

Community Energy England AGM 2023: Director Appointments



Background

Under the Community Energy England (CEE) bye laws CEE may have up to 11 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/third sector members, if those categories constitute at least 10% of the membership. This is not currently the case.
- The holder of the office of the Chief Executive Officer is appointed as Director ex-officio.
- The remainder may be from any class of member.
- The Board may, at its sole discretion and in accordance with the Articles, appoint no more than two Co-opted Directors, who need not be representatives of Members, to provide additional knowledge or expertise which the Board considers to be of assistance to the Association.

Directors standing down this year are:

- Afsheen Rashid, Repowering London - (community member) *chair, who has been on maternity leave during 2022.*
- Martin Crane, Carbon Alternatives (corporate member).
- Rachel Hayes, Regen (public / third sector member).
- Debbie Trebilco, Whitby Esk Hydro (community member).

We are very grateful for their contribution to CEE and the sector throughout their time on the board.

The directors who remain on the Board are:

- Helen Seagrave, Electricity North West (corporate) – *current interim chair.*
- Peter Capener, Bath & West Community Energy (community) - *deputy chair.*
- Mary Gillie, Energy Local (community).
- Alastair Mumford, Exeter Community Energy (community).
- Helen Ryder, HartlePower (community) - *treasurer.*

CEE's rules state that any director who has served more than thirty-three months since being elected shall retire by rotation. The following existing director is re-standing this year:

- Ollie Pendered, Community Energy South (community member).

Candidates

This year's candidates are:

- Syed Ahmed, Community Energy London (community)
- Kate Gilmartin, Energy Heroes (community)
- Ollie Pendered, Community Energy South (community) - *current director*

Candidates were asked to outline their aspirations for CEE, the board, and the contribution they will be able to make to the organisation – these statements are set out below.


Voting


Voting will take place during the AGM 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. Alternatively, members may vote using this [form](#) up to 7pm on 5 July 2023 (this deadline allows us to collate responses prior to the AGM). There is only one vote permitted per member organisation, so please coordinate with any colleagues.

There are five spaces on the board at the 2023 election and three candidates putting themselves forward. Voting is therefore a non-competitive ballot. Each candidate will be voted on separately. Unless there is a majority of votes against their election, that candidate will be elected to the CEE board.

Candidate profiles

<p>Name: Syed Ahmed</p>	<p>I am co-founder of Community Energy London (CEL) and have been its Chair since its formation in 2017. I have actively campaigned for the benefits of community energy and the work undertaken by community energy groups to be better recognised, valued and supported across the city.</p>
<p>Member affiliation: Community Energy London</p>	
<p>Member category: Community</p>	
	<p>If elected as a Board Member of Community Energy England I hope to be able to help CEE replicate some of the success we have seen in London in key areas such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Greater collaboration and support by local authorities to the sector through the introduction of specific policies to support community energy within council Climate Emergency Action Plans • With a general election expected within the next 18 months, raising the profile of community energy to MPs, especially where there are groups and projects active within their constituency • Increasing the recognition of community energy to the public to help drive both direct and indirect support, from volunteering with groups, to investing in projects to lobbying their local councillor • Ensuring that the role of community energy is recognised by Government and included as a core element of future energy efficiency retrofit and fuel poverty alleviation funding programmes.

<p>Name: Kate Gilmartin</p>	<p>With a BSc in Fuel & Energy and an MSc in Renewable energy I feel I can bring my technical experience and expertise from across all renewable energy technologies and my passion for delivering Net Zero to the CEE Board.</p>
<p>Member affiliation: Energy Heroes</p>	
<p>Member category: Community</p>	<p>I have been involved in the Community Energy Movement for many years and was a founder member of CEE, set up the Community Hydro Forum to enable projects to share their learning, not re-invent the wheel but offer support and encouragement to each other (the real core of community energy collaboration). I also organised the Powering up North Conference in 2015.</p>
	<p>I delivered the Rural Community Energy Fund, bringing my low carbon technical expertise and community energy knowledge to many projects and I continue to support some of these projects, including 2 Community scale, low carbon heat projects which are being progressed through various funding streams. I set up the Low Carbon Community scale heat forum to enable learning to be shared across networks, to speed up the process of unpicking the knotty problem of scaling up low carbon heat and retrofit.</p> <p>I believe I will bring a great deal of passion and experience to the CEE board.</p>

<p>Name: Ollie Pendered, Community Energy South (community) - <i>current director</i></p>	<p>I am pleased to be re-standing as Non-Executive Director of Community Energy England. I joined Community Energy England in 2017 and it has great to be part of the Non Exec team supporting Emma Bridge and the Community Energy England team who are going from strength to strength and keeping pace with the development of the sector.</p>
<p>Member affiliation: Community Energy South</p>	
<p>Membership category: Community</p>	<p>Based in Lewes, East Sussex I am also Chief Executive of Community Energy South a regional support organisation in the South East; we work closely with Community Energy England and many community energy groups and sector partners. The Community Energy Pathways programme that we deliver connects community energy sector with local authorities.</p>
	<p>I have previously been seconded to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (BEIS) representing the community energy sector and was directly involved in supporting regional energy strategies adopted by the LEPs that then formed the Net Zero Hubs. Before community energy I worked on National Infrastructure programmes including with National Grid delivering best practice communications programmes and worked with the Public Consultation Institute.</p>

	<p>I believe in the need to develop regional support networks for community energy and to build long term partnerships to support community energy across communities, the third sector, government, local authorities, the UK's Regional Energy Hubs, our regional DNO's.</p>
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