

Environmental Rights Centre for Scotland AGM 2026: Statements from nominees for re-election

Julie Christie – treasurer since 2021 – seeking re-election

Short biography

Julie is an acknowledged expert in securing grant funding for third sector organisations, receiving the Institute of Fundraising's Scottish Excellence Award in 2017 for her contributions to fundraising in Scotland. She has assisted 100+ charities and community groups to secure many hundreds of grants and contracts totalling over £17 million. In her current role as Scotland Lead for the Environmental Funders Network, she uses her 20+ years' experience of facilitating grant funding and building trust-based relationships to ramp up support for environmental causes across Scotland. Julie has been an active and committed volunteer on numerous Boards and is currently on the Boards of Bute Community Land Company and Mount Stuart Trust.

Statement for re-election

I would be delighted to be re-elected to the Board of ERCS and to continue to play a supporting role in the ever more critical work of the charity. Shivali, her team and the Board have put enormous amounts of time and effort into establishing ERCS as an effective and credible 'force for good', turning increasing levels of grant support from funders into significant wins for people and the environment in Scotland. My main contributions have been around helping to set and monitor budgets and financial forecasts, having oversight of the fundraising strategy and helping to develop the organisation's financial resilience.



Thomas Ballantine – trustee since March 2023 - seeking re-election

Short biography

Tom's career has encompassed law, environmental campaigning and management. He set up and led an award-winning family law team doing significant work within the Scottish Legal Aid system. He is an accredited family mediator, has worked as a mediation trainer and has co-authored 2 books on excellence in family law. Tom left legal practice in 2010 to focus on environmental campaigning and management. From 2010 to 2022 he chaired the Board of Stop Climate Chaos Scotland. He is a founding trustee of Open Seas, a charity campaigning on marine protection. Tom's other governance experience includes a 20-year period on the Board of Friends of the Earth Scotland from 1988 to 2008, including a period as Chair from 1990 to 1992. An Honorary Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, Tom's interests include hill walking, cycling, writing and football.

Statement for election

I would like to be re-elected as a trustee to allow me to contribute to the work of ERCS going forward. I hope that my background as a lawyer working with legal aid has given me helpful knowledge of the practicalities of engaging with the legal aid system useful to ERCS. I also hope that my experience: firstly managing a legal practice and secondly chairing Stop Climate Chaos Scotland, has given me a broad range of management and strategic skills of benefit to ERCS. I have been really impressed by the work of staff, trustees and the centre. I would like to use my skills to ensure the centre continues to thrive.