

BEC director candidate statements - 2014 AGM

1. Gareth Hoskins

My professional career has been in Administration and Finance in local government, higher and adult education – my skills are those of administration and finance.

I retired early to run a private property company based in London and West Somerset and this is on-going. I am currently a Parish Councillor but will stand down in May 2015.

I am a founder member and Director of the 10 Parishes (Wiveliscombe-based) Transition Group, Brendon Energy Ltd co-operative and Brendon Orchards Co-operative and believe in the co-operative principle. I also believe that communities need to be pro-active.

Brendon Energy is a community owned renewable energy co-operative formed in 2011 and I have been CEO since then. Together with a team of four other Directors we have installed five solar PV arrays on community buildings in Wiveliscombe (2), Brompton Regis, Churchinford and Wellington RFC. We have raised the capital via 2 share offers and loans and pay 5% interest to members. In addition we have established a community fund for each solar array which is administered by that community using 20% of the FIT. We have acted as consultant to several new community renewable energy groups and have a number of projects which will shortly come to fruition leading to a third share offer. I believe that there are many similarities between Bristol Energy and Brendon Energy even though they operate in different communities.

2. Andrew Lee

I have been a director of Bristol Energy Cooperative since its inception in 2011 and am standing down by rotation this year. I would like to be accepted back onto the board again this year as its projects and goals really excite me, making me want to “get my hands dirty” by getting involved.

Being a director will help me to realise the goals of the Cooperative whilst fulfilling my desire to be able to “make a difference” and drive the implementation of renewables, reduce energy consumption and hopefully alleviate fuel poverty in our region. I believe that Bristol Energy Cooperative (and like minded “grass roots” organisations) will have an increasingly important role to play in developing people’s awareness and involvement with the energy they use daily, and how we can all work together towards a “greener” energy future.

I bring along the management skills I have obtained in my daytime jobs as both a computer programmer and a technician in an architect's practice. I am currently an energy assessor for new dwellings, and am therefore fully conversant with the “nuts and bolts” of how a building fits together, leading to a good understanding of how it both saves and loses energy.

I hope you will see fit to vote me back onto the board, and look forward to serving you all to my best ability.