



Midsummer Energy Ltd
Cambridge Road Industrial Estate
Milton
Cambridge
CB24 6AZ

jobs@midsummerenergy.co.uk

Application pack: Purchasing Executive

At Midsummer, we're passionate about reducing carbon emissions, and from humble beginnings we have grown to be one of the biggest players in the distribution of renewable energy products such as solar PV, battery storage, and heat pumps in the UK and Ireland.

Founded in 2005 on a narrowboat, we've expanded rapidly and we now operate from three UK warehouses and one in Ireland. In addition to trade sales we have a suite of web tools that make design and ordering extremely easy for both solar projects and heat pump installs. Across our team (120-strong and growing) we process around 50,000 orders a year. We were proud to be named the UK's best renewables distributor in 2020 and 2022.

The Purchasing team are key to the continued growth of the company in an increasingly competitive market dealing with very tight margins. As a purchasing executive you will be involved in purchasing goods and supplier negotiations across multiple market segments - commercial rooftop and ground mount solar & battery systems, residential solar & batteries, off-grid solar and also air source heat pumps. If you are looking for a challenge in a company that is spearheading the renewable revolution then please read on!

Andy Rankin,
Managing Director, Midsummer



The role



Do you have a knack for spreadsheets and negotiation, and a passion for renewable technology? We're looking for someone with a keen eye for detail, a strong approach to negotiation and a head for numbers.

You will be joining our Purchasing Department and will be responsible for calculating purchase requirements, maintaining and developing supplier relationships and negotiating favourable terms for Midsummer.

The role will include:

- **Stock control** - You will ensure that we keep appropriate levels of stock across the suppliers you are assigned. You will often be expected to forecast with suppliers at a non-committal level too over longer periods of time.
- **Supplier relations** - You will be expected to foster new, and improve existing, relationships with suppliers. Our partnerships are of critical importance, and ensuring they are robust and honest is vital.
- **Negotiation** - You will be expected to constantly seek out opportunities to improve our terms with suppliers in order to maximise Midsummer's competitive advantage.
- **Communication** - You will liaise with suppliers, logistics and colleagues, with urgency and accuracy to keep goods moving to our warehouses across the UK.
- **Internal operations improvement** - You will be responsible for suggesting improvements to our own internal systems in an effort to achieve continual improvement.
- **Flexibility and responsiveness** - We work in an industry that changes rapidly, and is heavily influenced by macroeconomics and geopolitics. This can require speedy changes to our priorities and focus, and the ability to adapt is critical.

This is a full time role, reporting to the Purchasing Manager, Alex Harris



About you



You enjoy a challenge, and thrive in a fast-paced environment. You're a self-led problem-solver, but able to work closely with a small team to keep things on track. You will have the opportunity to work with like-minded individuals towards a common goal.

As a person, you:

- are friendly
- are a clear and confident communicator and have experience in negotiation
- have superb numerical skills
- are accurate, efficient and precise
- have good commercial instincts for when to query the numbers
- are motivated and organised
- have the ability to pick up and learn technicalities quickly
- are IT literate and proficient.
- have a desire to do well in everything you do.

Experience in purchasing, stock management and/or the solar or heating industries would certainly be an advantage - but they are not essential, and recent graduates who have at least a year of experience working in an organisation, even if not in a procurement role would be equally welcome to apply. Any studies, professional or academic qualifications in purchasing or supply chain are also an advantage, though not required.



What we offer



You'll be joining a young, dynamic company with positive values that is aiming to position itself as the leading distributor of renewable energy systems in the UK.

The position is based in our offices neighbouring Milton Country Park on the outskirts of Cambridge, but we are willing to consider applicants based at our Glasgow offices.

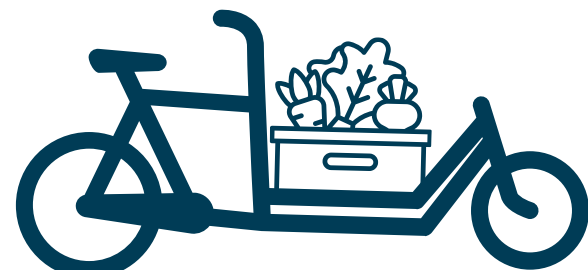
You will learn a lot on the job, and we'll bring you up to speed as fast as possible. It's a fast-moving industry so new products, customers and technologies come along all the time - there will always be new things to learn. On top of that, the purchasing and technical department are a small, but close-knit team with a strong sense of camaraderie.

- Salary of £30,000 - £32,000 depending on experience
- Company profit share scheme
- Cycle to work and EV salary sacrifice schemes
- Free staff veg box scheme

We can be flexible with start dates, but are looking to fill the position quickly.

To apply

Please complete the online application form at
<https://midsummerwholesale.co.uk/jobs>



Our Story



2005



2015



2025

Midsummer began life in the front room of a narrowboat, when our founder started selling solar panels to fellow boaters.

Sticking to our roots

We've grown through 7 ever-larger warehouses since then and diversified what we do - but an important part of our business remains the supply of off-grid systems to customers who need power away from the national grid.

Growing branches

With the introduction of the Feed-in Tariff in 2010 we began installing and supplying larger grid-connect solar PV systems. Today, the distribution of solar PV and battery storage accounts for the majority of our £125M annual turnover.

Planting seeds

In 2019 we opened a subsidiary on the outskirts of Dublin. Our team have gone from strength to strength, and have just moved to a larger warehouse. Last year we also opened another satellite warehouse in Glasgow.

Software - the secret of our success

We've written our own PV design software that makes designing solar power systems incredibly easy. It's used by installers and manufacturers in the UK and internationally.

We have also developed software for designing heat pump systems. Heat pumps are the future of heating, and we want to be at the forefront of their deployment in the UK. They will be an important part of the next chapter of our story!

Our values



It has never been our aim simply to make a profit. We want to make a positive impact on the world around us too. This is what we stand for.

Eliminating fossil fuels

We are passionate about moving as swiftly as we can to eliminate fossil fuels from electricity generation, heating and transport. We only sell products and systems that further that aim.

We are also working to reduce fossil fuel use in our own operations. We have solar arrays on our Milton office and our warehouse in Glasgow. We help our employees to keep their own footprints low by encouraging cycling and walking over car use.

Reducing consumption

Over-consumption is at the heart of many of the environmental problems that the world is experiencing. Most businesses operate a business model which is designed to encourage consumption. We want to be different.

We sell solar PV systems that greatly reduce the amount of energy that properties need to import, and we sell heat pumps that use less primary energy (and from less damaging sources) than the fossil fuel based heating systems that they are replacing.

We don't sell disposable items. All the products that we sell are designed to last for many years. Many of the solar panels we sell have a 30 year warranty.

We try where we can to reduce consumption in our own operations. We re-use a lot of the packaging that products arrive in.



Putting people and planet before profit

We believe that businesses have a bigger responsibility to the planet, and to their employees and the communities they operate in, than they do to their shareholders.

We are a successful business. Some of our annual profit is returned to our employees through a staff profit share scheme. We also have a community fund which donates to socially beneficial and sustainable projects in the community. Almost all the remaining profit is reinvested into the business - very little is paid out in shareholder dividends.

We believe in reducing the gap between rich and poor. We pay well over the living wage to all our employees, and our profit share scheme is equitable, so that all employees, from the most junior to the most senior, share equally in the rewards when the company does well. For senior staff we aim to pay competitive salaries, but we don't believe in excessive executive pay.

We believe healthy employees are happy employees. We work with local organic growers to provide all our employees with a vegetable box each week.



Leadership team



Andy Rankin

Founder

A former climate scientist who started a solar company from his off-grid home 15 years ago. Andy likes to build things from scratch, whether that's companies, houses, solar farms, software or freight bikes.



Jamie Vaux

Commercial Director

An environmental business enthusiast who went looking for a company to throw his idealism at, Jamie has spent 10 years chasing sales and building the Midsummer team. Out of the office you'll find him lifting something heavy or cooking.



Lowri Goodyer

Sales Director

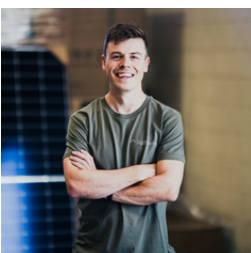
A fellow eco-crusader, Lowri heads up UK sales - and can be found climbing, surfing, running, snowboarding or gardening when she wants a rest!



Tom Livesey

Purchasing and Partnerships Director

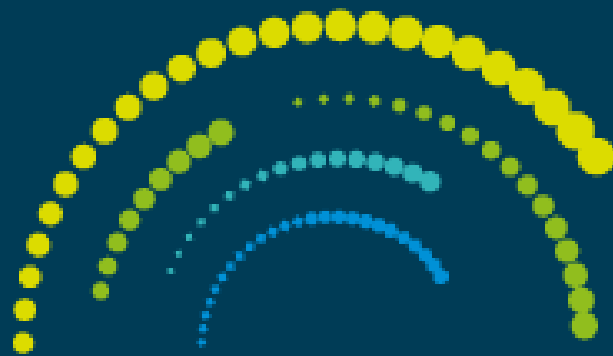
Tom's seismic product knowledge is only bettered by his knowledge of craft beers and fantasy football tactics. He leads our resellers and purchasing teams.



Tom Kemsley

Scotland Manager

Tom joined our graduate scheme green out of university. Although he subsequently tried to escape, even in New Zealand he found the magnetic pull of Midsummer drawing him back. He heads up our office in Glasgow.



MIDSUMMER

2022 Distributor of the Year - Solar & Storage Live Awards

"I can't imagine a job I'd love more or a company I could be more committed to. Every single day we're moving renewables forward and I'm surrounded by a great bunch of people helping to do it."

Jamie Vaux, Commercial Director



Easy PV

Solar design made simple

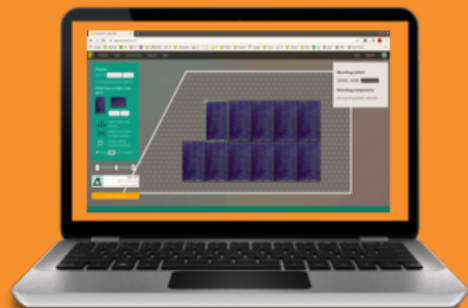
We used to install solar PV systems ourselves - and found that we had to use 5 or 6 different software packages to complete a full design.

Every mounting system, every inverter brand, had their own design tool - and then you had to use spreadsheets and word processors to pull everything together and create a nicely formatted quote.

We shoehorned a design package together that did everything - and saved ourselves a lot of time and wasted effort!

When we gave up installations to concentrate on distribution, we realised our design tool was actually one of our greatest assets. We put a huge amount of effort into improving it and making it available to our distribution partners. It's now used by hundreds of people every day to design PV systems. And because it connects seamlessly to our e-commerce website, it makes it easy for users to purchase from us. We have seen our sales grow enormously as a result.

- Draws roofs to scale
- Automatically create solar array layouts
- Designs the mounting system and undertakes structural calculations
- Selects appropriate inverters and undertakes stringing calculations
- Specifies electrical components
- Creates a schematic
- Produces shading & yield calculations
- Generates a professional quote and technical report
- Makes financial projections for the customer
- Auto-completes commissioning forms
- Connects to our websites for rapid ordering



33,000+

designs a month
(and growing rapidly)

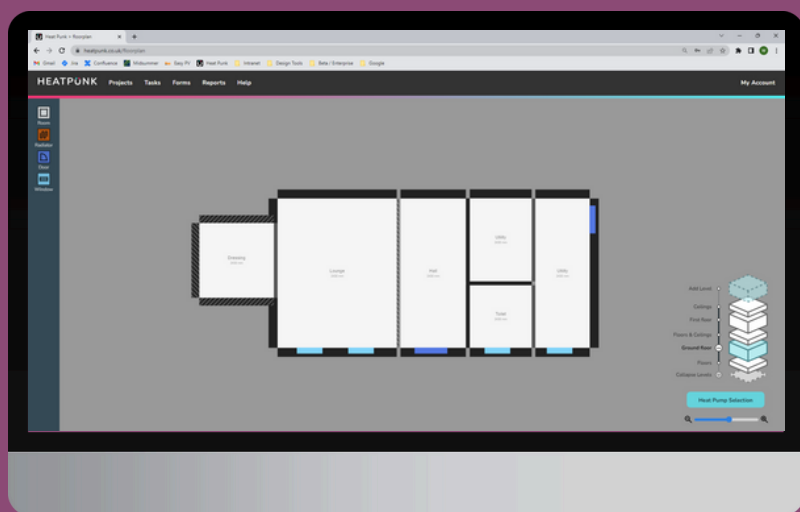
easy-pv.co.uk

HEATPÜNK

We've also released a tool that allows installers to survey properties and design heat pump systems.

Building on the web technology we used to create the roof editor for Easy-PV, we've created a floorplan editor that makes it extremely easy to draw a house to scale and undertake detailed room-by-room heat loss calculations.

The software automatically selects the optimum heat pump and shows which rooms may need upgraded radiators to work at the relatively low flow temperatures that a heat pump produces.



Heat pumps are the future of heating, We're at the beginning of a transformation of the entire heating industry, and our software will be a big part of that. There are exciting times ahead!

heatpunk.co.uk