



BECOMING A MEMBER

A Northern
Ireland company
working for
consumers...



mutual-energy.com



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About Mutual Energy

Mutual Energy is a major player in the Northern Ireland energy sector managing critically important gas and electricity assets.

We own and operate the Moyle Interconnector which links the electricity systems of Northern Ireland and Scotland, the Premier Transmission Pipeline System (PTPS), which consists of the Scotland to Northern Ireland natural gas transmission pipeline (SNIP), the Belfast Gas Transmission Pipeline (BGTP) and the West Transmission Pipelines, operated by Premier Transmission Limited, Belfast Gas Transmission Limited and West Transmission Limited respectively which is delivering the latest Gas to the West project.

These strategically important assets provide vital energy links with Great Britain, and Mutual Energy aims to manage them to the highest standards of safety, reliability and efficiency. Our overall purpose is to own and operate energy infrastructure in the long-term interest of Northern Ireland energy consumers.

We are a mutual, which means that, because we have no shareholders to pay, we reinvest the money we earn for the long-term benefit of energy users in Northern Ireland.



The important role our members play

As a mutual company, we do things differently and our governance model is unique in the energy industry.

Our members are one of our most important assets and one of the distinguishing features of our unique business model. Members are appointed to represent the energy consumers of Northern Ireland and fulfil many of the roles of shareholders in other companies, scrutinising the performance of the organisation.

They perform an important stewardship role for strategic infrastructure which provides essential energy and power to Northern Ireland consumers and businesses.

The Mutual Energy board is therefore accountable to members for its management of the business. Performance is scrutinised against commercial and other targets, as well as against energy industry benchmarks for quality of service and cost efficiency.



Why are we looking for members?

We have no fewer than thirty members, and they are appointed by the board on the recommendation of the Membership Selections Committee.

Individuals appointed as members of Mutual Energy do not receive dividends nor do they have any other financial interest in the company.

Accordingly, any financial surpluses generated will be retained by Mutual Energy for the benefit of its operating companies and, ultimately, energy consumers.

Members are reimbursed for all reasonable expenses incurred in respect of their attendance at the annual general meeting, members' conference(s) or similar events.



Roles and responsibilities

Members play a vital role within Mutual Energy.

As representatives of the consumer they have a very important governance role in holding the board to account and also providing valuable insights from a range of perspectives.

Members perform this corporate governance role by receiving regular updates on the company's activities and progress:

By issue of the company's annual report and financial statements;

At an AGM which will include presentations on the group's general and financial performance and in particular the performance of PTL and MIL, their maintenance programmes, compliance with the terms of their licences and an analysis of expenditure as compared with budget;

At any other members' conferences which from time to time the board may consider necessary or desirable.

In addition, members have a role in approving certain changes to Mutual Energy's constitution, the appointment and removal of the directors and auditors of the company, the annual report and accounts and the report of the company's remuneration committee.

Commitment involved

Typically, members will attend two key events in the year – generally no more than a ½ day each.

MEMBERS' DAY

First a members' day, which outlines the future strategy of the group and the challenges ahead. Often this is held at one of the company's sites and offers the opportunity to visit one of our working facilities.

AGM

Later in the year, an AGM is held to review the past year's performance and results. The AGM also involves members voting to accept certain resolutions, appointing directors and auditors.

Members' appointments will typically be for a period of three years, but membership may be renewed by the Board beyond the initial period of three years if certain criteria are met.

Why become a member?

Since its formation, Mutual Energy has greatly benefited from the role of members and been inspired and motivated by their dedication and willingness to support the business.

We also regularly hear from current and previous members that they get enjoyment and satisfaction from being part of a company which exists solely for its customers. In performing this important role, it is a chance to belong to a different kind of corporate organisation which is not driven by financial dividends and shareholder return and instead focuses on the Northern Ireland public.

It is also a chance to network with an interesting and varied group of like-minded people and to meet together at least twice a year to share insights and offer support.



What our members say

Trevor Greene

I have been a member of Mutual Energy since my retirement.

Our role as members is to oversee the organisation from the perspective of the consumer. The Board of Directors has the responsibility for the overall control of the Mutual Energy family. However, members are able (and required) to comment on and challenge all aspects of the operations with a view to maintaining the focus on delivery of good value to consumers of both gas and electricity.

The role is not a “dry” oversight of governance, but includes learning something of the technology behind the main activities so that members become able to speak more knowledgably about Mutual Energy’s work.

As I come to the end of my period as a member, I would encourage anyone reading this to consider becoming a member to join in the work of Mutual Eenergy. It is not only important for consumers, but is also personally rewarding giving a fascinating insight to the workings and complexity of the energy industry.

Can I become a member?

Members are drawn from a diverse range of backgrounds to ensure that all stakeholders, especially consumers, are represented adequately.

Members are selected on merit and against objective criteria, the intention being that Mutual Energy has a membership which has the necessary skills, expertise, industry experience and capacity to contribute to these key governance roles.





How to apply

If you are interested in representing Northern Ireland's energy consumers and can give the two half days a year to attend meetings please email roisin.clarke@mutual-energy.com for more information.

The Membership Selection Committee will review all suitable applications against the Company's published criteria for membership, particularly as regards the qualities and industry experience (whether specific or general) of the potential member, his or her independence and personal integrity, his or her ability to contribute to the Company and the need to ensure a balanced membership.

Shortlisted applicants may be invited to a short meeting with a view to appointing members shortly after.



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