



Director Biographies

For the Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited AGM
To be held online on
Monday 12 October 2026
18:30 - 20:00



2026

Neil Lawson



Non-Executive Director

Committee(s): Investment, Strategy

Co-opted to the board: April 2026

Skills and experience:

Neil was a founding director of Sandford Hydro CIC, working voluntarily to develop what became the largest hydro scheme on the Thames, before the Low Carbon Hub took on its construction and community ownership.

He has worked in energy since 1990, first as a combustion design engineer and for the past twenty-five years on the electrification of heating and cooling. Across five companies he has been responsible for the design of more than 500MW of installed and operational heat pump capacity. He founded GeoEnergy Design Ltd in 2020 and led the practice until his exit in 2026. As a non-executive director of Low Carbon Farming he originated the use of waste heat from final sewage discharge to heat commercial glasshouses, two schemes that use 72MW of heat pumps and secured £120m of investment.

Neil brings the physical side of the grid edge. He has argued for twenty years that electrified heating and cooling, designed with storage and control, are the largest controllable load that most buildings have, and so a source of flexibility rather than another burden on a constrained network. He also brings promoter-side experience of raising finance for assets at the scale the Hub is now building.

Neil's commitment to renewable energy began in Cape Town in 2003, a city that was his home for two years, watching air quality deteriorate from fossil fuel use. His work since has been directed at clean heat and transport, and at what he calls ethical electrification.

External appointments:

Founder and Managing Director of GeoEnergy Design Ltd

Independent: Yes

Bernie Jones



Non-Executive Director

Committee(s): Impact

Co-opted to the board: April 2026

Skills and experience:

Bernie has more than 30 years' experience in technology, policy, operations and international development. He has held senior roles with British Airways, The Royal Society and Shaw Trust.

Bernie is the Founder and Managing Director of Smart Villages, an Oxfordshire-based company that has built on a foundation of 7 years of global energy access research and outreach, by innovating and implementing community renewable energy solutions and technologies on the ground. Since 2017, Bernie has led more than 30 projects bringing access to clean energy and sustainable livelihood technologies to over 50 communities and more than 200,000 people in the Global South, mainly in Eastern and Southern Africa.

External appointments:

Founder and Managing Director of Smart Villages

Independent: Yes

Tony-Thorpe Morris



Non-Executive Director

Committee(s): Investment

Co-opted to the board: April 2026

Skills and experience:

Tony has over 20 years experience in Service Delivery managing financial organisation delivery contracts. Tony has spent the last 10 years working in renewable energy managing asset performance and working closely with Ofgem & DESNZ to reduce fuel poverty.

Tony is very excited to be joining Low Carbon Hub at this very important time as we accelerate our plans to contribute to net zero, and working with local community projects, to reduce their carbon emissions.

Tony is a keen golfer and enjoys playing in competitions across the country.

External appointments:

Company Director of Omnia Energy Ltd

Independent: No, Tony is employed as director by the Low Carbon Hub IPS Limited.

Rob Kesterton



Non-Executive Director

Committee(s): Audit, Investment (Chair)

Elected to the board: June 2023

Skills and experience:

Rob is the Chair of the Investment Committee, and sits on the Audit Committee.

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 now lives in Oxford and is pleased to be focusing on energy issues closer to home. In addition to his responsibilities at Low Carbon Hub, he works as Investment Director for Atlantic Green, a developer of large-scale energy storage projects in the UK. 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

Independent: Yes

Mish Tullar



Non-Executive Director

Committee(s): Impact, Strategy (Chair)

Elected to the board: June 2023

Skills and experience:

Mish is the Chair of the Strategy Committee, and sits on the Grants Committee.

He 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.

External appointments:

Head of Corporate Strategy at Oxford City Council

Independent: Yes

Chris Woolhouse



Non-Executive Director

Committee(s): Governance, Risk & Nominations (Chair)

Elected to the board: June 2023

Skills and experience:

Chris is the current Chair of the Governance, Risk and Nominations Committee. He is an experienced finance and corporate lawyer with a longstanding interest in and commitment to the low carbon transition. He brings over 20 years' experience in top tier international law firms, including Clifford Chance, Orrick, Hogan Lovells and BCLP to the board. 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 other funds. Chris is a UK qualified barrister (N.P) and a practicing solicitor in England and Wales.

He holds a law degree and a masters degree (LL.M, Environmental Law) both from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences. Chris is a director of DREAM, which is building a bridge between public climate funding and private capital, unlocking the scale needed for clean energy and climate adaptation in emerging markets. He lives in Oxford with his partner and three teenage children.

Independent: Yes