

My name is Robert Diamond and my current role is as the Sustainability Associate at Ingleton Wood. I am the Chairman of the CIBSE Home Counties North East region and am a CIBSE Low Carbon Consultant. I entered this industry because I am passionate about engineering a low-carbon built environment for this and future generations.



THE ROUTE TO BECOMING A BUILDING SERVICES ENGINEER

I have worked in the industry since 1997 after I graduated with a degree in Integrated Engineering Systems from Manchester Metropolitan University.

I was inspired to enter the building services field as it was one area where I could have a positive effect on the environmental crises facing us, particularly due to the high contribution of carbon emissions in the UK from the built environment.

I began work at BWP plc as a junior building services engineer. I further specialised in sustainable and environmental design through a part-time Master's degree at London South Bank University in Energy Engineering. I was shortlisted for Graduate of the Year in 2000 – the judges were impressed with my vision for a sustainable future.

Since BWP I have worked at MLM and WSP and joined Ingleton Wood 10 years ago as their senior mechanical design engineer. Some 5 years ago I set up an independent environmental design department, specialising in renewable technologies, environmental option appraisals, the BREEAM environmental assessment methodology and providing low carbon design advice. I took on a new position as a sustainability specialist and was promoted to the position of associate to reflect this additional responsibility.

As part of my role I also lecture on low carbon design and assessment and have had the opportunity to present to university students in Latvia on behalf of the British Embassy, at various National Conferences including Ecobuild, and to clients within the Health, Education and Social Housing Sectors.



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GREATEST PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

My greatest professional accomplishments were becoming an Associate of my company, becoming a Chartered Engineer and Chartered Environmentalist, and setting up a successful new environmental department.

I have also won a number of national awards including the Winner of the ACR News Awards Consultant of the Year and the National Heat Pumps Award Consultant of the Year, also a Green Apple Environmental Award and have been Shortlisted for Environmental Champion and for the Individual contribution to the Energy Industry.

APPLYING FOR FCIBSE

I chose to become FCIBSE CEng because of my aspiration to become a leader in my field. I felt this needed to be backed up with the highest professional

qualifications, giving clients confidence in my ability.

One doesn't need to be put off by the application process – it really is quite straight forward. I would suggest finding a supportive mentor and ensuring you have support from your company and colleagues.

HOW CIBSE MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS ME

The benefits of membership include being part of an international network of engineers specialising in the field of building services. Having access to the latest developments in the field is also important to me.

ADVICE TO OTHERS CONSIDERING A CAREER IN BUILDING SERVICES

By choosing a career in building services you can make a difference and have a positive and direct effect on reducing global warming. I would also recommend going down the CIBSE Low Carbon

Consultant route, and keeping an open mind!

I have felt supported throughout my career by CIBSE, and joined the local committee 10 years ago. I have acted as Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Chair, and have been Chair of the HCNE region for the past 2 years.

GIVING BACK TO THE INDUSTRY

As the current Chair of our region we offer CPD to all levels of engineers and I am particularly excited by our role in promoting building services to new engineers coming into the industry. I also enjoy giving lectures and talks, and have spoken at various academic and technical conferences.

I am currently continuing my studies at the UEA in Environmental Sciences and Humanities, to pursue my passion for a low carbon built environment, so adding to my

knowledge in this field and bringing in a holistic perspective.

One of the things I enjoy most about my job is recommending alternative low carbon solutions to clients, seeing these employed, and thus contributing to overall carbon emission reduction, playing albeit a small part in reducing global warming.

I would recommend pursuing this career and becoming a Fellow of CIBSE as this is the pinnacle of professional qualifications. ■



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