

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 52nd Annual General Meeting of the Institution of Environmental Sciences (IES) will be held online at 12 Noon BST on Tuesday 15th April 2025 to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolutions. The AGM will last approximately 45 minutes.

Ordinary Resolutions

1. To approve the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 8th May 2024
2. To receive and adopt the 2024 Annual Report
3. To receive and adopt the accounts for the year ending 30th June 2024
4. To authorise the Council to appoint accountants for the fiscal year ending 30th June 2025

Elections

5. To elect members of Council (Articles 26-30)

Standing:

*Itunu Allison
Bernard Devereux
Ed Hill
Roisin Lindsay
Jemma Lonsdale
Grace Rachid
Brigitte Reid
James Tough*

Voting is online through the [Members' Area](#) of the IES website.



Adam Donnan

CEO [By Order of the Board]

March 2025

Relevant Documents

- (a) Minutes of 51st Annual General Meeting (p.2)
- (b) [2024 Annual report](#)
- (c) [2023-24 Accounts](#) (pdf)
- (d) [Biographies of candidates standing for election 2025](#) (pdf)

1st Floor, 6-8 Great Eastern Street, London EC2A 3NT, United Kingdom

+44 (0)20 3862 7484 | info@the-ies.org | www.the-ies.org

A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England No 01053508. Registered Charity No 277611

Auditors: Godfrey Wilson, 5th Floor Mariner House, 62 Prince Street, Bristol, BS1 4QD

Bankers: Co-operative Bank, Business Direct, PO BOX 250, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT

Governing Document: Articles of Association (2019)

Minutes of the AGM held at 12 Noon, 8th May 2024, Online Zoom Meeting

Julie Hill (JH) welcomed attendees to the 51st IES AGM. She explained that questions could be asked through the Q&A function and encouraged members who had not voted yet, to do so through the voting tool in the Members' Area.

Chair's Review of the Year

JH noted that this was her last AGM before handing over the Chair. She had hugely enjoyed her three years as Chair and thanked the other trustees and staff for their support. She commented that the output and skills of the IES staff never ceased to amaze. She was confident that efforts to improve diversity were working and we would continue to learn and develop on that front.

She highlighted three areas where she felt that the IES had risen to the challenges of the external environment.

Firstly, public expectations around the water environment have been rising, and we have all become aware of serious shortcomings. The FWR joining the IES family couldn't have come at a better time, enabling us to support members working in water and those with an interdisciplinary lens on water, through in-depth research and insight and community activities. She was confident that we will play our part in helping to turn this situation around.

Second, on the climate agenda. She had seen no evidence that public support for action on climate change is waning, but this is not matched by political ambitions. The Climate Action Community emerged from IES's work around COP26. The emphasis is on the 'action' – it is there to champion interdisciplinary working and getting things done on the ground. IES members and IES as a supporting body have a huge amount to offer.

Thirdly, on the heightening public awareness of the link between climate change and the loss of natural capital and biodiversity. The statutory biodiversity targets (Environment Act 2021) – are driving the needed to deliver, particularly on a local level through Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS). She highlighted the work of EPIC in this area.

She thanked everyone she worked with, including the members she had been fortunate to meet. She felt her time as Chair had been an inspiring professional experience and the IES has presented a warm and supportive environment.

CEO's Reflections on 2023 & Plans for 2024

Adam Donnan (AD) highlighted that the preparation for the annual report and AGM is a good opportunity to reflect on how much is achieved by a small staff cohort, and he thanked them for their dedication and expertise. They are only able to do this through the fantastic engagement and support of the over 400 members and environmental professionals who volunteered for the IES throughout the year. He highlighted the exceptional value of IES membership.

The theme for 2023 was horizon scanning and foresight, which resulted in a year-long project that was probably the most in-depth exercise of its kind taken in the sector. The IES undertakes horizon scanning every three years before the creation of a new strategy. The project kicked off with the widest lens and narrowed down: looking at megatrends effecting the sector, then emerging science, the regulatory landscape, the workforce, the job, and concluded with a look at what all this might mean for the future. More than 30 stakeholder organisations, 80

contributors, and 850 participants were involved. He recommended reading the final report on the IES website.

He also highlighted the work of the Foundation for Water Research (FWR). Three technical panels were launched, and the benefits of their input will be reaped in 2024. He also highlighted the merger with Environmental Protection UK (EPUK). This was a logical marriage as many of their members were already IES or IAQM members, and the IES was seeking to expand its work in environmental policy implementation. EPUK has a long and proud history – tracing its roots back to the foundation of the Coal Smoke Abatement Society in 1898 – making it one of the world's oldest environmental NGOs; he was pleased the IES could offer a home to continue its legacy.

EPUK became the new Environment Policy Implementation Community (or EPIC) within the IES family of communities. Ambitious environmental goals rely on strong implementation to make them a reality. Policy makers cannot overlook the importance of delivery. With several critical policies emerging in recent years at the national and global level, implementation is about to become the environmental challenge of the next decade. In that context, EPIC will play a key role in the policy implementation landscape. An additional member of staff was added to the policy team, with a focus on local delivery. EPIC was launched at an event in February at the Guildhall London.

These two mergers leave the IES in a strong position. They have become two new communities, in the growing list of IES Communities. Communities are the main tool for member engagement, ensuring that the IES remains member-driven and close to its members' needs.

His other highlights from the Communities were the establishment of an Early Careers Network for Land Condition specialists, and the year-long 'Turning the Tide: Systems thinking for a sustainable ocean', the first major project from the Marine & Coastal community which received endorsement from the UN Ocean Decade.

2023 saw a strong set of IES journals, beginning the year with 'Watt plan for energy', moving onto the 'Global megatrends in Land Condition', 'Seeking Natural Justice' (the first major output from our Environmental Justice Network), and concluded the year with 'Watertight solutions' (showcasing our initial forays into the creating solutions for the water sector).

In March 2023, the EIA Community published a thought piece exploring the challenges facing EIA professionals and outlining recommendations for how EIA can be utilised as a tool to support better design. This report was the culmination of five dedicated discussion meetings and provided the springboard for further conversations.

The 'Progressing or regressing: The future of environmental science under new UK governance' report undertook a gap analysis assessing how much progress has been made towards replacing EU environmental governance systems with UK equivalents. Our 'Adversarial to integrated: How to make environmental consenting a team sport' report championed how through working together as a single team with a shared vision, ambitious action can be realised in a way that maximises social, economic, and environmental benefits.

AD outlined the plans for 2024, including launching a new strategy. IES communities are well established, and a key focus of the strategy will be promoting cross disciplinary and interdisciplinary work between these. Their first major effort in this area is our new conference, 'Dialogue between Disciplines' in May.

In 2024 there will be the usual array of conferences and publications, and updates to the publications inherited from FWR and EPUK. The IES will also be updating its branding and working on a new website that will provide a step change in how we engage with our members and will unleash a myriad of new member benefits and targeted content. We will also be completing our work on the new IAQM competency framework for air quality professionals.

Finally, he paid tribute to the retiring Chair, Julie Hill, who had skilfully navigated the IES through the choppy waters of a second year of Covid lockdowns, the cost-of-living crisis, and changes to our staff team and governance structure. He felt that it was through Julie's leadership that the IES came out the other side of these challenges as a stronger and more resilient organisation.

He highlighted her ability to get to the strategic crux of any issues and to build strong personal relationships, her strengths as a public speaker – meaning she has been a great ambassador for the Institution – and her fantastic links across the sector which have open doors for the organisation and fostered valuable collaborative partnership.

AD announced that the IES Council have elected Julie as President of the IES, meaning that, for the next two years, Julie will continue playing that ambassadorial role for the organisation. Her term as President will begin immediately after the AGM.

Treasurer's Update

Ian Byrne (IB) gave a review of the 2022-23 accounts. The IES had unrestricted income of £542k with slightly higher expenditure (£572k), due to the investment activity described by AD. The accounts also showed the first tranche of the grant from FWR (£650k), which will be used to support the FWR legacy.

He put these figures in the context of the last 7 years, showing a long pattern of increasing income and expenditure as we expand the services offered to members. The growth in unrestricted income was a bit lower than in previous years, as the Council made the decision to not raise membership fees in line with inflation in recognition of the cost-of-living crisis. Expenses have gone up more in line with inflation. Membership is what drives the organisation, and membership had grown to over 5,000 by the end of 2023.

Expenditure is mostly around staff costs and support which is typical for an organisation. Overheads are kept low.

The balance sheet showed the reserve position was good but was much improved by the FWR grant. He explained that some accountancy policies had changed as we have moved to a full audit. This means that some of the membership income is now deferred to match the membership year, leading to a restatement of the previous year's figures to match this policy.

JH thanked IB for his hard work, thoroughness and dedication.

Questions

AD closed the online voting.

In response to a question about how members can network with other members, AD recommended engaging with the Communities, the Early Careers Networks, the mentoring scheme, or attending an event.

In response to a question from a member who lived outside of London, he noted that last year's conferences were in Manchester, Bristol and London.

In response to a question about training, he highlighted that the training rotates through specialisms and more freshwater biology training will be launched in the future. He also highlighted that additional training opportunities will likely emerge from the competency frameworks.

Voting on the Resolutions

1. To approve the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19th April 2023

Proposed Nicola Parker (NP), Seconded Eleni Antoniadou (EA) | 64 votes for, 7 abstentions, 1 against | Minutes approved.

2. To receive and adopt the 2023 Annual Report

Proposed NP, Seconded EA | 67 votes for, 5 abstentions, 0 against | Report adopted.

3. To adopt the audited accounts for the year ending 30th June 2023

Proposed NP, Seconded EA | 66 votes for, 6 abstentions, 0 against | Accounts adopted.

4. To authorise the Council to appoint Accountants for the year ending 30th June 2024

Proposed NP, Seconded EA | 70 votes for, 2 abstentions, 0 against | Council authorised to appoint accountants.

5. To elect members of Council (Articles 26-30)

The following Council members were elected: Denise Adaoyibo Okpala, Kerry Dinsmore, Iain McLellan and Liz Price.

JH thanks all the candidates who stood for election and noted that the IES Chair-elect was Dr Bernard Devereux.

The AGM concluded at 12:41.