

# What is the Role of a Board Environmental Champion?

A Board Environmental Champion is a designated member of a Board / governing body who plays a lead role on environmental responsibility at the governance level for an organisation.

The role of a Board Environmental Champion is to:

- Take a special interest in environmental impact, strategy and plans.
- Take a view on the organisation's overall approach and level of ambition, and support and challenge the organisation to drive change at an appropriate pace.
- Help ensure the organisation puts the right resources and investment in place to achieve their aims.
- Propose Board discussions on environmental issues and values as appropriate.
- Advocate for the importance of best practice in environmental responsibility.

- Act as a link to the designated senior executive lead on sustainability.
- Help the Board to fulfil its commitment to embed Environmental Responsibility as part of the Arts Council England agreement – including overseeing the organisation's annual Investment Principle plan.
- Undertake appropriate training and induction to help you fulfil the role.
- Develop an understanding of the relevant governance issues – such as risk, resilience, ethics.
- Connect with other Board Environmental Champions as appropriate.

You don't need to be an expert on the environment but you should be interested in sustainability and keen to learn more about the work and impacts in this respect.

Be ready to champion efforts to change and inspire others!

## About Julie's Bicycle

Julie's Bicycle is a pioneering not-for-profit organisation mobilising the arts and culture to take action on the climate and ecological crisis. Founded by the music industry in 2007 and now working across the arts and culture, JB has partnered with over 2000 organisations in the UK and internationally. Combining cultural and environmental expertise, Julie's Bicycle focuses on high-impact programmes and policy change to meet the climate crisis head-on.

## Arts Council England Environmental Responsibility Programme

In 2012, Arts Council England launched its Environmental Programme, becoming the first cultural body in the world to embed environmental reporting into its funding agreements. Julie's Bicycle works in partnership with Arts Council England to deliver its Environmental Programme, built on a shared vision of the transformative role of culture to tackle the climate crisis.

Responding to the need to support Boards, or their equivalent, to embed environmental responsibility at governance level, in 2023 the Board Environmental Champions programme was launched. The programme aims to equip Board Members with the confidence and knowledge to effectively partner, support and challenge executive leaders, to set strategies and targets, helping organisations build environmental responsibility into their mission and business model.

**Contact:** [support@juliesbicycle.com](mailto:support@juliesbicycle.com)  
[JuliesBicycle.com](http://JuliesBicycle.com)



**Julie's Bicycle**  
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