Community Energy Trustee Vacancy

Introduction

We are seeking a new Community Energy 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.

Energy Sparks already works in partnership with several community energy organisations to provide its energy management platform to schools hosting community energy funded solar panels. Energy Sparks helps schools maximise the benefits of community-funded solar installations by monitoring energy consumption and solar generation, identifying opportunities to decrease self-consumption, reduce energy costs and carbon emissions, and demonstrate the impact of the solar panels. Energy Sparks also helps turn the solar panels into a valuable educational resource, engaging pupils with real-life energy data and helping them understand renewable energy, energy efficiency and climate action.

Principal Responsibilities for the Community Energy Trustee

The Community Energy Trustee will:

- **Strengthen sector relationships:** Help develop Energy Sparks' profile and relationships within the community energy sector, including community energy organisations, networks, and other relevant stakeholders.
- **Identify partnership opportunities:** Bring insight into potential collaborations between Energy Sparks and new community energy organisations.
- **Support funding and income diversification:** Help identify potential funding sources in the community energy sector that could support Energy Sparks' growth and development.
- **Inform strategic development:** Bring an understanding of developments, opportunities and challenges within the community energy sector, helping the Board consider their relevance to Energy Sparks' strategy and future direction.
- **Promote collaboration and innovation:** Help explore opportunities to connect schools with local community energy initiatives and renewable energy projects.
- **Act as an ambassador:** Promote awareness of Energy Sparks within the community energy sector and identify opportunities to build mutually beneficial relationships.

The role is strategic and non-executive. The trustee will not be responsible for managing partnerships, securing funding or delivering projects operationally, which remain the responsibility of the CEO and Energy Sparks staff team.

Person Specification

Essential experience and personal qualities

- Significant experience and knowledge of the community energy sector, ideally through a leadership role in a community energy organisation, network or related body.
- Strong understanding of community energy models.
- Established relationships and connections across the community energy sector.
- Experience of developing partnerships and collaborative programmes involving multiple organisations.
- An understanding of funding opportunities and income generation within the community energy sector.
- Ability to identify strategic opportunities and translate sector developments into potential benefits for Energy Sparks.
- A commitment to Energy Sparks' mission and values, particularly its work supporting schools to reduce energy consumption and engage pupils in climate action.

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