

DAVE INSPIRES STUDENTS TO CONSIDER ENGINEERING AS A CAREER CHOICE.



Students interested in science, technology, engineering and maths took the opportunity to quiz a group of young professional engineers on the ways the energy that society needs is now being produced.

Around 150 pupils from four secondary schools in the Redcar area heard Sembcorp Utilities UK's Plant Manager Dave Thompson, plus representatives from EDF Energy, Parsons Brinckerhoff and other organisations involved in renewable energy, address them on the urgent need to transform power production if the UK is to meet its Climate Change targets.

Dave, 31, attended the Future Generation conference at Redcar and Cleveland College as part of Sembcorp's Youth Ambassador programme.

Youngsters aged 14 and 15 from Bydales School in Marske, Redcar Academy, Rye Hills School and Sacred Heart School in Redcar and Lawrence Jackson School at Guisborough listened intently as Dave delivered a thought-provoking presentation about the engineering challenges presented by biomass power.

He explained how he had taken the apprenticeship route to a career in industry and emphasised the number of opportunities available.

Afterwards he took intelligent questions from the students relating to the points he had made. Later, the students were set the challenge of deciding on the most suitable green power options for particular parts of a fictional island based on a set of facts presented to them .

Dave, who joined Sembcorp in 2007, said: “It was a really interesting morning and both the students and the presenters got a lot out of it.”

Tony Hobbs, CEO of Trust for Learning, the organisation arranging the event, said: “Listening to the first-hand experiences of those working in engineering within the power generation sector added so much to the quality of the pupils’ learning experience. It also brought them into direct contact with career role models within the STEM sector and I hope the experience encourages them to consider engineering as a possible career choice.”

He added: “Dave’s input was inspiring and it was particularly good to hear him tell the students that solid, well-paid career opportunities are available for those with the right skills and aptitudes in Teesside and the North East.”

