

Trustee information pack



About South Lakes Action on Climate Change-tt

South Lakes Action on Climate Change *Towards Transition* (SLACCtt) is a community-based charity which brings together people who want to do something about climate change and promote a more sustainable lifestyle. SLACC tt is now (as of 2023) a Charitable Incorporated Organisation(**Slacc-CIO**) with a new **Charity no 1202875**. We are part of the global [Transition Town Network](#).

South Lakes Action on Climate Change (SLACC) believes that the world is facing a climate emergency and a biodiversity emergency. These emergencies pose an existential threat to people and communities around the world, with the most severe impacts often falling on people who are already vulnerable and disadvantaged; including people who have done the least to cause these emergencies.

We will seek to do this through a range of activities, in line with our **charitable objectives**:

1. To promote the conservation, protection and improvement of the natural environment by:
 - a) Facilitating and undertaking practical projects to reduce carbon emissions and increase climate resilience.
 - b) Raising awareness of and promoting a just climate transition that addresses wellbeing, equity and inclusion.
2. To educate the public about climate change and environmental conservation.

We are committed to tackling the climate and biodiversity emergencies and promoting sustainability more generally, focusing in particular on South Lakeland.

SLACC-tt benefits from the support of 70 members, 6 Trustees and over 60 active volunteers, and a small number of contracted self-employed staff. Since our establishment in 2007, we have seen many developments and achievements, and are now entering an exciting new phase.

We work with a range of partners with whom we have built good relationships and there are positive and supportive links with Kendal Town Council and the Westmorland and Furness Council. There is much more information on our Website: [SLACC – South Lakes Action on Climate Change](#)

In order to focus our resources, we work on agreed priorities, the objectives for which are set at our Annual General Meeting. Currently [Waste into Wellbeing](#) and the [Cumbria Coal Mine Campaign](#) are our primary projects.

Charity Trustees and governance

SLACC-tt is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and operates under Charity Commission requirements. Our constitution sets out our operating rules and procedures, and a copy is available on our website. Trustees are formally elected at our Annual General Meeting AGM. (usually held in April).

Trustees serve a three year term of office which can be renewed. Among the Trustees specific roles are allocated for a Chair, a secretary and a treasurer. Trustees formally meet every 2 months, along with the AGM.

Trustees may also take a lead on specific areas of work on behalf of the Trustees which is beyond their core responsibilities (see below), but this is entirely dependent on their capacity and willingness to do so.

Requirements of the Trustee role:

- Provide strategic advice, support, challenge and assistance to SLACC-tt and its various programmes
- Act as an ambassador for SLACC-tt and represent our interests to outside bodies and the public
- Check that we carry out our duties as a charity in line with our charitable purposes, and that ensure that we comply with charity law
- Act and take decisions only in the best interests of SLACC-tt, and help make sure that our resources are managed responsibly
- Contribute to ad-hoc governance activities that keep our policies, and procedures up to date
- Act in line with our Equality Diversity and Inclusion code of conduct

A useful guide to the trustee role can be viewed at:

[The essential trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/the-essential-trustee-what-you-need-to-know-what-you-need-to-do)

Eligibility

To be a Trustee you need to be a member of SLACC-tt and over 18 years of age. You must meet Charity Commission rules on eligibility. (see section 3.1 in essential Trustee guidance noted above).

Time Commitment

Trustees are expected to attend Trustee meetings every 2 months, which normally last 2 hours. Trustees are also encouraged to represent SLACC-tt at occasional events and partnership meetings. In addition, most Trustees volunteer for other areas of work (recognising individual capacity will vary) and occasionally attend training as required.

Meetings are held either in person in Kendal, or via Zoom.

Trustees will need to prepare for each meeting in advance, by familiarising themselves with the papers and issues to be discussed.

Recruitment priorities: additional Trustees and a new Chair

A Trustee can bring a range of skills and experiences that help us to deliver effectively on the climate crisis agenda and comply with Charity Law. We'd love to hear from you whether you are an experienced Trustee or looking to take on your first Trustee role. Collaboration and good team working is essential. Negotiating, listening, integrity and an ability to think outside of the box are important attributes. You must share the same core values and vision that are set out for SLACC-tt.

As our current chair is stepping down after a three year term (to continue as a Trustee), we are particularly keen to hear from anyone who can take on this role.

The Chair is responsible to the members for the overall running of SLACC: this includes ensuring that SLACC meets its objectives, financial affairs, the conduct of meetings, and ensuring that the other Officers and Committee members carry out the duties delegated to them. The chair is responsible for:

- Chairing Trustee Meetings
- Monitoring activities and ensure charities rules/own aims are guiding principles
- Liaison with Charities Commission and updating of website
- Induction of Trustees and development of Trustees
- Ensuring that statutory and voluntary insurances are arranged (via secretary)
- Drafting agreeing and logging policies, and ensure they are up to date
- In some cases, dealing with complaints and safeguarding issues.

We believe we are at the beginning of an exciting new phase for SLACC, and there is scope for a new chair to bring vision, energy, ideas and to strengthen partnership working with a range of statutory, community and business partners to help shape sustainability-focused activities in the local community.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

SLACC is dedicated to creating an inclusive environment for everyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, colour, national origin, age, disability (physical or mental), sexual orientation, gender identity, parental status, marital status, and political affiliation as well as gender expression, mental illness, socioeconomic status or background, neuro(a)typicality, or physical appearance.

We operate under a specific Equality, Diversity and Inclusion code of conduct, which applies to all our activities. <https://slacc.org.uk/about/policies/>

How to express interest

We are very happy to hear from anyone interested in exploring the role in the first instance. For an informal chat please contact: Chris or Carole via an e mail to slacc@slacc.org.uk

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