

Community Energy England AGM 2021: Director Appointments



Election

Under the Bye Laws of the Association, Community Energy England (CEE) may have up to 10 Elected Directors, of which:

- No less than five shall be duly authorised representatives of Community Members
- No less than one director shall be a duly authorised representative of Corporate Members and one representative of Public Members
- The remainder may be from any class of member.

CEE's rules state that any Director who has served more than thirty-three months since being elected shall retire by rotation, no directors are due to stand down by rotation. Mark Billsborough (co-opted) is standing down from the board.

The Directors who remain on the Board are:

- Afsheen Rashid, Repowering London (Community, CEE Chair)
- Peter Capener, Bath and West Community Energy (Community)
- Martin Crane, Carbon Alternatives (Corporate)
- Rachel Hayes, Regen (Public / Third Sector)
- Mark Kenber, Brighton and Hove Energy Services Cooperative (Community)
- Mark Luntley, Energy4All (Community)
- Ollie Pendered, Community Energy South (Community)
- Helen Seagrave, Electricity North West (Corporate)
- Debbie Trebilco, Whitby Esk Hydro (Community).

Candidates

The following list of candidates comprises:

- Two nominees from Community Sector Members
- Two nominees from Corporate Sector Members.

The candidates were asked to outline their aspirations for CEE, the Board and the contribution they will be able to make to the organisation.




Voting




Voting will take place using a Zoom poll in which members can cast their votes. Members unable to attend the AGM in person may appoint another member as their Proxy, who will attend the meeting to vote on their behalf. Any member organisation not able to attend and who is not able or willing to vote via Proxy may vote using this [survey](#) up to 7pm on 21 June 2021 (this deadline allows us to collate responses prior to the AGM).



The number of proposed directors exceeds the number permitted by CEE’s rules, so there will be a competitive ballot. **Members are asked to vote for one candidate only, or may abstain from voting on a candidate.**

The CEE Board has significant input into the strategic direction of the organisation. As the ballot is competitive this year, we are asking members to carefully consider what your organisation requires from our board when making your voting decision.

Candidate profiles

Name: Michaela Cryar	<p>Having worked in the energy sector for the past 12 years, I initially specialised in working with the largest energy consumers in the UK, focusing on energy and risk management (energy efficiencies, flexibility services, trading and procurement, data management, carbon psychology, metering, and generation services). Previous experience has included setting up an industrial and commercial supply business in the UK for BP, followed by working in their global strategy team within the trading division as the power specialist.</p> <p>Younity, where I have recently joined as Head of Product and Origination, is a business focused entirely on community energy, from innovating new power purchase agreement models through to inspiring the next generation to become involved in the community energy movement. With CEE being the voice of the sector, I hope to utilise my knowledge and experience from working with community energy groups across the country to contribute to the continued success of CEE. With particular interest in the strategic planning, campaigning and focus on energy systems, all to help community groups innovate and grow.</p>
Member: Younity 	
Membership class: Corporate	<p>I have a BSc in Geology and Geography and this year completed a study designed by the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership in Business Sustainability Management.</p>
	
Name: Tracy Ebbrell	<p>I have always appreciated the natural world and the incredible environment in which we live. After starting my career in the corporate sector working in banking and then in aviation, I struggled with my conscience and the huge air miles being travelled, so in 1999 I decided to 'give back' and do my bit.</p> <p>I entered the world of conservation, sustainability and the charitable sector and spent 13 happy years working for the Wildlife Trusts movement. I have been involved with extensive grant funding bids, marketing, conservation, ecology, education, renewables and project</p>
Member: Yealm Community Energy 	

<p>Membership class: Community</p>	<p>management. When I left the Wildlife Trusts I set up my own business development consultancy.</p>
	<p>Last year, in support of the emerging Climate Change emergency, I took on the role of Consultant Operations Manager for Yealm Community Energy in the South Hams, Devon. We aim to bring two local solar farms into community ownership with assets worth £13 million. I was also asked to become a Director for PEC (Plymouth Energy Community) in 2020.</p> <p>I feel I have a truly relevant and broad spectrum of experience and knowledge that can benefit CEE to support tackling the climate crisis, fuel poverty, and community energy policy across England. I would be delighted to champion CEE, promote its aims, and serve its growing membership.</p>
<p>Name: Mary Gillie</p>	<p>I've spent my whole career in the energy industry as an engineer, I believe it's the other caring profession, using technology to improve society and the environment.</p>
<p>Member: Energy Local CIC</p> 	<p>I've worked with all of the DNOs on innovation projects for over 15 years and extensively with Ofgem and Elexon. Through working on Low Carbon Community Challenge and Low Carbon Network projects, being a director of a community energy group and founding Energy Local, I've worked with a vast range of local communities. As such, I understand their needs and I'm also familiar with the codes regulating the industry and the challenges for the network and the market to achieve a zero-carbon system. I have a clear vision of how small-scale, and particularly community-owned power, can contribute to achieving net zero and protect the vulnerable.</p>
<p>Membership class: Community</p>	<p>I will bring my experience of the technical and regulatory requirements of the energy industry, how decisions are made and therefore how CEE needs to strategically align itself to have its voice heard in all parts of the industry. My understanding of the energy market will help CEE demonstrate how and lobby for a fairer electricity market allowing community energy to thrive, ensuring it receives its true value without subsidies.</p>
	<p>I would be honoured to be considered as a Director of CEE's Board at this year's AGM.</p>
<p>Name: Gillian Hurding</p>	
<p>Member:</p>	

<p>SP Energy Networks</p> 	<p>In the face of the climate emergency, I am passionate about acting quickly, strategically and inclusively to unlock the role communities can, and need to, play to meet the UK and devolved nations’ net zero targets and realise a truly just transition. I am personally keen to see cross-UK thinking and simplification of the support communities should expect to see from their DNOs – without losing the importance of locally tailored solutions - in realising their local energy needs and ambitions.</p>
<p>Membership class: Corporate</p> 	<p>As a former Innovation Manager with Community Energy Scotland, I would be very pleased to bring my local energy delivery experience to the role as well as my regulatory and strategic insight, embedding SP Energy Network’s first Community Energy Strategy within their 2023-2028 invest plans.</p> <p>I have been working in the energy sector for over 13 years where I have devoted much of my career to clearly communicating the climate challenge and, most importantly, demonstrating the practical steps and innovative solutions individuals and their local communities can undertake to help address such a fundamental crisis through local energy economies.</p> <p>If selected to join CEE’s Board, I would hope to bring my experience from both the local and regulatory side of the discussion to help maximise the impact of the communities that CEE serves whilst greatly appreciating the unique opportunity to learn from them.</p>