



Protecting workers' health and safety in renewable energy

The renewables industry has witnessed massive growth in the last decade, but this has not been accompanied by the robust health and safety processes we see in other forms of energy generation.

As a result, professionals in renewables are exposed to a significantly higher risk of injury or ill-health.

Working in any job should not compromise your wellbeing, but there is a unique dynamic in renewables because it is growing rapidly as we respond to the climate emergency.

Estimates suggest we need to create a 400,000-strong skilled energy workforce over the next three decades to deliver net zero.

To achieve this, the renewables industry must be welcoming and inclusive for all new employees, and ensuring their safety, health and dignity is a key part of this.

Expert evidence shows that effective worker engagement is key to health and safety.

Prospect, with our long involvement in the energy sector, is actively tackling the issues that matter to people working in renewables.

Here are just a few of the reasons why Prospect believes action needs to be taken:

- Renewables, and offshore wind in particular, has never had a strong safety record. Following several serious incidents, the Health and Safety Executive was forced to intervene by writing to the employers' safety bodies calling for action.
- In 2020, the rate of lost time to injuries in offshore renewables was four times as high as in offshore oil and gas, which is itself a high hazard industry.
- We know from our members that long hours, fatigue and stress are rife in renewables.
- Working over 16 hours has a similar impact on your reactions as drinking two pints of beer.
- We also know that there is a growing problem with stress across the energy sector as a whole, and it's likely to be just as bad in renewables, if not worse.
- Stress is physically and psychologically harmful and affects how people behave. This can impair the decisions they make, potentially increasing the risk of accidents.



Learn more about these issues in our full pamphlet 'Protecting workers' health and safety in renewable energy'.

Download it at bit.ly/HS-renewables or scan the QR code.





Why Prospect?

Prospect represents the interests of over 22,000 members working across all parts of the energy sector and, increasingly, in renewables.

Our members are engineers, managers and specialists and we campaign on behalf their behalf for a sensible, informed approach to critical questions, such as energy resilience, their pay and conditions and health and safety.

Trade unions are the most effective tool we have in ensuring healthy and safe workplaces.

Union safety reps and joint consultation arrangements have been shown to reduce accident rates by as much as 50%.

Prospect is also a member of the National HESAC, the national health and safety committee for the electricity sector.



How Prospect can help you

As well as working to protect your health and safety, Prospect membership offers many other benefits for professionals working in renewables.

We ensure that our members' voices are heard in all aspects of their work, such as pay and conditions, training and development and making sure that you are treated fairly and respectfully.

Other Prospect member benefits include:

- Professional and expert advice
- Career development
- 24-hour LegalLine
- Personal injury scheme
- Free wills
- Financial advice and planning
- Discounts on shopping and bills



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