

Frequently Asked Questions

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1. What is the Energy Envoys scheme?

The Energy Envoys scheme is a volunteering opportunity provided by the National Energy Foundation for young people looking to complete the Volunteering section of their Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The scheme has been recognised by the Duke of Edinburgh's Award as an activity which meets the Award's programme and sectional requirements, demonstrated by the Foundation's status as a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Approved Activity Provider.

2. What does it involve?

You'll start your volunteering by taking our Energy Quiz to find out how much you know about energy, before completing our online Energy Tutorial to learn about the big energy challenges of our time and how to tackle real-world energy problems. You'll then pick an energy project and follow one of our step-by-step guides to help people in your local area to use energy more wisely, save money and help to save the planet. While completing your project, you'll record your progress, collect photos, videos and other materials and share your achievements with us at the end.

3. How do we support you?

The National Energy Foundation will support you through your volunteering by providing an online Energy Tutorial to give you background knowledge and understanding about energy and

step-by-step project guides to help you set up your energy saving project. We will also provide template documents for you to use when delivering your project, as well as one-to-one guidance via the Energy Envoys email address.

4. What's in it for you?

The National Energy Foundation is a Duke of Edinburgh's Award Approved Activity Provider, meaning volunteering as an Energy Envoy can count towards your Bronze, Silver or Gold Award. Volunteering for a leading sustainable energy charity will boost your CV and you'll be able to learn lots of things about the energy sector and energy and building technologies. You'll also gain leadership experience by setting up an energy project and develop your communication and analytical skills through advising others on improving energy use. Your project will help to save energy and carbon emissions, so you're also supporting a good cause and helping to save the planet!

5. What is my time commitment for volunteering?

The total length of your volunteering depends on your Duke of Edinburgh's Award level. The table below shows the volunteering time required for each level and the energy project options available:

Level	Minimum time	Projects
Bronze	3 or 6 months	Energy Audit Energy Awareness Campaign Energy Saving Competition
Silver	6 or 12 months	Energy Audit Energy Awareness Campaign Energy Saving Competition
Gold	12 or 18 months	Energy Advice Service Energy Audit Energy Awareness Campaign

You must spend at least one hour per week volunteering for the minimum time required at your level for it to count towards your Bronze, Silver or Gold Award.

6. How do I sign up?

To sign up to volunteer as an Energy Envoy, you'll need to fill in the online sign up form [here](#). We'll then send you a registration to fill in and return to us, before sending you important information and documents that will help you with your volunteering.

7. Do I need previous experience or knowledge about energy?

No. No existing knowledge is required or assumed. The Energy Tutorial is designed to give you the relevant background knowledge and understanding to be able to complete your volunteering. The scheme is not aimed at those studying any particular subject. Each individual can bring their own unique skillset and creativity to the project and make it their own.

8. Where will I do my volunteering?

Where you do your volunteering is up to you. You will need to choose where to run your energy project and make sure the people in charge are happy for you to complete your project there. You could run your project at your school or DofE centre. Other ideas are also included in the step-by-step project guides. The only requirement is that you are not allowed to carry out your volunteering in your own home, as the aim of your project must be to help your community.

9. Who will be my assessor?

Your assessor needs to be an adult who isn't a family member and who can meet with you regularly so they know what you have been doing. If you are running your energy project at a school, someone like a science teacher might be able to be your assessor. Because the step-by-step project guides set out tasks to complete each week, you will just need to show your assessor evidence of what you have done for them to sign off your volunteering. If you aren't sure who your assessor should be, your DofE Leader should be able to advise on who would be an appropriate assessor.

10. Can I volunteer as an Energy Envoy as part of a group?

There are projects available which suit both individual and group volunteering. The type of volunteering each project is suitable for is clearly identified in the step-by-step project guides. If volunteering as a group, each participant must play a significant part in the project as an individual by taking on particular duties which have been allocated to them. This makes sure that every participant can get involved and make the most of their volunteering experience.

11. Do I have to use one of the step-by-step project guides provided?

No. If you have your own ideas that aren't included in one of the guides, feel free to use them or adapt a guide to meet your own needs. However, you must make sure that your project meets the Duke of Edinburgh's Award sectional requirements. To meet the requirements for the Volunteering section of the Award, your project will need to benefit your community. A project that helps to save energy in your own home would not meet these requirements, but a project that helps to save energy in your DofE centre, school, a community building or other peoples' homes would.

12. What does it cost?

The scheme is offered free of charge to those working towards their Duke of Edinburgh's Award. There is no cost for participants to volunteer as an Energy Envoy and we do not charge for any of our outreach activities, e.g. school visits and leaflets.