



Director Biographies

Standing for Re-election



Steve Drummond

Appointed to the Board: February 2013

Skills and experience: Steve has extensive experience in the energy and climate change sectors. Starting as an engineer and then moving into finance, he has spent nearly 40 years working in nuclear, conventional and renewable energy power generation in the UK and overseas. Roles include power station design, engineering and construction, corporate and project finance. Steve was also deeply involved in the international development and implementation of the Kyoto protocol financial mechanisms. Steve's roles have included being a Partner of PwC and a Partner of Cantor Fitzgerald.

Steve is now CEO of Electrogenic Ltd., which develops EV technology that is deployed both in new production cars and the conversion of beautiful classic vehicles. Back in Oxford, he was one of the founding directors of Oxford North Community Renewables (or ONCORE) before becoming a founding director of The Low Carbon Hub IPS.

External appointments: Managing Director of Electrogenic Ltd (www.electrogenic.co.uk)

Specific contributions to the IPS: Steve serves as Chair of the Board and brings his breadth of industry expertise to the role. He has been associated with the Low Carbon Hub since the early days and has also served as Investment Committee Chair and independent Non-Executive Director of The Low Carbon Hub IPS. This puts Steve in a unique position to help steer The Hub through this exciting period of renewal and change.

Independent: No – Steve is independent from conflicts of interest with the operations of the IPS but has served as a director for more than ten years and so is not considered to be independent under the Financial Reporting Guidelines. Steve has undertaken to serve no more than three years as Chair, and in that time to ensure appropriate succession management.

Steve will be standing down at the 2023 AGM under IPS Rule 18 and will seek re-election.



Standing for Election



Name: Mairi Brookes

Appointed to the Board: September 2023

Skills and experience: Formerly an astrophysics researcher I switched my career to sustainability in 2007 and have made my way from: product manager at a start-up developing carbon management software; through three years in central government at the Department of Energy and Climate Change as a Senior Energy Policy Officer; seven years at Oxford City Council as Sustainable City Manager working on community energy, city-scale decarbonization and electric vehicle infrastructure, and a short stint as Head of Transformation at its trading company Oxford Direct Services. Before joining the Hub in March 2021, I was freelancing via Purpose Built Consulting Ltd.

External appointments:

Director at Westmill Solar Cooperative since June 2019.

Director at Purpose Built Consulting Ltd since January 2020

Specific contributions to the IPS: As Smart Energy Systems Director at Low Carbon Hub I help to accelerate carbon emissions reduction through the development of new business models for community energy projects. Three key strands I lead on are: Cosy Homes Oxfordshire; Energy Solutions Oxfordshire and the development of Smart Community Energy Schemes and associated services.

Independent: No, Mairi is currently a Director of Low Carbon Hub CIC, and an employee of The Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited.



Maxine Frerk

Appointed to the Board: September 2023

Skills and experience: Maxine is an experienced board level leader with an extensive track record in regulation in both the public and private sectors, including 15 years with the energy regulator



Ofgem. She now provides advisory services and has a number of Non-Exec and advisory board roles, bringing a consumer and environmental perspective into complex regulatory debates in the energy sector.

Maxine has been a leader at the “Grid Edge” since before the term was coined, and since 2016 has been providing thought-leadership in this area through her own company: Grid Edge Policy. She has a wide range of appointments including Chair of the Customer and Stakeholder Engagement Group for SGN (gas distribution network), and Chair of the Open Networks Challenge Group of the Energy Networks Association. Maxine also Chaired the Stakeholder Group for the hugely successful Project LEO, in which the Hub played an important part.

Maxine recognises the Hub’s key role in developing initiatives and demonstrations at the Grid Edge and sees her role at the Hub as an important part of moving this vital transformation forward.

External appointments:

Smart Energy GB – Independent Board Member

SSEN Distribution – Independent Board member

Specific contributions to the IPS: Maxine brings her experience of customer communication and innovation at the “Grid Edge” to support this critical part of the work of the Hub. Maxine has particular responsibility for supporting the management team for these activities and for introducing new links with other organisations to support Grid Edge activities. Maxine’s contribution will be particularly important as the Hub starts to reach beyond Oxfordshire to Ofgem and elsewhere to further its mission.

Independent: Yes



Name: Saskya Huggins

Appointed to the Board: September 2023

Skills and experience: Saskya has over thirty years’ experience in the charity and social enterprise sectors. She worked in wide range of charitable organisations, from entirely volunteer-run initiatives to national and global charities such as Comic Relief, UNICEF and Oxfam. Her responsibilities included strategy development, fundraising, and leading multi-agency collaborative projects focused on strengthening corporate social responsibility.

Following a career break to raise her family, she has focused on putting her skills to use championing community action on climate change.



She holds a Natural Sciences degree from University of Cambridge, a certificate in voluntary sector management, and studied Social Marketing at the Open University. She is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Fundraisers. In her spare time Saskya is volunteer Director of West Oxford Community Renewables and volunteer guide at Osney Lock Hydro, the first community owned hydro on the Thames.

External appointments:

Director, West Oxford Community Renewables

Director, Oxford Cancer Care

Trustee, Margaret Dobson Further Education Trust

Specific contributions to the IPS: As Social Impact Director of Low Carbon Hub, she leads the development and delivery of stakeholder engagement strategies and community benefit programmes that put people at the heart of the energy system. Her team provides marketing support for new and existing products and services including value proposition and customer journey development, branding, key messaging and promotion. Her team is also responsible for raising retail investment, with £10 million investment raised to support the development of community-owned renewables.

Independent: No, Saskya is currently a Director of Low Carbon Hub CIC, and an employee of The Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited.



Name: Tim Jones

Appointed to the Board: September 2023

Skills and experience: Tim has 35 years of experience in the energy sector. Recently Tim worked with Schlumberger PLC, an energy services company structuring project funding and delivering global energy projects.

He is delighted to have the opportunity to contribute to the zero emissions ambitions of the Low Carbon Hub, particularly at a local level and wants to help accelerate these ambitions across Oxfordshire and beyond.

Specific contributions to the IPS: Tim manages the Hub's generation portfolio, having responsibility for the development, construction and operational management of all of the Hub's renewable energy investments. This vital role generates the Hub's recurring income, without which it would not be possible to create community benefit.



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Independent: No, Tim is an employee of The Low Carbon Hub IPS



Name: Rob Kesterton

Appointed to the Board: June 2023

Skills and experience: Rob combines his passion for low carbon energy with a background in finance and investment. He has experience working in the energy sector of many different countries and has been involved in the implementation of renewable energy projects as both sponsor and lender.

After qualifying as a Chartered Accountant at Deloitte in London, he worked as a Commercial Analyst for the Alternative Energy business of BP where he supported the development of gas and renewable projects in the UK and Asia. Between 2009 and 2017 he led the financing of numerous renewable power projects while at the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). In 2017 he moved to Nairobi where he managed investment activities for Berkeley Energy on behalf of the African Renewable Energy Funds (AREF and AREF II).

Rob is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW) and holds an MA in Geography from the University of Oxford and an MSc in Environmental Technology from Imperial College London.

External appointments: Investment Director for Atlantic Green, a developer of large-scale energy storage projects in the UK.

Specific contributions to the IPS: Rob brings his deep knowledge of project development and financing to support the project development and asset management activities of the Hub. His formal role in doing this is acting as Chair of the Investment Committee. Rob also brings his accountancy expertise to the Audit Committee.

Independent: Yes



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Name: Al Kitchen

Appointed to the Board: September 2023

Skills and experience: Al worked at Climate-KIC, where their vision is to create a prosperous, inclusive, climate-resilient society with a circular, zero-carbon economy. Before this, he studied at the Cambridge Institute of Sustainability Leadership completing a Business Sustainability Management Course to develop his professional skills and impact. The course provided a strong background in sustainability and how best to represent it on the broad business agenda.

External appointments: Al is a founding member of Deddington Environment Network, a low carbon group committed to pursuing multiple angles of environment work including energy, resource use, biodiversity, and transport.

Specific contributions to the IPS: Al is the “Communities Director”. He represents our 41 affiliated community organisations at the Board and works with the Hub team to communicate and organise the work we do with our community groups to further the Hub’s mission.

Independent: Yes



Chukwuemeka (“Emeka”) Godwin Nwangele

Appointed to the Board: July 2023

Skills/Experience: Emeka is experienced in sustainable policy and economic planning, technology implementation, and technical human capacity development. Emeka has worked with organizations such as McKinsey, the World Bank (South Asia), Ariya Finergy (Nairobi), and Greenage Technologies (Enugu, Nigeria), which he co-founded to help bring clean energy to those in need.

Emeka is passionate about making a positive impact in leadership, sustainable development and engineering. As a Rhodes Scholar at the University of Oxford, he is pursuing a PhD in Engineering Sciences. He was also involved in academic and community leadership as the President of the University of Oxford Africa Society. His PhD is on improving the technology of large power plants for improved renewable penetration to the grid.



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Aside from his professional pursuits, Emeka is committed to making a difference in his community. He enjoys mentoring African youths and helping to cultivate the next generation of leaders and scholars.

Specific contributions to the IPS: Having founded a community energy enterprise in Nigeria, Emeka is interested in how to integrate the different activities of investment, communications and local networks. At the Hub he serves on the Investment Committee and forms a board-level link between this and the rest of the business, helping the Hub to realise the advantages of integration enabled by its new, combined structure.

Independent: Yes



Lenah Odour

Appointed to the Board: September 2023

Skills and experience: Lenah is a Chartered Public Finance Accountant with a first degree from Kenyatta University and a Masters from the University of Birmingham. She worked in a number of finance roles at the Mumias Sugar Company, including overseeing the financing and construction of a bagasse cogeneration plant.

In the UK Lenah managed the delivery of the financial obligations of developers for Oxfordshire County Council before setting up her own accountancy practice ten years ago. gHawk accounting focusses on helping businesses with accounting automation, system and process implementation, cashflow management and profit improvement.

External appointments: Director of gHawk Accounting

Specific contributions to the IPS: Lenah will take up the role of Treasurer from Luke Marion when he steps down at the 2023 AGM and will chair the Audit Committee.

Independent: Yes



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Mish Tullar

Appointed to the Board: June 2023

Skills and experience: Mish has had a long career as Director of Communications for a number of large corporations, including BNFL Magnox, British Gas and Centrica. He more recently undertook the role of Director of Media and External relations for Royal Mail, before joining Oxford City Council.

At Oxford City Council, Mish works with the Cabinet to shape the Council's strategic direction including leading several corporate functions. These are policy and strategy development; partnerships with other strategic stakeholders in Government, local government, businesses, and other organisations; communications; and the council's nationally recognised environmental sustainability work.

Specific contributions to the IPS: Mish is overseeing the strategy development process for the Hub over the next twelve months, bringing to bear all his experience as Head of Corporate Strategy at Oxford City Council. He is also a vital link between the Hub and the Oxford City Council, which is both a Hub investor and also a crucial partner in developing a number of Hub services.

Independent: Yes



Name: Chris Woolhouse

Appointed to the Board: June 2023

Skills and experience: Chris is an experienced finance and corporate lawyer with a longstanding interest in a commitment to the low carbon transition and over 20 years' experience in top tier international law firms, including Clifford Chance, Orrick, Hogan Lovells and BCLP. He has established several start-up companies focused on the energy transition and has served as an in-house general counsel to private equity and venture capital funds.

He holds a law degree and a master's degree (LL.M, Environmental Law) both from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Chris is the General Counsel and Head of Partnerships at



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Nithio Holdings, Inc, a data analytics and finance company focussed on the off-grid renewables sector in sub-Saharan Africa.

External appointments: General Council and Head of Partnerships at Nithio Holding Inc.

Specific contributions to the IPS: Chris is a UK qualified barrister (N.P) and a practicing solicitor in England and Wales. Chris takes the lead on Governance for the Hub.

Independent: Yes