



NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION



BECOME
OUR TRUSTEE

BECOMING OUR TRUSTEE

Claire Durkin, Chair of National Energy Action (NEA) says:

‘Amid the energy crisis, the work of National Energy Action has never been more needed. But the ambition of the charity is greater still. We want to end fuel poverty by putting it at the heart of the energy system, making it a priority for ill-health prevention, and to help drive the net zero transition. Being a trustee for the charity is an opportunity to make a difference to the lives of the most vulnerable and to achieve this greater mission. But, believe me, it is also immensely rewarding.’



**MAKE A DIFFERENCE
TODAY... AND FOR GOOD.**

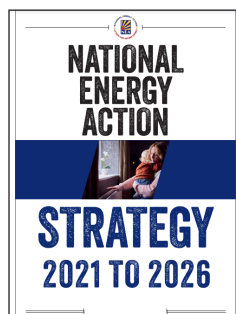
NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION

WE ARE NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION (NEA)

The national fuel poverty charity, working to ensure that everyone in England, Wales and Northern Ireland is warm and safe at home. Many households in the UK are in need of more energy bill help. The number of households in the UK in fuel poverty increases annually.

Go to www.nea.org.uk/energy-crisis for the latest figure.

FUEL POVERTY IS DEFINED AS A HOUSEHOLD NEEDING TO SPEND 10% OR MORE OF ITS INCOME ON MAINTAINING A SATISFACTORY HEATING REGIME.



For more on our Impact report and how we are making a difference go to:

www.nea.org.uk/publications/impact-report-2022-2023/

For more on our Strategy:

www.nea.org.uk/publications/nea-strategy-2021-2026/



We work as an advocacy organisation, putting pressure on the governments and others to improve bill support, energy efficiency and the many other ways to ensure everyone can afford to keep their homes warm, safe and healthy.



We are a multi-channel advice provider, supporting the most vulnerable households with expert information and guidance in communities, over the phone and online.



We conduct research in order to inform our policy positions on various areas including price caps, prepayment meters, energy suppliers' customer service, regulation, energy bill help and vulnerable groups. The energy sector is a fast-changing area for policy and regulation, especially with the energy crisis, and we respond regularly to events through our press team.



We also provide training to individuals and organisations looking to provide energy advice.

Our training courses cover areas such as assisting households with fuel poverty, energy efficiency, and the green transition. Many of our learners work in frontline advice roles, where they interact with vulnerable people.



We also run events to bring together experts and politicians to discuss issues around fuel poverty and energy affordability. This includes our NEA Annual Conference and regional Fuel Poverty Forums.

WHAT IS A TRUSTEE?

Our Board is made up of 11 amazing volunteers who bring a huge commitment to our cause, a wealth and diversity of experiences and skills. They expertly oversee the charity under the leadership of the Chair of the Board.

The role of trustees is to share their knowledge, skills and expertise to help us achieve our mission that **'everyone should be able to afford to keep their homes warm, safe and healthy'**.

Our Trustees oversee everything we do, from

setting out our strategy to being responsible for our work and finances, in line with the key duties as set out by **the Charity Commission**.

They ensure NEA's income is used effectively, its assets are safeguarded and risks are well managed. They empower our Chief Executive and Senior Management Team to take responsibility for the day-to-day running of NEA, but they are the final decision-makers with ultimate responsibility for our success or failure.

WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU

The Trustee Board helps with the following:

FORMULATING STRATEGY – developing and maintaining vision, strategy and clear objectives for NEA in the best long-term interests of the organisation's beneficiaries.

ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY – holding the Senior Management Team to account for the delivery of the strategy, offering purposeful, constructive scrutiny and challenge.

SHAPING CULTURE – being committed to the strategy and mission of NEA. Providing visible leadership across the organisation to develop a positive culture, ensuring this is reflected in your own and the board's collective behaviour and decision-making.

REPRESENTING THE ORGANISATION – helping build strong relationships with the wide variety of stakeholders. Understanding the environment NEA works in nationally and locally.

We are seeking new trustees who can help us work towards achieving our strategy and mission. The full job descriptions are available on our website: www.nea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Trustee-Job-Description.pdf and www.nea.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Chair-Trustee-Job-Description.pdf

We are looking in particular for those who have professional lived experience of what it is like to live in poverty and can bring that knowledge to

help formulate solutions to the problem. We are also seeking people who can bring HR, energy efficiency and retrofit skills to inform the Board.

As a high proportion of those who suffer from fuel poverty are from minority ethnic backgrounds, we are keen to learn from those who have experienced the particular challenges of cultural, language and ethnic differences for themselves.

We hope that by joining our Board you will enrich and inform the services which NEA aims to provide to those who need it most.

MORE INFORMATION

TERMS OF OFFICE

You will be appointed for an initial term of three years, and will be eligible for reappointment for one additional term (maximum six years).

Your appointment will be approved by the Trustee Board at their subsequent meeting.

CAN ANYONE BE APPOINTED AS A CHARITY TRUSTEE?

There are some restrictions regarding who can serve as a Charity Trustee. The following is from the Charity Commission Guidance on Recruitment, Selection and Appointment of Charity Trustees.

Some people are disqualified by law from acting as Charity Trustees or nominees, including anyone described in section 72(1) of the 1993 Act. Broadly that covers:

- anyone who has been convicted of an offence involving deception and dishonesty, unless the conviction is spent;
- anyone who is an undischarged bankrupt, or is the subject of bankruptcy restriction order or bankruptcy restriction undertaking;
- anyone who has made a composition to arrangement with, or granted a trust deed for, his or her creditors and has not been discharged in respect of it;
- anyone who has previously been removed from Trusteeship of a charity by the court or the Commissioners; and
- anyone who is under a disqualification order under the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 or is the subject of a disqualification undertaking.

Further information about disqualification and waivers of disqualification can be found in OG41 (Disqualification for acting as a Charity Trustee) and OG42 (Waiver of disqualification for acting as a Charity Trustee), which are available on the Charity Commission website www.charitycommission.gov.uk



EXPENSES

This is a volunteer role and will not be remunerated; however reasonable travel expenses and subsistence costs will be reimbursed, along with a contribution towards refreshments when working unsociable hours.

TIME COMMITMENT

A time commitment of 10-12 days per year is expected of all NEA trustees.

LOCATION OF MEETINGS

Meetings are held in our London or Newcastle offices and, although we encourage trustees to attend in person, there is an option to join virtually.

The Chair and Chief Executive will meet with shortlisted applicants and other trustees to further discuss the role. Following this, if deemed suitable and candidates are in agreement, applications will go forward to the next full Board of Trustees meeting for Board consideration.

NATIONAL ENERGY ACTION

National Energy Action (NEA), the fuel poverty charity, campaigns so everyone can afford to live in a warm, safe and healthy home. This is something denied to millions because of poor housing, low incomes, and high bills.

Working across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, everything we do aims to improve the lives of people in fuel poverty. We directly support people with energy and income maximisation advice and we advocate on issues including improving the energy efficiency of our homes.

We do not work alone. Partnerships and collaboration have been at our heart for over 40 years, helping us drive better health and wellbeing outcomes for people struggling to heat their homes.

WHERE TO FIND US

Email: press@nea.org.uk

Web: www.nea.org.uk

NEA is an independent charity, Registration No. 290511. Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England, No. 1853927 Registered office: Level 6, West One, Forth Banks, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 3PA Tel: 0191 261 5677

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