Ecological
Land
Cooperative
For a living, working countryside

Help drive the farming revolution- join our board of directors

The Ecological Land Cooperative (ELC) is a social enterprise operating in the South and South West of England, and South Wales. Our mission is to widen affordable access to land for ecological land-based enterprises, including farming, horticulture, forestry work and rural craft.

The ELC currently owns or manages seven farms and smallholding sites, which are home to 18 thriving ecological land based businesses, including market gardens, tree nurseries, flower farms and willow producers.

Our farm stewards (tenants) are at the heart of what we do, and play a vital role in the strategic decision making of our cooperative. ELC steward members are represented on the board of directors, and hold their own monthly meetings. There are also currently 485 investor members of the cooperative, and 7 seven part-time worker members (staff).

We are a pioneering organisation who have grown exponentially over the last five years, in terms of number of sites and farm stewards. We are currently entering a period of consolidation as we mature as a cooperative- to hone our business plan, change our legal structure, and to strengthen our finances in an uncertain funding landscape.

Role description

Role:	Director
Salary:	Voluntary-unpaid. Reasonable travel and other expenses reimbursed.
Commitment:	Six board meetings annually, alternating between online (via Zoom) and in the ELC's office in Bristol. Board members may also be required to join relevant organisational working groups, which are held monthly, as well as the ELC's AGM and annual visioning day. Board members also communicate occasionally via email in between meetings. Equivalent to 45 hours per year.
Skills sought:	We would like to hear from people who have an interest in the ELC's mission- providing access to land for ecological farming and land-based work. We are looking in particular for the following skills: ● Finance ● Fundraising ● HR ● Contract law Ideally we are looking for individuals who have held directorships or trusteeships in the past, but this is not essential as training can be provided.

	As an organisation we wholeheartedly embrace diversity, and believe our board of directors should reflect this. We encourage applicants from all backgrounds and (especially those) from BPOC and LGBTQ+ groups.
What we can do for you:	We are a friendly, people-focused organisation. As a board member you will join a supportive and welcoming community of people trying to forge a new direction for ecological farming and landwork. Board members are a valued part of the whole cooperative, with opportunities to meet and network with other members at our AGM and visioning days, as well as opportunities to visit our farm sites. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT We can provide in-house training in finance, cooperative governance and other relevant areas to members of our board of directors. ACCESSIBILITY We aim to make our board meetings as accessible as possible. The board of directors decide as a group the best times to meet, and in-person meetings can be attended by Zoom if possible. We aim to send papers round a week in advance to enable plenty of time to read through them.
Further information:	For more information about the Ecological Land Cooperative please visit our website. For more information relating to our board of directors please see the ELC board recruitment pack.
To apply:	If you are interested in applying for the role of co-director of the Ecological Land Cooperative please email board@ecologicalland.coop with: ● A copy of your CV ● A covering letter outlining why you'd like to join the ELC's board of directors and what you can offer the organisation. Don't hesitate to email us if you have any questions about the role or would like a chat before applying.
Next steps:	We will let you know once we have received your email. Your application will then be considered by our current board members and if approved you will be offered an informal chat with a panel of co-directors so we can both find out more about each other. If successful you will be co-opted onto our board, before being voted on to the board of directors by our membership in November 2025

February 2025