



Humber



Humber Branch Committee

David Hughes

Please tell us a little about yourself?

I am a Chartered Chemical Engineer who has spent most of my working life in either Energy producer or Energy using industries. This created an interest in the whole area of energy and its effect on the environment. In retirement as everyone will tell you, life is quite busy. I chair the Major Hazards Network at CATCH, I have been chair of the Humberside Fire Authority Governance, Audit and Scrutiny Committee. Currently I am the Patient Representative on several NHS committees including the Humber Eye Health Strategy group which is looking at how to improve the delivery of eye services in the Humber Region.

Looking outside of these groups, I have a strong interest in Rugby Union, and I was a referee for about 25 years and a Vice President of Grimsby Rugby Club. Also, last but not least I enjoy being with my family - including my 3 grandchildren.

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

I joined what was the Institute of Petroleum Humber Branch committee when my boss, the Refinery Manager, suggested to a couple of managers that it might be a good career move to join. While I don't think it has made a difference, it did give me a better understanding of the effect of energy and the environmental impact on many businesses. I did in fact become the Branch Secretary for a number of years and also the coordinator and organiser of technical events.

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

When the Institute of Petroleum merged with the Institute of Energy 2003 to become the Energy Institute, I decided to stay on the Committee. The wider remit for the Committee and the Institute was an interesting development and allowed a greater understanding of options for improvement.

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

Most of my time has been spent in the oil industry and it has faced the challenges of lower sulphur products, reducing emissions from refineries and vehicles and also the reduction in greenhouse gases to preserve the integrity of the ozone layer.

The biggest challenge today is the impending crisis of climate change and how best to address the issue of global warming in a co-ordinated informed fashion.

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

There is a lot of misguided information available on the internet and in the media. This is an opportunity for the Energy Institute to play its part in providing sound advice to energy users, producers and Environmentalists which incidentally has always been its vision. The local committee can play its part by organising meetings, webinars and conferences to help get the message over in the Humber Region. The committee has recently formed a partnership with CATCH to enhance the committee's ability to communicate with the local area by social media as well as more conventional methods. This is increasingly important as the Humber Region is the Energy Hub with the most to offer the UK, and a co-ordinated informed approach is vital. The last webinar in November 2020 had nearly 200 participants from all over the world.

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