

September 2019

Ashden is looking for Trustees – is this the one for you?

Ashden is the UK's leading sustainable energy charity. We believe that sustainable energy can have a transformative impact on individual lives worldwide. As well as being essential to tackling climate change, access to sustainable energy also improves health and well-being, increases education opportunities, improves food and water security and boosts local economies. Through our prestigious awards' scheme, Ashden highlights these inspiring solutions, so helping accelerate the shift to a fairer, low carbon world.

We are inviting candidates to put themselves forward to become a Trustee of Ashden. This is a fabulous opportunity to join a smart group of board members and guide the UK's leading sustainable energy charity as we develop our strategy and grow our impact over the coming years.

We are keen to increase diversity on our board, so it reflects the geographies and sectors in which we work. Much of our work is in the developing world and emerging economies with a focus on India and Africa, as well as in the UK. Therefore, we would like to recruit one to two trustees with appropriate experience of sustainable energy in these regions and relevant UK, EU and international policy relating to climate change, energy access or sustainable cities. So, if you've been part of an awards' network, such as the Ashden Awards, and understand finance, sustainable cities or comms, that would be great too!

Person specification

- A commitment to Ashden and its mission.
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort: prepare for and attend board meetings four times a year plus an annual away day; as appropriate depending on where you are based, attend our annual Awards ceremony and some of our events through the year such as Ashden After Work; be prepared to work with members of the Executive Management Team on specific areas in which you have specialist knowledge, or contacts, including joining external meetings as appropriate.
- Strategic vision; Good, independent judgement and a willingness to speak your mind; An ability to think creatively.
- Experience or demonstrable understanding of the role of a trustee, including an understanding and acceptance of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of trusteeship.
- An ability to work effectively as a member of a team.
- A commitment to Nolan's seven principles of public life: selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

Desirable areas of expertise

- A good understanding of and personal/professional interest in sustainable energy, especially in a developing world/emerging economies context.
- Relevant UK, EU and international policy relating to climate change, energy access or sustainable cities.
- International development experience in the not-for-profit, social enterprise, governmental or donor community, ideally in India and/or Africa; including mobility and energy access – e.g. health, agriculture or livelihoods.

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- An entrepreneurial background particularly in innovation in digital/clean tech and/or appropriate tech space. Good understanding/experience of social change/innovation.
- Experience of developing and growing new businesses. Experience in finance, impact investing, PE, VC or mainstream.
- Fundraising experience, contacts and networks.
- As our core activity is running awards, we are looking for trustees with experience of participating in an award's scheme, which could include Ashden's Awards.

Trustee Duties

- Ensuring that Ashden pursues its stated objects (purposes), as defined in its governing documents, by helping to develop and agree a long-term strategy.
- Ensuring that Ashden complies with its governing documents, charity law, company law and any other relevant legislation or regulations.
- Ensuring that Ashden applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its charitable objects (i.e. the charity must not spend money on activities that are not included in its own objects, however worthwhile or charitable those activities are) for the benefit of the public.
- Ensuring that Ashden defines its goals and evaluates performance against agreed targets.
- Safeguarding the good name and values of Ashden.
- Ensuring the effective and efficient administration of Ashden, including having appropriate policies and procedures in place.
- Ensuring the financial stability of Ashden and supporting fundraising as appropriate.
- Protecting and managing the property of the charity and ensuring the proper investment of the charity's funds.

In addition to the above statutory duties, each trustee should use their specific skills, knowledge or experience to help the board of trustees reach sound decisions. This may involve scrutinising board papers, leading discussions, focusing on key issues, providing advice and guidance on new initiatives, or other issues in which the trustee has special expertise. Trustees may also help with external relations as appropriate.

All trustees are asked to join four Board meetings each year. If based outside the UK, you will be asked to attend in person the annual away-day and participate by video/teleconference in the other three board meetings (which last 3-4 hours). Ashden will pay for economy class travel and accommodation for the Away Day. We will aim to organise meetings so you can also join at least one of our events, such as the annual Ashden Awards.

Term of trusteeship is three years which is subject to renewal a maximum of three times.

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Application Process:

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please send us your CV with a one page covering note explaining why you are interested: to jo.walton@ashden.org. All applications should reach us by **27 September 2019**. Reflecting best practice, all applications will be considered by representatives of the Board and senior management and we will ask a short-list of candidates to be interviewed. We expect to conduct interviews during the week of **7 October 2019**. In an ideal world, we will appoint at least one new Trustee by our November Board meeting. A number of trustees are currently at the end of their terms of service; therefore, we will gradually fill a number of roles on the Board. Thank you for your interest!