



Humber



## Humber Branch Committee

# Craig Sutherland

Please tell us a little about yourself?

*I'm from a small town in central Scotland called Crieff and moved to Hull in 2017. I'm currently finishing my graduate engineering programme with Centrica. In my free time I keep myself really busy; I am a competitive bagpipe player and regularly compete, perform and teach across the world. I'm also an average photographer and I attempt to hit golf balls every now and again!*

How did you find out about the Energy Institute membership and why should others consider joining?

I found out about the Energy Institute through my colleagues in Centrica. The Energy Institute has a fantastic reputation within the energy sector and I was very keen to get involved. I started attending some of the technical lectures held in the area and I started using the resources available online to help me with some projects. I felt that becoming a member would enable me to access more resources and support for my development and for professional registration.

Why did you decide to accept and become a EI Humber branch committee member?

Having worked in Humberside for a few years, I recognised that there was an age and skills gap between graduates/young professionals and more experienced engineers in the area. Whilst the Humber Branch does a great job serving the latter, I feel the former are not represented and that the branch can do a lot more to support young professionals. When David asked me to come on-board to set up a Young Professionals Network in the area I jumped at the opportunity. I am passionate about bringing fresh ideas into the branch and creating an organisation that becomes the focal point for everyone in the energy sector in the Humber region.

What challenges do you think the industry will face in the future?

There is no mystery around the challenges the energy sector faces to meet the predicted increase in demand, and to simultaneously reduce emissions to slow the impact of climate change. However, we have the technology and we have the resources. For me the largest challenges faced by this industry now, and in the coming years, is the cultural/societal change required to reduce or limit

demand and the need for active support from the national and international governments to enable businesses to make the changes required.

### How do you think the Humber branch can support its local members?

The energy sector in the Humber region is booming and has been for decades. In 2020, despite the challenges of Covid-19 there continues to be development in the area and relentless progress in transforming the “Energy Estuary” to meeting carbon reduction targets. The Energy Institute Humber Branch is the ideal focal point for all those working in the sector to meet, network, collaborate and share insights to create a interdependent institution to the benefit of all its members. Through the addition of the Young Professional Network, those early in their career have an opportunity to learn and develop their skills and to be involved in the vast network of senior leaders within the institution. All of this before I’ve touched on the resources and support features that are available online.

The Young Professional Network is in its early stages of development. I anticipate this group will rapidly grow in size with over a hundred members as seen in other regions. If there is anyone out there who would like to be part of this opportunity then please feel free to reach out directly.

To find out more about the EI – visit <https://energyinst.org/>