Technology Trustee Vacancy

Introduction

We are seeking a new Technology specialist Trustee for Energy Sparks, a charity working towards a sustainable future in which the school community is at the heart of measurable action to tackle climate change. Energy Sparks equips children and young people with the knowledge, skills, and tools to take practical action in their school and wider community to reduce carbon emissions. Working with over 1,000 schools nationwide we enable school leaders, staff and pupils to better understand and reduce their school's energy consumption and introduce wider measures to reduce their carbon footprint. This is an exciting opportunity to make a real difference to climate change by supporting the delivery of data-driven learning opportunities to teach young people how to cut carbon emissions in their schools.

Principal Responsibilities for the Technology Trustee

The Technology Trustee will provide the Board with independent expertise and assurance on technology-related matters, helping ensure that Energy Sparks has appropriate governance, oversight and understanding of the risks and opportunities associated with its technology.

The role is non-executive and strategic, with a clear distinction between the Trustee's governance responsibilities and the CTO's executive responsibility for technology leadership, strategy, technical decisions and operational delivery.

The Technology Trust will:

- **Provide Board-level expertise and assurance:** Help the Board understand the significance of technology-related matters, providing independent insight and constructive challenge to inform its governance and oversight responsibilities.
- **Support effective technology governance:** Help the Board ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place for managing technology-related risks, including cybersecurity, data protection, business continuity, software resilience and business-critical systems.
- **Oversee alignment with organisational strategy:** Help the Board assess whether the organisation's technology capabilities, resources and longer-term investment are appropriately aligned with its agreed strategic objectives and organisational needs.
- **Provide a broader external perspective:** Bring knowledge of developments and good practice in the technology sector, helping the Board understand emerging opportunities, potential threats and their implications for Energy Sparks.
- **Support the CTO in their executive role:** Provide an independent source of experience and perspective for the CTO, where helpful, while respecting the CTO's authority and accountability for technology strategy, technical direction, prioritisation and operational management.

- **Contribute to Board discussions and decision-making:** Help fellow Trustees develop sufficient understanding of technology-related issues to make informed decisions, particularly where these have significant implications for organisational risk, financial sustainability or future growth.

Person Specification

Essential experience and personal qualities

- Significant senior leadership experience in technology, ideally at CTO, VP Engineering, Head of Engineering or equivalent level.
- Substantial experience of SaaS platforms and software-based services, with an understanding of the challenges associated with maintaining, securing and scaling technology products.
- Experience of technology governance, risk management and oversight at senior leadership or Board level.
- Understanding of cybersecurity, data protection, business continuity and technology resilience.
- Ability to explain complex technical matters clearly and concisely to non-technical audiences, enabling effective Board-level discussion and decision-making.
- Sound judgement and the ability to provide constructive challenge while recognising the distinction between governance and executive management.
- A collaborative and supportive approach, with the ability to build a positive working relationship with the CTO and wider leadership team.
- An interest in sustainability and education, and a commitment to Energy Sparks' mission and values.

Desirable experience

- Experience of product strategy and product management, including the wider product development lifecycle, user experience and customer-led innovation.
- Experience in the energy, climate, sustainability or education sectors.
- Experience of technology within a growing organisation, particularly managing the transition from a small-scale platform to a more scalable and resilient technology infrastructure.
- Knowledge of the opportunities and risks associated with AI and emerging technologies.

The role of Trustee is not accompanied by any financial remuneration, although expenses for travel may be claimed for occasional in-person meetings held in Bath. Our Trustee Board meetings, of which there are four a year, are mostly held remotely. Trustees are expected to contribute to major decision-making between meetings, particularly in relation to their specialist areas of expertise.

How to apply

Please send the following by email to hello@energysparks.uk:

- A full CV
- A covering letter setting out your reasons for applying and how you consider that you meet the person specification for this voluntary role

Applicants are encouraged to find out more about Energy Sparks at http://www.energysparks.uk

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact, Claudia Towner, Energy Sparks CEO on hello@energysparks.uk or 01225 723924