

avalon community energy

renewable energy is ACE!

Community Membership Policy

Avalon Community Energy (ACE) is a multi stakeholder co-operative society hereafter referred to as ACE. This means there are two classes of membership - the Community ('user') Member and the Investor (supporter, or 'non-user') Member. ACE is governed by a set of co-operative Rules registered with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). A copy of the Rules can be viewed on the ACE website or is available on request.

If you would like to become a Community Member of ACE, please ensure you read the following membership policy:

1. Community Membership Criteria

Community Membership is voluntary and initially will be open to individuals living and/or working in Avalon, as well as organisations operating in the same area. Organisations may include private businesses, voluntary organisations, housing associations or institutions with employees or premises in the Avalon area. For the purposes of ACE membership, the Avalon area includes Glastonbury, Street, Wells and the surrounding West Mendip area, as defined on the map included with this policy.

Other key points from the ACE Rules are:

- a) Prospective Community Members must be 16 years or older.
- b) Prospective Community Members must complete an application for membership. Each application must be approved by the Directors and the Directors cannot ignore any application. Directors can, however, choose to delegate the approval of applications.
- c) Organisations applying for Community Membership shall, by resolution of their governing body, appoint a representative and inform ACE in writing of the name of that representative.

2. Members' Roles and Responsibilities

Each Community Member, whether an individual or organisation, will have the right to a single vote and with that right comes certain responsibilities:

a) Community Members must support cooperative values and principles. Co-operatives are based on the values of **self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity** and **solidarity**. There are seven cooperative principles by which ACE and its Members will be guided:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Member Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Co-operation among Co-operatives
- Concern for Community
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These values and principles can be explored more fully on the International Cooperative Alliance [website](#).

b) Community Members must understand and support the aims of ACE, as set out in the current ACE Business Plan, a copy of which can be viewed on the ACE website or is available on request.

c) Community Members have the right to nominate, be nominated, and vote for ACE Directors at the Annual General Meeting.

3. Terminating Membership

Once accepted, Community Membership will continue until terminated by the Community Member or ACE. There are no annual fees or renewals. Membership can be terminated by the Community Member at any time, should they wish to do so, or by ACE under certain circumstances, as set out in the Rules. From time to time ACE may contact Community Members to confirm they wish to continue their membership. Should there be no response from the Community Member within 3 months of that communication, ACE may deem that membership to be terminated.

4. Expulsion from Membership

A Community Member may be expelled for conduct prejudicial to the aims of ACE. The process for expulsion is set out in the Rules.

5. Cost of Community Membership

The cost of Community Membership in ACE is £10, which buys one share, being the minimum shareholding of any Member.

6. Register of Members

In accordance with the Rules, Community Members' details will be held in a register, in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998.

7. Membership Engagement

- a) This Community Membership Policy sets out what ACE is, and what Community Membership means.
- b) All new Community Members will be sent a Welcome Pack including a copy of the Rules and current Business Plan.
- c) There will be a wide range of activities available to ACE Community Members including attending General meetings and events; volunteering opportunities and participation in surveys and other forms of community engagement.

8. Membership Communications

- a) ACE recognises that not all Community Members will have access to the internet and so will ensure regular communications are maintained with those Community Members wherever possible by other means. Community Members will be asked their preferred means of communication upon joining. As a minimum, notification of General meetings will be by post to individual addresses where email details are not held.
- b) Community Membership information can be provided in an alternative, accessible format to any prospective or existing Community Member who requests it. Hard copies of all ACE communications and documents are available on request.

If you share our values and want to help change the energy future of the Avalon area, please consider joining ACE.

