

## **BEC Director candidate statements – 2013 AGM**

### **a) Andy O'Brien**

BEC's rules state that at each annual general meeting one-third of the elected Directors, must retire from office, and that they are eligible for re-election. Emilia and I are therefore resigning, and I am standing for re-election.

I've been involved with BEC from the outset, and am currently secretary of the co-op. I oversee our finances and many of our regulatory requirements. I'm also actively involved in our sub-groups for solar PV and wind. In the past year these sub-groups have developed a number of projects that have great potential. I'm proud of what we've achieved thus far, and would very much like to continue in my director role, so I can assist in bringing these projects to fruition.

I've particularly enjoyed doing partnership development work for the co-op, and, if re-elected, would be keen to develop those relationships further.

I live in Thornbury, and am part of Sustainable Thornbury. The co-op will be strongest if we can harness the energy potential of both urban and rural locations in the greater Bristol area. In the past year I've been exploring opportunities for such collaborations, and I'd welcome the opportunity to build on that work.

### **b) Chris Speller**

I became a member of Bristol Energy Cooperative because I was excited about its aspirations. Over the past year I have become involved in the day-to-day work of the coop, particularly the Wind & Fundraising sub groups, & remain enthused by the mission. I feel ready to take on some additional responsibility and am confident that I can work well with other Board members.

My professional background is as a doctor in the NHS where I had various management roles over the years. I consider that this experience together with my new-found understanding of BEC will be a good starting point for taking on a Director role. My longstanding concern about climate change and global resource depletion have driven an interest in sustainable building design and renewables technology and I have the experience of incorporating some of what I have learned into my own home.

My overriding personal aspiration is for BEC to become influential in local & regional energy arenas with the aim of promoting our values of fair and sustainable energy use for as long as there is a need to do so. In order to do this I feel it important to scale up as quickly as we are able and generate income sufficient to run an office with paid staff. I believe that this is important both to make a meaningful difference and to become truly sustainable as an organisation. We appear to be on track to start doing this over the next year and as a Director I would aim play my part in making this a reality. Exciting times!