

CountiesEnergyTrust

Candidate Statements 2023 Election of Trustees



Phil BESTON

I wish to reapply for a position as a Trustee. My experience in the energy industry, coupled with my commitment to community engagement and consumer advocacy, has prepared me well for this role. I've always been interested in how we can improve access to clean and affordable energy for everyone, and I've dedicated much of my career to advancing this goal.

I would be dedicated to working with fellow trustees to ensure that the Trust is able to meet the needs of all consumers in the Counties area it serves and to the long-term planning and strategic direction of the Trust. It is essential for trustees to think creatively and proactively about the future of the organization, ensuring it remains viable and responsive to changing consumer needs and trends in the energy industry.

I'm excited at the prospect of continuing to work with the Trust.

Sincerely,
Phillip Beston
Registered Electrician



Megan MATTHEWS

With a decade of energy industry experience, spanning consumer-centric roles, project management, market expertise, growth and people leadership in Genesis Energy, Frank Energy and energyclubnz, I bring a wealth of knowledge and fresh perspective to the table. The past six years, I have served at executive level, three as General Manager of NZ Compare,

where I collaborate with energy, broadband and mobile retailers, the finance sector, network providers, government agencies and community stakeholders to ensure the everyday Kiwi has beneficial options within each market. My knowledge would positively contribute to the trust's overall skill diversity, strategic partnerships and understanding of their consumers.

As a resident of Pukekohe, if elected, I'm committed to driving growth and profitability for Counties Energy, ensuring we adapt to challenging times through innovation, while prioritizing consumer needs and empowering you with education on energy bill reduction, dispelling myths and reducing energy hardship for the Counties community.



Alan EYES

M.Com Dip.Mgt CA CMA M.InstD

I seek your vote for re-election to enable me to continue using my mix of electricity industry knowledge, business skills and community awareness to ensure the consumers of Counties Energy are well served and financial returns, such the annual discount, continue to benefit consumers.

A current Trustee and lifetime resident of Franklin, married to Claire with two adult children.

Senior management experience including the electricity, dairy, and meat industries. Currently Energy Manager for NZ Steel and actively engaged in wider energy forums.

Other leadership and governance roles have included school Board of Trustees, Rotary District Governor, and company non-executive director.

Energy offers many challenges and opportunities arising from emerging technologies, decarbonisation, and regulatory changes. I am actively engaged in consideration and implementation around many of these issues.

I am committed to continuing consumer ownership of network lines businesses and ensuring the successful operation for the benefit of electricity consumers.



David SPRATT

Vote for me to keep the power in your hands.

As a Counties local my main goal if elected is to protect our community's valuable assets and to preserve your annual discount.

Counties Energy's debt levels have risen substantially recently. With a big price increase this year and a series of annual increases planned there will be growing financial pressures on

families in our region.

I am committed to fair pricing, responsible borrowing and keeping our lines company in local community hands.

I am a father and grandfather with over 20 years' experience in the energy industry and extensive experience in business.

I have been honoured to be elected for the Counties Energy Trust in the past and hope you will trust me to fight for you to keep our local lines company strong, its services reasonably priced and in the hands of our community.

<https://www.facebook.com/DavidSprattCounties>



Stephen STAFFORD-BUSH

JP FCA MInstDir

I am a Fellow Chartered Accountant and a Member of the Institute of Directors. Our family have lived in the Franklin area for almost 30 years and I have owned a Chartered Accountancy business in the region for a similar time.

I am also a Trustee and Board Member of NZ Epilepsy Assist Dog Trust, William Birch

Education Trust, Karaka Sports Ground Trust and the Waikato/Hauraki/Coromandel Rural Support Trust.

I am acutely aware of the recent changes to the legislation impacting trustees and the higher level of expectations on trustees that these changes have required.

Previously as an Approved Auditor for the Auditor General I was responsible for the audit of a power company in the North so have a good understanding of the electricity industry.

If elected I look forward to working co-operatively with existing trustees and contributing positively to the Board.