



**Just Transition:
Katie Black**

Just Transition



Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm is driving the transition to a net zero future, but it would not be possible without our highly skilled team. As part of our new Just Transition job series, we are talking to team members who have made the move to renewables from a previously high-carbon role.

Just Transition: Katie Black

Job title: Supply Chain Plan Manager

Length of position: 11 months

Katie Black recently joined SSE Renewables after beginning her career in Aberdeen's oil and gas market. The climate crisis is incredibly important for Katie, and she wanted to join an industry that was speeding up the process to a greener future:

Tell us a bit more about your previous role in the energy sector?

Before I joined SSE Renewables, I was part of two large energy businesses supporting Aberdeen's oil and gas industry. I worked across a variety of roles ranging from paralegal to contract management. This is also where I had the chance to work as a supply chain commercial specialist in upstream oil and gas.

Why did you decide to make the switch to a job in renewables?

The climate emergency has been becoming more important to me, and the more I researched jobs in renewable

energy, it became clear that I wanted a role that aligned with my own values – a future powered by clean, green energy production.

What does your current role involve on a day-to-day basis?

At SSE Renewables, I predominantly work on Berwick Bank Offshore Wind Farm. My role offers quite a holistic view of the project to ensure we are carrying out the development in line with UK and Scottish Government commitments to deliver net zero, all while supporting the economy. As a team, we are exploring innovation and supporting the future skills base whether that be from early learners, early career professionals or experienced higher. Examples include where we are supporting SMEs and investing in key skills development to attract the right talent to the project.

I am also heavily affiliated with the bidding

team to provide them with government support to our "supply chain initiatives". This also involves working closely with the procurement team to put forward recommendations to help support our case for constructing the offshore wind farm in a sustainable way that also promotes UK Government targets.

What skills have you been able to transfer from oil and gas to renewables?

So far, I have found there are similarities across both sectors, meaning I have been able to easily apply commercial skills to my new role in renewables. From a project management perspective, it is structured similarly, so getting a fairly quick understanding of project structure and controls was relatively straightforward. A lot of my soft skills I use day-to-day have also been incredibly easy to transfer.

It is a fast-paced industry to work in that is still relatively new in comparison to oil and gas, however, I am managing to fill the gaps in my knowledge of renewables quickly through the support of the team.

Did you require any additional training/ upskilling for this role in renewables?

I am learning something new every day. I am always looking for ways to expand my knowledge. So far, I haven't been required to have any formal training other than my previous experience in oil and gas. The role has mostly been on the job training, and fully getting stuck in with the work, which I personally feel is the best way to learn!

Why was it important to you to transition to a low carbon role?

Renewables is a pioneering industry, and Berwick Bank is setting an example for

our future energy production. Renewables also has the longevity and security that oil and gas lacks. Switching to a low carbon role was important to me because the energy transition is happening now, and I wanted to be part of this journey – I am very glad to be in it now!

I am still quite early on in my career, but I am already identifying the need for vital skills in this industry to support us on the road to net zero. I hope to remain in the industry for years to come.

Any advice you would give to others considering making the transition from a high carbon to low carbon role in renewables?

If you are considering a greener role in renewable technologies, simply do it! It's super dynamic and feels like we're on the cusp of a great journey. It's fast paced but an exciting industry to be in and our work is safeguarding green energy production for future generations.

sserenewables.com/careers

