

## THE VEOLIA ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST - TRUSTEE ROLE DESCRIPTION

### Introduction

The [Veolia Environmental Trust](#) was established in 1997 to distribute Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) monies from contributions received from Veolia. The LCF is an innovative tax credit scheme enabling operators of landfill sites in England and Northern Ireland to contribute money to organisations enrolled with [ENTRUST](#) (the schemes regulator) as Environmental Bodies (EBs).

The Trust is a Registered Charity (1064144) and a registered limited company (3419138) and is registered with ENTRUST as an environmental body under the Landfill Tax Regulations (043013).

The objects of the Trust are the protection, preservation and improvement of the environment for the benefit of the public and to advance the education of the public in matters concerning the environment, its conservation and protection set out in the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996 (including any re-enactment or modification to the Regulations).

The Trust's team currently comprises six members of staff who are based within a [Veolia](#) office: Kingswood House, Kingswood Crescent, Cannock, Staffordshire, WS11 8JP.

The Board of Trustees is currently made up of 9 members, with a maximum of 12 allowed.

### Vision, Values, Mission

Our vision is to create a healthy environment where communities can thrive. We do this by providing funding and support to communities so that they can improve their local environment.

We are a people-focused environmental charity and we place value on working together, innovation and responsibility.

For further reading on the Trust's Vision, Values and Mission together with our Strategy Goals please do give our [VET GUIDE 2024 \(1\).pdf](#) a read.

### Purpose of Role and Person Specification

Trustees provide strategic vision for the charity, bringing sound independent judgement and demonstrating a clear commitment to the Trust's vision and values.

The ideal Trustee will have or be prepared to develop:

- A commitment to ensuring the Trust is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit
- A willingness to devote the necessary time and effort preparing for meetings
- Playing a full part in Trustee and other activities
- A desire to share their knowledge, passion and experience with other trustees and staff
- An enthusiasm to engage in debate and to speak out when necessary
- An understanding and acceptance to comply of the legal duties, responsibilities and liabilities that accompany their involvement with the Trust
- Ensuring and advocating good governance and developing and sharing best sector practice
- The ability to listen and work effectively as a member of a team
- Impartiality, fairness, and the ability to respect confidences and confidentiality
- Manage the Trust's resources

Knowledge and experience of the voluntary, conservation and community sectors would be an advantage. This could include lived experience as a community member, service-user or volunteer.

### **Term of Office for Independent Trustees**

Three years and may be reappointed for up to 9 years. Trustees are expected to attend four meetings per year.

Trustees are also members of the charity for AGM purposes and Directors of the limited company.

### **Role and Legal Duty**

Trustees have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, the Trust's management and administration making sure the Trust achieves its aims and objectives. Trustees must ensure that the Trust is carrying out the purposes for which it is set up and no other purpose.

A Trustee must act in the Trust's best interests, responsibly and honestly. As the Charity Commission outlines, in some cases you will be unable to comply with your legal duties if good practice is not followed.

Trustees who act in breach of their legal duties can be held responsible for the consequences that flow from such a breach and for any loss the Trust incurs as result.

Full guidance '*The essential trustee; what you need to know, what you need to do*' is available from the Charity Commission website:

[The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do \(CC3\)](#)

### **Key Responsibilities**

- To promote and safeguard the reputation and values of the Trust.
- To attend meetings of the Trust and take an active part in overseeing the work of the Trust.
- To have shared responsibility for ensuring that the Trust operates in accordance with its Memorandum of Association and the legal requirements and guidance issued by the Landfill Communities Fund regulator, ENTRUST.
- To maintain proper financial controls and ensure that the Trust applies its resources exclusively in pursuance of its objects, i.e. the Trust must not spend money on activities that are not included in its objects, no matter how worthwhile or charitable those activities are.
- To set and maintain vision, mission and values, through an appropriate policy framework.

Induction training will be offered to all new Trustees. The position of Trustee is voluntary.

Please view our [Privacy Statement - Trustees August 2023.pdf](#)

## Reflections from two of the current Trustee Board members

### Caroline Schwaller - Chair

Before becoming the chair three years ago I was on the board as a trustee, with a background in the charity sector in a number of roles that include grant making. At VET we have a dynamic mix of young professional trustees - keen to develop new skills and share their expertise - along with senior staff from Veolia itself and others from the charity sector. It's a continuing delight to be involved in VET and you can't beat a team of committed and interactive trustees who are supported by an equally talented staff team. Staff and trustees work closely together at all levels. And because of what we do, it is very rewarding to be part of an organisation that makes a real and positive impact, whether it's helping a community centre in a city centre, or enabling wetlands to be revived to help endangered species.

### Luke Bailey - Trustee

I joined the board 3 years ago and have found it to be an extremely rewarding and fun experience. This has been my first role as a Trustee and I have found all of the board and the staff team extremely supportive. Since day one I have felt empowered to contribute to, and help drive positive change, in the Trust. Being able to set the strategic direction and see the incredible range of projects come through the board as a result has been really satisfying to see.