

Application pack – Graduate IT Support Engineer

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 UK in the distribution of renewable energy products such as solar PV, battery storage, and heat pumps.

Much of our growth has been driven by Easy PV, the design software we have developed that makes it extremely easy to design and specify solar PV systems. It's the most popular PV design software in the UK, with more than a million projects created. We're replicating that model in the nascent market for heat pumps with our heat pump specification tool, Heatpunk. There are huge opportunities (and challenges) ahead as we extend the capability of our existing tools and build new ones.

A vitally important aspect of any IT department involves ensuring that hardware and software runs smoothly for internal users across the business. Assisting with issues promptly, cleanly and effectively can be the difference between a workforce disillusioned with a lack of IT support, and a vibrant, positive energy that comes with knowing that the IT team is firmly on the side of the business.

The role of an IT support engineer can be a hugely effective springboard into system administration, cybersecurity, network engineering, infrastructure engineering, devops, techops and software development. You will spend some time working on or shadowing all of these areas, building up an impressively broad base of skills in a short time.

Working at Midsummer will give you an opportunity to work in a friendly, growing company that is playing an important part in the energy transition. We hope we have piqued your interest. Read on for more details!



Joseph Clark

IT and information security manager, Midsummer



The role



You will join our IT team, working on a mixture of helpdesk support, system administrative tasks and basic software development tickets. Some specific tasks include:

- **Helpdesk/Technical support**
 - Serve as the first point of contact for internal IT support requests via email, phone, or in-person.
 - Log, prioritise and resolve technical issues relating to hardware, software and networking.
 - Maintain clear communication with users regarding progress of tickets.
 - Escalate nontrivial issues to internal support, system administrators, or software developers as appropriate.
- **System administration**
 - Set up laptops and phones for new users, utilising and improving existing scripts and systems.
 - Use our internal asset manager to keep track of device deployment.
 - Use monitoring tools such as Grafana to track our servers' statuses and performance.
 - Write, refine, debug and use Ansible scripts for IAC deployment.
 - Assist the IT manager in carrying out audits, passing cybersecurity audits and refining network infrastructure.
 - Perform troubleshooting and maintenance on internal servers.
- **Software development**
 - Liaise with the product manager to assist in basic software changes to our Easy PV and Heatpunk software.
 - Carry out QA of sites and features.



About you



You're a charismatic individual who likes helping people and making things run smoothly. You enjoy balancing a variety of responsibilities and wearing different hats as the situation demands. Communication is one of your fortés, and you have an aptitude for picking up and learning technical skills quickly.

We care as much about the person as we do about specific technical skills and ability. What we are looking for is someone who can learn from their colleagues quickly, is good at prioritising effectively and managing their time well, has a good deal of common sense and an eye for detail, and has a good technical grounding.

Technically, any experience related to Linux, SQL, containers, cloud infrastructure, git, scripting and cybersecurity is a bonus, but is not essential. You should, however, have some experience of coding in some language.

We value initiative. We like people who can work independently, take pride in what they do, and don't need to be micro-managed.

The list of tasks expected might look overwhelming. You will not be doing all of these things at once or to begin with, and will gradually learn how to do things from your colleagues and line manager. We will pace you and not have unreasonable expectations while you are learning the ropes.

You might be interested in tech in general terms, but not have decided on a specific path. In that case, this role is a fantastic option, as it gives a good solid foundation in several areas, and will open up pathways for more specialised technical areas in the future.



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. As an IT support engineer, you will be assisting people across the entire company to work effectively, as well as being a direct assistant to the IT manager. This will be a challenging but fulfilling role.

The position is based in our offices neighbouring Milton Country Park on the outskirts of Cambridge. Due to the nature of the job, it is expected that you be in the office 5 days a week. Working hours are 09:00–17:30 Monday to Thursday and 09:00–17:00 on Friday.

Starting salary will be around £30k, with some room for negotiation if much of the desirable skillset is already met.

You won't get a company car – we'd rather encourage people to get on their bike or take public transport. But you do get a free bag of delicious, fresh, locally-grown organic veg every week.

We are looking to hire as soon as possible: the sooner you can start, the better.



Our Story



2005



2015



2023

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 > £100M 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. We have since 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're developing software for designing heat pump systems too. 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.

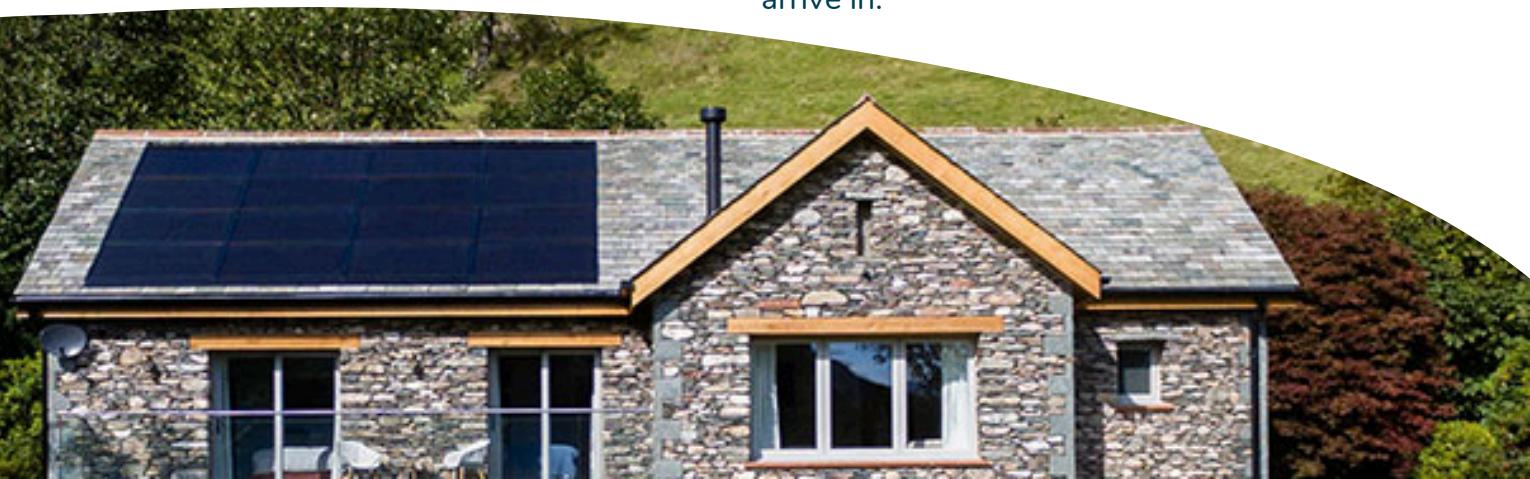
Reducing consumption

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 reuse 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

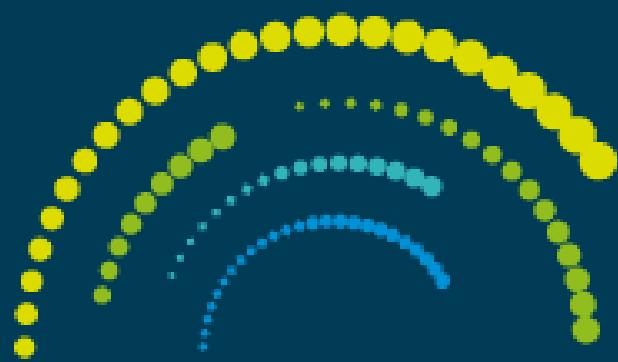
A fellow eco-crusader, Lowri heads up UK sales - and can be found climbing, surfing, running, snowboarding or gardening when she wants a rest!



Tom 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

"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.

- Creates 3D model buildings from detailed elevation data and aerial imagery
- 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
- Undertakes financial projections
- Auto-completes commissioning forms
- Connects to our websites for rapid ordering



30,000
designs a month
(and growing rapidly)

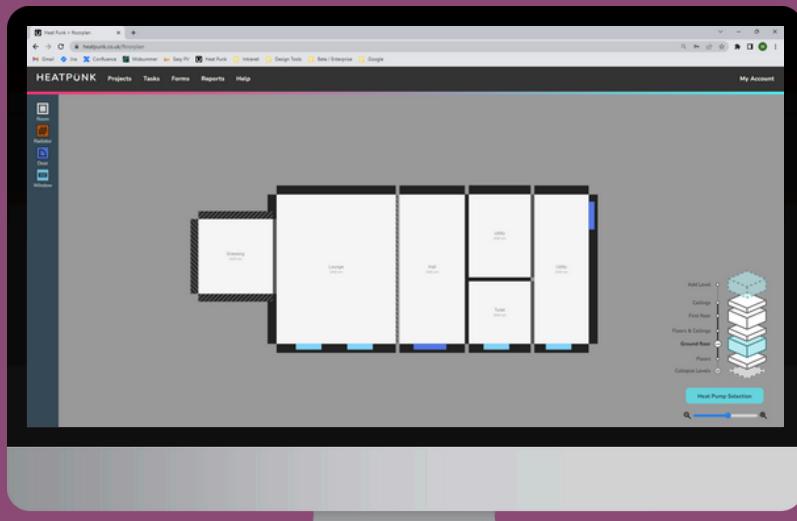
easy-pv.co.uk

HEATPUNK

We've recently released a new 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