

Application for role: Communications and Knowledge Management Lead

Applicant: Lewis Bowick

Vision

I recognise that there's a great deal of latent potential in the membership we've built up, with representatives of a diverse range of organisations from many sectors. Greater engagement with our members is now required to unlock this potential. A key step we need to take is to greatly increase member participation between meetings, preferably via the established Teams platform. By maintaining the momentum and enthusiasm we always see at the meetings, and by reaching far more of our members than are able to attend the meetings, I believe we could produce a great deal more value as a group.

To achieve this vision, I would propose working with the chair to take a more structured and regular approach to communication and collaboration, sending out frequent updates and prompts for involvement, to raise the profile of the ESIG group in the awareness of its members. Better use of the file sharing and collaboration tools we already have at our disposal would shift us to a new stage of value creation, getting the best out of our unique cross-section of participants.

Education & Work Experience

2018-present Energy Systems Catapult: Energy Systems Consultant

2017-2018: Volunteering in sustainable home construction and micro-hydro scheme upgrade for One Planet Development communities in Wales

2013-2017 Arup: Electrical Engineer, Buildings Engineering Midlands

2008-2013 University of Strathclyde: Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Meng)

Relevant Interests

Systems thinking and communication

I have a keen interest in building my understanding of how the transition to a net zero energy system is likely to look at the "big picture" level, tying together input from numerous perspectives and subsystems. As well as doing this for my own understanding, I'm also driven to communicate this overall picture with others so as to test my own assumptions and seek consensus wherever possible. To this end I'm highly active on social media, engaging in threads relating to energy system decarbonisation, enjoying participation in the evolution of cutting-edge thinking on this topic, where so much has still to be determined.

Founding Green Homes Birmingham

As a side project, I am currently at the early stages of establishing a local network organisation of my own, Green Homes Birmingham, with the aim of building a knowledge hub to facilitate homeowners in preparing their homes to be net zero ready. So far this has involved engagement with local community groups including Climate Action West Midlands, the Sustainable Housing Action Partnership and Carbon Co-op.

ESIG Contribution

I participated in an offshoot group from the ESIG, in which four group members collaborated over a series of video conferences to produce the presentation "Spaceship Earth: Systems Engineering on a Finite Planet" delivered at the October 2019 meeting. In this group we took systems thinking to new extents, considering the biophysical system of systems within which the energy systems operate.

Relevant Experience

I have had lead organisational and communication roles in similar groups in the past, including the sustainability team in Arup's Solihull branch. Furthermore, I have been carrying out much of the requirements of this role in an informal capacity since 2018, maintaining the membership list and Teams group, providing technical assistance, periodic news posts and file management.