusiasm of young people, channelling this into personal development and valuable contributions to society. By offering a supported volunteering opportunity as an Approved Activity Provider, the National Energy Foundation will inform and inspire large numbers of DofE participants across the whole UK to learn more about energy and to use this knowledge to benefit their communities. This will be a great achievement.”

**Dr Kerry Mashford**  
Chief Executive



**energy**  
envoys