



Mike Blanch, BEng, MSc, MPhil, CEng FIMechE

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Profile

Senior level director with over 35 years' experience in renewable energy. Delivers solutions incorporating interactions between technology, business and economics. Directs policy and strategy, programme and project management, shape and undertake bid evaluation. Business development leader, forming consortiums, preparing bids, and winning work. Excellent collaborator and facilitator who value people and uses emotional intelligence to build relationships and motivate them. Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers. Experienced manager of a wind test site. Passionate about building the net zero future.

Key skills

- Expert offshore and onshore wind industries.
- Author of market roadmaps and visions, technology, innovation and supply chain strategies, and jobs and local economic benefit impacts.
- Developer of energy policy and strategy.
- Evaluator of technology and projects.
- Provider of education on skills needs and author and present courses.
- Developer of market entry strategies and competitor analysis.
- Expert in levelized cost of energy modelling.
- Builder of teams by selecting the right people to do the right things with the right resources.
- Pioneer and innovator in community energy.
- Communicator of complexity in simply ways.
- Driven by how best to achieve net zero.

Current roles

Director, Blanch Renewables February 2025 to present

Sole trader helping organisations of all sizes globally respond to the energy challenges of climate change focused on:

- Advancing renewables supply chain,
- Taking wind global, and
- Accelerating community energy ownership.

Has included:

- Reviewing proposals and process improvement advice.
- Writing concrete demand model for Offshore Wind Growth Partnership.
- Ongoing work with:
 - On feasibility to form the Great Wind Coop, and

Consultant, Ocean Energy Pathway June 2025 to present

Supporting this non-profit organisation develop sustainable offshore wind markets in new countries. Has included work shaping innovations, specifying, reviewing advise work for Brazil, Columbia, India, Philippines, and South Korea including regulatory and policy analysis, public and private governance, environmental licensing and impact assessment guides, skills roadmaps and local supply chain development pathways.

Consultant, Community Power Solutions March 2026 to present

Delivering short lived 'projects' of management consulting, temporary resourcing while longer term solutions come into place, and helping shape those longer-term solutions.



Current focus is on shaping measures to improve performance and scale consultancy in the community energy sector better and securing innovation funding to build on existing IP.

Voluntary work:

Chair, Wind Working Group, Community Energy England (CEE) April 2026 to present

I led this member forum established in 2026 in response to the end of the de facto ban on onshore wind projects in England to support and accelerate the development of community wind energy projects in England.

Founder and Chair, Westmill Sustainable Trust (WeSET) 2009 to present

I lead a team of 20 volunteers including 7 Trustees, and 3 paid consultants: the Education Officer, Assistant Education Officer, and Visits and Volunteers Coordinator. I have enabled. We promote sustainable energy and have welcomed 18,000 visitors to the Westmill Wind and Solar Farms.

Founder and member of the Board of Westmill Wind Farm Cooperative 2004 to present

I am part of the team that developed the Westmill Wind Farm and now directs its management - a successful 100% community-owned project. I provide key input on the wider wind industry perspective, technology and the project's history and actively develop the wider sector.

Qualifications

- CEng FI MechE
- MPhil on Aerodynamics of Horizontal Axis Wind Turbines (HAWTS), Cranfield University
- MSc Energy Conservation and the Environment, Cranfield University
- BSc (Hons) Engineering Warwick University
- NEBS Management Introductory Award at Certificate Level

Previous experience

Renewables Specialist, Department for Business and Trade May 2025 to April 2026

Contributed to the delivery of the UK Government's Clean Energy policy through critical renewable energy initiatives and advancing sustainable energy solutions. Further understood the strengths of the UK supply chain in technologies and developing quantified investment opportunities for the Office for Investment, overseas posts, and others in delivering live investment projects. Upskilling civil servants and Great British Energy staff. Determined barriers and challenges with my senior network of industry contacts. Wrote overviews of investment potentials in onshore wind and solar PV, and DBT's offshore wind export strategy. Steered the Everoze work on Onshore Wind Supply Chain Capability Assessment. Drove further industry involvement in initiatives including for deeper water offshore wind demonstration in Kincardine, and realising a Scottish composite recycling facility suitable for blades.

Operations Director and Business Consulting lead, BVG Associates 2009 to 2025

Part of the senior management team that grew the company from 4 to 30 staff. Responsible for operations including elements of financial reporting and human resources, I actively listened and dealt constructively with performance.

I led the business consulting team helping clients understand and interface with markets, supply chain, technology, O&M, education, and market intelligence. I was responsible for business development and winning work for the team. I advised on wind turbine technology, supply chain development, and delivered due diligence, levelised cost of energy modelling, and programme support. I shaped and undertook bid evaluations including for offtake and transmission assets.

Across the business, including economics and industry building, I directed teams including checking and approving work for over 250 projects (see Recent key BVGA projects below).



I am steeped in the challenges of renewables offerings and have evolved consulting and strategic guidance. Notably I managed DECC's UK Renewables from 2009 to 2012 which was the forerunner of current industry-building programmes showcasing the UK for fixed-bottomed offshore wind. I was seconded into BIS from 2012 to 2014 as a wind industry representative where I was instrumental in co-developing and beginning the implementation of the first UK Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy. I was the Technical Advisor to The Crown Estate for the Celtic Sea Leasing Round seeking to ensure UK benefits from the emergence of floating offshore wind. I have completed 11 evaluations of power purchase solicitations for Renewable Energy including 4 for offshore wind.

Department of Business Innovation and Skills 2012 – 2014. Seconded as UK wind industry representative where I co-developed the first UK Offshore Wind Industrial Strategy and supported its initial implementation.

Principal Consultant, Atmos Consulting 2009. Delivered due diligence and consultancy services, including technical aspects of environmental impact assessments, such as noise policy assessment, feasibility assessments and business development.

Wind Energy Manager, Atkins, Carbon Management and Renewables 2007-2009. Developed wind farms for a utility company, advised financial institutions on wind farm portfolios, and supervised wind feasibility and energy yield studies. Led the development of a GIS wind site selection tool for a large public body and reviewed health and safety at wind turbine sites for a wind turbine supplier.

Business Consultant 2006 – 2007 and Senior Consultant 2004 – 2006 Future Energy Solutions (now Ricardo). Led the wind team, managing and conducting wind energy feasibility studies, wind resource and energy yield assessments, renewable energy technology assessments, contract reviews, construction monitoring, turbine supply negotiations, and alternative energy elements of carbon management programmes. Certificated Scroby Sands Offshore Wind Farm's build progress, programme managed large Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) innovation projects, secretariat to DTI's Renewables Advisory Board subgroup, wind proposal assessor, negotiated £6 million grant to Beatrice Offshore Demonstrator.

Wind Test Site Manager and Research Engineer 1998-2004 and Wind Test Site Engineer 1993-1998 Energy Research Unit (ERU), CCLRC Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Project Engineer on research projects, managing the site and test activities. Rebuilt the Windharvester wind turbine and checked the mechanical design of experimental turbines. Coordinator of the joint industry and academia Offshore Wind Energy Network.

I am a member of the Prospect Union, and I was the Chair of the 600 strong branch of The Central Laboratory of the Research Councils from 2002 to 2004.

Research Assistant in Wind Turbine Group, School of Mechanical Engineering, Cranfield University 1991-1992. Recommissioned and ran the Horizontal Axis Wind Turbine (HAWTS) test facility for the "Aerodynamics of HAWTS" project, and produced the final report.

Recent key projects

Client confidential: Bid evaluation. I shaped metrics and evaluated over 10 offtake bids for onshore renewables, offshore wind, and transmission including HVDC links.

Offshore Energies UK (OEUK): Guide to UK offshore wind development processes.

Published January 2025, I led and coauthored this guide designed to provide insight to OEUK members into how offshore wind projects are developed in UK waters. This clear guide explains the relevant process, including marine spatial planning, seabed leasing, consenting, grid connection, supply chain requirements, and offtake. It identified the organisations responsible for



each stage in the process and for each UK country. It included recent, ongoing and planned changes and highlight the aspirations of governments and the direction the industry was moving.

NYSERDA: New York offshore wind solicitation inflation adjustment design. I led the team to develop formulas via an RFI process to accurately and predictably adjust strike prices to reflect changing market conditions between bid submission and project construction. I established the use of a milestone nearer to construction to get the most benefit from this price adjustment.

North Carolina Department of Commerce: Building North Carolina's offshore wind supply chain, The roadmap for leveraging manufacturing and infrastructure advantages. I led this study that enabled Governor Cooper to commit to 8 GW of offshore wind by 2040, and set the work plan for the North Carolina Taskforce for Offshore Wind Economic Resource Strategies.

The Crown Estate: Technical advisor for Round 5 Celtic Sea Floating Wind Leasing Programme. I led the team identifying factors that could affect the 4+ GW first Celtic Sea offshore wind leasing round design. This included advice on the technical design envelope, likely innovations, energy take-off for electricity and hydrogen, levelized cost of energy and its spatial distribution, supply chain potential, test and demonstration needs, and array losses impacts.

Offshore Wind Industry Council (OWIC) via ORE Catapult: OWIC innovation gap analysis. I provided a wider view of research innovation areas in need of most intervention from OWIC, and the form of intervention required. I shaped priorities by researching and engaging with industry over the current activity in 15 priority innovation areas under six key research objectives.

Global leading EPCI in oil and gas sector: Business plan support for market entry into the offshore wind industry. I led business plan work including market forecasting, describing demand drivers, identifying stepping-stone projects, exploring market entry options, estimating revenues and margins, and competitor analysis. I identified alliances and acquisitions, target clients, start-up budgets, variations related to EBIT margin, and recommended team structure.

ORE Catapult: Design of UK-India ORE innovation accelerator. I designed a UK-India Offshore Renewable Energy innovation accelerator programme, assisted by my subcontractor Carbon Limiting Technologies (CLT). I identified the areas of the supply chain and specific companies that would most likely benefit from and add most value to the industry.

Airborne Wind Europe: White paper "Getting airborne - the need to realise the benefits of airborne wind energy for net zero". I provided this independent white paper that assessed the case for investment into airborne wind energy (AWE). It was used as a key part of the campaign about the benefits of AWE adoption. This led to AWE being included in the April 2024 German Renewable Energy Sources Act (EEG) making German AWE projects eligible for a feed-in tariff.

Multiple offshore wind developers: Supply Chain Plans, Supply Chain Development Statements and Conceptual Strategies for Bidding Credits. I supported developers produce plans including Supply Chain Plans for UK CfD Allocation Rounds, Development Statements for ScotWind leasing and Conceptual Strategies for Bidding Credits for US BOEM lease auctions.

UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office, Asia-Pacific team offshore wind education. I led the preparation of material and the delivery of workshops for civil servants in the Asia-Pacific region. The material included an industry synopsis and insight into UK companies in offshore wind, and equipped the FCDO to better identify new opportunities for UK companies.

NOF Energy/ Energi Coast, Mapping the supply chain of the Energi Coast. I led the building of an offshore wind supplier online platform to engage the buyers and suppliers of offshore wind in north east England. Surveyed over 400 respondents companies and quality checked and populated listing of all respondent's answers, and provided a high-level analysis of the results.



Green Port Growth (now Supply Chain Network), Supply chain support, Green Port Growth Business Support programme. I led the support of GPG and provided expert advice to companies in Hull and the East Riding of Yorkshire, in parallel with the development of Siemens Hull blade facility. Over a period of 6 years, we supported both the central organisation (through about 20 projects) and about 20 specific suppliers via one-to-one business supports.