

National Apprenticeship Week 2026: Emma Slater – One Year On

4 months ago



In 2025 [Energy UK](#) showcased a range of apprentices as they took their first steps into the energy industry. One year on, they caught up with the same people to find out how their apprenticeship has helped to progress their new careers.

A year has passed since you last updated us on your apprenticeship, what you are now doing?

Since completing my dual fuel smart metering apprenticeship with Utilita, I've remained actively involved in the field, installing and maintaining smart meters for customers. I've also taken on greater responsibility, such as mentoring new starters.

A standout moment for me this year was the opportunity to support our install teams in Scotland. One memorable experience involved assisting a customer whose meters were experiencing persistent connectivity issues. Through careful troubleshooting and collaboration with my colleagues, I was able to resolve the problem.

Seeing the relief and gratitude on the customer's face was incredibly rewarding and highlighted the real impact of our work each day.

What would you say to someone considering an apprenticeship in energy?

For anyone who enjoys hands-on work and is considering an apprenticeship, I can't recommend it enough. You earn while you learn, gain recognised qualifications, and build valuable practical experience. I am extremely grateful to have had this opportunity and would encourage others to take the leap!

February 2025

What is your apprenticeship?

Smart Meter Diploma (Level 2) at Utilita.

Why did you choose an apprenticeship over university?

What I love about being an apprentice is being able to learn while implementing that learning into my role. I chose not to go to university because I'm quite a hands-on person - I enjoy the physicality of the learning here.

I want to take time to learn everything I need to know about smart metering and know my job inside out, so I can be the best that I can be.

What does your day to day look like?

The number one focus is learning, education, and health and safety. Our job as apprentices is to learn and become smart metering engineers. That involves observing, asking questions and putting what we've learnt in the training centre and from college into practice.

What skills are the most important?

Communication skills are hugely important to me, alongside problem solving and being versatile.

What do you want to do with your career?

That's a great question. I want to take time to learn everything I need to know about smart metering and know my job inside out, so I can be the best that I can be. I'm very invested in mental health awareness. If there is anything where I can get involved or be an advocate, I'd love that.

Would you recommend it to your friends? What do your friends say about your job?

I would recommend an apprenticeship to my friends, providing they are right for the role and business. What would my friends say... perhaps something like: "Utilita has given Emma a unique opportunity to develop into a new role, gaining qualifications alongside a fair salary."