

## Background

Under Community Energy England's (CEE) bye laws, CEE may have up to 12 directors, of which:

- The majority shall be duly authorised representatives of Community Members.
- The holder of the office of the Chief Executive Officer is appointed as Director ex-officio.
- The Board may, at its sole discretion and in accordance with the Articles, appoint no more than two Co-opted Directors, who need not be representatives of Members, to provide additional knowledge or expertise which the Board considers to be of assistance to the Association.
- The make-up of the remaining Elected Directors may be determined to ensure appropriate representation for different types of members.

Our current directors are:

- Pete Capener, Bath & West Community Energy (community) - *interim chair*
- Syed Ahmed, Community Energy London (community)
- Emma Bridge (in her capacity as Chief Executive of Community Energy England)
- Kate Gilmartin, Rossendale Valley Energy (community)
- Noel Lambert, Big Solar Co-op (community)
- Emma Lower, Lendology (public & third sector) – *co-opted director*
- Alistair MacPherson, Plymouth Energy Community, (community)
- Alastair Mumford, Devon Energy Collective (community) – *chair of CEE's finance & governance committee*
- Ollie Pendered, Community Energy Pathways (community)
- Helen Ryder, HartlePower (community) - *treasurer*

One director, our previous Chair Helen Seagrave, stood down part way through the year due to a change in role. She is now Director of Local Energy at GB Energy.

CEE's rules state that any director who has served more than thirty-three months since being elected shall retire by rotation. Three directors are re-standing and one co-opted director is putting herself forward for election.

## Candidates

This year's candidates are (in alphabetical order):

- Peter Capener, Bath & West Community Energy (community)
- Emma Lower, Lendology (public & third sector)
- Alastair Mumford, Devon Energy Collective (community)
- Helen Ryder, HartlePower (community)

Candidates were asked to outline their aspirations for CEE, the board, and the contribution they will be able to make to the organisation– these statements are set out below.

### Voting

There are six spaces on the board at the 2025 election and four candidates putting themselves forward. Voting is therefore a non-competitive ballot. Each candidate will be voted on separately. Unless there is a majority of votes against their election, that candidate will be elected to the CEE board.



Voting will take place during the AGM using a Zoom poll in which members can cast their votes.


Members unable to attend the AGM in person may appoint another member as their proxy, who will attend the meeting to vote on their behalf. Alternatively, members may vote using [this form](#) up to **7pm on 22 July 2025** (this deadline allows us to collate responses prior to the AGM).

There is only one vote permitted per member organisation, so please coordinate with any colleagues.

### Candidate profiles

<b>Name:</b> Pete Capener	<p>With the setting up of GB Energy and the potential for a transformational step change in the level of support from government, Community Energy England (CEE) is needed now more than ever to work with government and key stakeholders to drive through these changes and to help create the environment within which we can learn, innovate, influence and grow stronger together.</p> <p>I can offer 40 years of experience of working on renewable energy, energy efficiency and fuel poverty, with a strong focus on community energy. This time includes the delivery of practical projects and programmes as well as experience at senior management and board level for national and regional NGOs and now as co-founder and MD of Bath &amp; West Community Energy (BWCE).</p> <p>BWCE has grown from a voluntary organisation in 2010, to one with a staff team of 30 people with 14.5MW of community solar, a significant pipeline of new wind, solar and shared ownership projects under development, a rapidly growing home energy retrofit service and several innovation projects on local energy markets.</p>
<b>Member affiliation:</b> Bath & West Community Energy	
<b>Member category:</b> Community	

	<p>I can bring knowledge and understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing community energy, experience of developing successful cross sector partnerships, and of energy policy and the wider energy sector, including as co-chair of the ministerial Community Energy Contact Group.</p> <p>I was delighted that BWCE was a founder member of CEE, and I was able to help as CEE’s first chair and now returning for another short stint as Interim Chair whilst CEE finds a more permanent appointment. I’d be honoured if members felt that I could continue to play a useful role in CEE’s development going forward</p>
<p><b>Name:</b> Emma Lower</p>	<p>Emma Lower is the Chief Executive of Lendology CIC, a pioneering social enterprise and Community Interest Company that provides accessible, ethical finance solutions to support individuals in improving their homes and lives. Under Emma’s leadership, Lendology has built strong partnerships with local authorities and community organisations to deliver affordable lending that tackles housing disrepair, fuel poverty, and supports energy efficiency.</p> <p>With over a decade of experience in community finance and housing, Emma has a deep understanding of the social and economic challenges faced by underserved communities. Her work is rooted in a strong commitment to social justice, financial inclusion, and the transition to a more sustainable, equitable future.</p> <p>As a co-opted director of <b>Community Energy England (CEE)</b>, Emma brings valuable insight into how community finance can unlock the potential of local energy initiatives. She is passionate about ensuring that community-led energy projects are inclusive, accessible, and benefit those most in need. Her expertise strengthens CEE’s mission to empower communities to take control of their energy future and drive the transition to a low-carbon, people-centred energy system.</p> <p>Emma is a respected voice in the ethical finance and sustainable housing space, and her role on the CEE board reflects her dedication to cross-sector collaboration and championing community voices at the heart of energy policy and practice.</p>
<p><b>Member affiliation:</b> Lendology</p>	
<p><b>Member category:</b> Public</p>	
	

<b>Name:</b> Alastair Mumford	<p>I will be able to bring my experience of working in the low carbon sector, particularly in the public sector and renewables but also in the areas of electric vehicle infrastructure and building retrofit.</p> <p>I'm a committed supporter of the community energy sector and been a volunteer director for Devon Energy Collective and previously Exeter Community Energy for many years. Whilst at Devon County Council I developed and led work to utilise local community energy organisations in the delivery of retrofit services. I also commissioned a study to determine to Treasury standards the socioeconomic added-value of community-owned grid connected solar versus standard commercial ownership models.</p> <p>I now work as a Director at the MCS Foundation working to achieve the decarbonisation of homes in the UK. The organisation is a keen supporter of local, place-based initiatives and has provided the community energy sector with financial and political support.</p> <p>I would like to continue supporting Community Energy England as a volunteer director. The organisation is vital in the fight to limit the impacts of the climate crisis and ensuring a just transition. As a Director I will strive to ensure that Community Energy England has a sound financial footing, maximises the advantage of current government policy and ambition and continues to work in the best interests of our members.</p>
<b>Member affiliation:</b> Devon Energy Collective	
<b>Member category:</b> Community	
	
<b>Name:</b> Helen Ryder	<p>Helen is regularly described as positive, bubbly and helpful. Helen has spent the last 15 years working and volunteering for various Charities and Non-Profits, of which the last 5 has primarily been in a financial capacity.</p>
<b>Member affiliation:</b> HartlePower	<p>In December 2016 she established herself as a Self-employed Bookkeeper/Accountant to support local charities and start-ups and become their finance officer to allow them to concentrate on what they do best.</p>
<b>Membership category:</b> Community	
