

James Johnston
CEO & Co-Founder

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James first registered the Open Utility company one night in 2013, after realising he wanted to play a role in shaping a decentralised and resilient energy industry. Two years later, James is the most commonly seen face of Open Utility, speaking at events and conferences across Europe.

To date, James and his co-founders have grown the team to 9 people, including developers, designers, sales and marketing members. They have secured £800k in funding, including a £310K grant from the Department of Energy and Climate Change's Energy Entrepreneurs Fund.

Throughout his life, James continues to challenge the status quo. At university, James founded the *Atheist and Humanist Society* and was vice-president of the *Students in Free Enterprise* club. From 2009, he spent 3 years researching the future of power distribution in buildings at University of Strathclyde, in a project sponsored by Arup and BRE Trust. In 2009, prior to Open Utility, James founded Solar Sketch, an online design company for the micro-renewables industry.

Open Utility is trialling its first service, Piclo, in partnership with green energy supplier Good Energy from October 2015 - March 2016. Since inception, Open Utility has gathered a number of awards. Open Utility has been named Startup of the Year in the Initiate Awards at European Utility Week 2015, and in 2014, announced as one of the 2014 Nominet Trust 100, Green Startup to Watch 2014 by Greenwise Business, and "Rising Star 2014" by Founders Forum for Good.

For James, Open Utility carves a path towards a positive, sustainable future. Open Utility demonstrates that we can think differently with energy. The company is delivering step-by-step innovation that will help transform the whole energy sector.

Speaker Topics

James has spoken at energy and tech events across Europe. He brings a personable, relatable approach to commenting on a variety of topics such as:

- The future of energy
- Local energy markets
- Decentralised energy markets
- Social tech for good
- Entrepreneurship