

Role of Board Member for Sustainable Danbury 'Stakeholder Engagement'



Address of org - Danbury, Chelmsford, Essex.

Role location - mostly at home

Time - either in or out of office hours, estimated @ 1-3 hours / week

Application deadline - mid Jan 2025 (we will close earlier if receive sufficient applications)

Headline

Take part in managing community led and owned renewable energy projects within the Chelmsford and surrounding region.

The organisation

Sustainable Danbury is a community benefit society (commonly known as a mutual society or a 'co-op'). It is a registered with the Financial Conduct Authority as a mutual (registration number 8831).

Sustainable Danbury (the society) was formed in 2022 by residents of the village of Danbury in Essex. The society works to promote sustainability in the local area with the eventual aim to generate community owned renewable power in the district. The society aims to expand into the wider district of Chelmsford with additional voluntary support.

Activities

Following support from Essex County Council and Community Energy South the society has delivered an energy advice project and explored the feasibility of adding solar photovoltaics to a local school as well as running a number of events on the theme of sustainability.

Through the collaboration of Community Energy South, the society has been selected as a partner on a large, 3-year, National Lottery Funded project, alongside 10 other similar organisations. This will enable the society to recruit 3 part-time paid staff so that the organization can grow and deliver more community energy, faster.

New leadership roles

This growth needs strong management by a fuller board, which is why up to four additional board members are sought to help run the society alongside the existing team of three. The society is keen that the board represents the wider community in terms of backgrounds, culture, abilities, experiences, and approaches.

The society is looking to pursue a range of activities under the broad categories below:

1. Undertake community energy projects: investigate a number of potential larger building roof mount solar projects in Danbury and the wider Chelmsford area, raise share from member

investors and execute the projects. These projects need to be financially sound to be able to payback the investment from members and to generate a surplus for the community benefits defined by the members of the society.

2. Undertake a range of activities to help local communities make the transition to a lower carbon lifestyle. A range of projects and events could be undertaken within this remit.

Required skills, experience, qualities etc

Tasks to be shared by the whole board include project management, evaluation of business plans, review of leases and contracts, risk identification and management, site relationships, data analytics, staff and volunteer management, procurement, website design, marketing and comms including social media, and general administration to name a few.

The society is looking specifically for someone with the ability to evaluate and/or develop a communications plan. Ideally, this would be in terms of leading on communications strategy, stakeholder engagement, website and social media development and maintenance, local engagement, liaising with others who haven't yet heard of 'community energy'. The society is planning to recruit some supplementary paid and volunteer support but this would need to be managed and overseen by a board member with the right skills.

Particular qualities needed: a passion for climate change mitigation, and ability to engage people - especially those who may be hard to engage.

It will be most useful if the applicants are local to the Chelmsford area, but this is not essential.

Contact

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