

Role: Board Member

Volunteer status: Salary unremunerated, reasonable travel expenses covered

Duration: Initially three years – expected commitment of four board meetings per year (currently online)

Location: Flexible – meetings usually held in Belfast

Sustainable Northern Ireland is currently recruiting new directors to help guide our work in the public sector and expand its reach into other sectors.

About Sustainable Northern Ireland

Sustainable Northern Ireland works with local councils, academics, government departments and politicians to campaign for change on a wide range of environmental issues and embed the principles of sustainable development into decision making. We do this by providing advice and support to help organisations become more sustainable. Sustainable Northern Ireland also runs the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Forum, a network of public sector officers responsible for promoting sustainable development, and the All-Party Group on Climate Action in Stormont. These forums help to increase knowledge and awareness on key sustainability issues whilst stimulating discussion and sharing of good practice among councils, public authorities and political representatives.

Over the course of Sustainable Northern Ireland's 3-decade history, we have been at the forefront of exciting campaigns and initiatives, from developing government sustainable development indicators in the 1990s to setting up Northern Ireland's first sustainable food city partnership in the 2000's, and more recently to standing up against single-use plastic. Our emphasis in the short term is on urgent climate action in order to prevent catastrophic damage to our planet. Our organisational strategy highlights that, in order to do this, we must inspire, influence and inform a wide range of stakeholders across Northern Ireland from the public, private and voluntary sectors. We are therefore looking to appoint someone with a strong understanding of the socio-political landscape in Northern Ireland.

About the role

Sharing governance responsibility with other Board members, this role involves scrutiny of our strategy and its delivery. It includes overseeing the organisation in delivering against its charitable objective of developing a more sustainable future for Northern Ireland and making sure this is reflected within our governance structure.

Main responsibilities

The role involves the following key areas, working with fellow Board members under the direction of the Chair:

- Supporting and guiding the mission, values and strategic direction of Sustainable Northern Ireland
- Oversight of business planning & budget and quarterly reporting
- Fulfilling legal responsibilities as a director under company law
- Oversight of income, financial management and compliance
- Assessing risks and mitigating actions
- Supporting and constructively challenging our senior leadership team

Key skills and attributes

The key attributes for this role are:

- Understanding of the significance of the climate and ecological emergency and other key sustainability challenges
- Strong interest in and commitment to Sustainable Northern Ireland's values and goals
- Understanding of the socio-political landscape in Northern Ireland
- Based in Northern Ireland

The ideal candidate would hold some of or a combination of the following skills and experiences:

- Experience of organisational effectiveness, change and delivery in a large organisation (whether public, private or third sector)
- Governance / board experience
- Experience of people management / human resources
- Understanding or experience of environmental / sustainability issues in Northern Ireland

Being a member of the Sustainable Northern Ireland Board is a highly rewarding experience and you'll play a vitally important role.

Sustainable Northern Ireland is committed to equal opportunities and to continuously learning how to increase the diversity of our people. We welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons and encourage applications from people currently underrepresented in the environment and sustainability movement and on our Board, including women in senior leadership positions, BAME, disabled people and LGBTQI+ people.

If you feel you have the skills required to add value to the Board and to help Sustainable Northern Ireland achieve its objectives, then we invite you to send your CV, along with a supporting statement, to nichola@sustainableni.org.