**Sustainable Northern Ireland**

**Recruitment and appointment of additional directors**

**Background and context**

Sustainable Northern Ireland is currently recruiting new directors to help guide our work in Northern Ireland’s local government sector and expand its reach into other sectors.

Sustainable Northern Ireland came into existence in 1998 as a collaborative project of NI Environment Link, WWF and the Local Government Training Group. Our objective, then as now, is to promote the adoption of sustainable development principles and practice by local authorities and other agencies of government as well as within the broader population.

Sustainable Northern Ireland works primarily, though not exclusively, with the local government sector providing technical and strategic support to help councils comply with their statutory duties on sustainable development. This includes provision of expert advice on sustainability issues in areas as diverse as energy management, renewable energy, circular economy, spatial planning, sustainable food and climate change adaptation.

Sustainable NI also established and manages the Local Government Sustainable Development Forum, a network of officers responsible for sustainable development in Northern Ireland. This support has helped to stimulate a healthy level of good practice on sustainable development among councils, especially important in the face of a diminished role undertaken by central government departments.

Sustainable Northern Ireland is a Company limited by guarantee (NI038784) and is registered with The Charity Commission for Northern Ireland (NIC103426). It currently has 10 Directors drawn from across the local government, community and voluntary sectors:

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| **Name** | **Position** |
| [Vacant] | Chairperson |
| Murray Watt | Vice Chairperson |
| Sue Christie | Treasurer |
| Karen Smyth | Company Secretary |
| John Barry | Director |
| Graeme Bannister | Director |
| Eileen Campbell | Director |
| Patricia Mackey | Director |
| Gary McFarlane | Director |
| Liz Mitchell | Director |
| Leo Strawbridge | Director |

Nichola Hughes is employed by the charity as a Sustainability Officer and is hosted by NILGA who provide office space and administrative support.

Sustainable NI’s mission is to inspire, influence and inform people, communities and organisations to create a more sustainable future for Northern Ireland. To achieve this objective, the four main areas of activity are:

1. Building partnerships**:** To develop partnerships and promote innovative solutions for sustainable development by convening and coordinating stakeholders from all sectors.
2. Building capacity**:** To provide public authorities with support, guidance and knowledge to integrate sustainable development into their policies, practice and operations.
3. Policy engagement: To encourage government to create a strong legislative, policy and implementation framework for sustainable development in Northern Ireland.
4. Communicating evidence**:** To develop and communicate an evidence base of sustainable development policies and practice and use this to support the implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in Northern Ireland.

Delivering an adequate response to sustainability challenges requires a multi-stakeholder approach and over the next few years we will work to strengthen existing partnerships with councils and government, but also form new partnerships with other public sector bodies, businesses and civil society. This partnership approach is fundamental to delivering our strategic goals and objectives.

**Recruitment of additional directors**

Sustainable NI is now seeking to expand the expertise and knowledge of the Board of Directors to meet these challenges and help deliver a sustainable future.

Sustainable NI wishes to recruit new Directors to:

1. Help ensure we have the right mix of individuals with the knowledge, skills and experience to assist with the delivery of our strategic plan; and
2. Increase the number of Directors thereby enabling us to develop our governance in terms of sub-groups and other activities.

Directors will become full company members and voting members of the Board. Tenure is initially for a period of three years and this can be renewed. Members can be removed by resolution of the Board.

Roles and responsibilities:

1. Provide leadership and set the overall direction of the organisation
2. Direct the organisation’s strategy and structure
3. Monitor and be responsible for the performance of the organisation
4. Ensure that the organisation complies with relevant legal and regulatory requirements
5. Act as guardian and custodian of the organisation’s assets
6. Ensure that the governance of the organisation is effective.

This is not an exhaustive list of duties, rather, the key elements of the expected responsibilities of the Board and its Directors.

Directors are responsible for discharging their duties effectively. In addition, all Directors are expected to abide by and sign up to the Director Code of Conduct.

On average the time commitment is expected to be around 4 – 6 days per annum. The Board meets 4 times per year with meetings lasting 2 - 3 hours. In addition, ad hoc sub-groups may be established from time to time to advise on the delivery of certain aspects of the work plan. Directors may also support personnel through attendance at various Sustainable NI events and activities.

**How to apply**

Application is by means of a short application form available on our website [www.sustainableni.org](http://www.sustainableni.org) or by emailing info@sustainableni.org.

**Selection process**

The Sustainable NI Board will convene a meeting to review applications received. Shortlisted applicants will be contacted to discuss the role in more detail. It is anticipated that new Directors will take up office during autumn 2017.

**Selection criteria**

We are particularly interested in individuals with skills and experience in any of the following fields: community energy and/or renewable energy; waste management and the circular economy; spatial planning; sustainable food; affordable warmth and fuel poverty; climate change adaptation and mitigation; sustainable food; sustainable building design and construction.

We recognise that some of these are niche areas and that not all will be represented by the Board, but all Directors should have a basic understanding of how these areas contribute to sustainable development.

Candidates should meet the following selection criteria:

* An awareness of the current environmental and sustainable development challenges and opportunities facing either the public, private or voluntary sector in Northern Ireland
* Have served in a managerial position within a large, complex organisation
* Experience of strategy development and implementation
* Willing to commit at least 4 – 6 days per year to the Board
* Willing to comply with the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities of director and charity trustees

**Find out more**

For an informal conversation about the organisation and the role of Directors please contact Nichola Hughes on 028 9590 9351.

**Closing date**

Receipt of applications is requested by **Friday 15th September 2017, 4:00pm.**