

Open Call to become a Board Member with The School of Natural Building



Information for Prospective Board Members 2025



About SNaB and its Board of Directors.

The School of Natural Building (SNaB) is a Community Benefit society that advocates for and provides training in the use of natural building materials. Our mission is to rekindle the primal urge to build that exists within all of us, by drawing on thousands of years of tried and tested natural building methods. We offer inclusive education to communities, students, and professionals, empowering them to create healthy, durable environments using sustainable materials. Based in Todmorden, West Yorkshire, but working nationally, the school was founded in 2014 by Barbara Jones and Eileen Sutherland.

Our activities include practical and theory-based courses, workshops, and advocacy, with a focus on natural materials such as straw, clay, lime, and other low-impact solutions. These activities enable us to construct healthy homes, retrofit buildings, and address pressing global challenges, such as reducing carbon emissions and mitigating the climate crisis.

As we continue to grow and expand our impact, we are at a pivotal moment in SNaB's development. We are in the process of gaining charitable status, have refreshed our objectives and are working to increase awareness and mainstream natural building practices across the UK. With our increased visibility and ambition, we are looking to recruit passionate, skilled individuals to join our Board and help to steer the organisation through this exciting new phase.

Board members at SNaB are critical to shaping our strategy and ensuring that we operate in line with our core values: building for people, not profit; advocating for sustainability; empowering those typically excluded from construction; and bringing joy and passion into all that we do. Board members are responsible for overseeing governance, supporting our fundraising efforts, and contributing their expertise to further SNaB's mission.

This is an exciting time to join our organisation as we strive to increase our impact locally and nationally, expand our educational programs, and build a movement around sustainable, people-focused construction. If you are passionate about natural building and want to help shape a more sustainable future, we encourage you to consider joining our board.





The purpose of the board

As a SNaB board member, you will play a key role in shaping the direction and governance of the organisation. The board's primary responsibilities include ensuring that SNaB remains aligned with its mission, vision, and values, and that we operate in compliance with charity law and regulations. You will work collaboratively with other board members and the management team to guide SNaB's strategic development, monitor our financial health, and support key operational decisions.

Key responsibilities of a SNaB board member include:

- **Governance:** Upholding our charitable objects, ensuring SNaB is operating legally and ethically, and providing oversight of financial and operational matters.
- **Strategic input:** Contributing to the development and implementation of strategies that help SNaB grow and thrive.
- **Representation:** Representing SNaB to external stakeholders and organisations, acting as an ambassador for our mission and advocating for the mainstream adoption of natural building techniques.
- **Meeting participation:** Attending monthly board meetings, contributing to discussions, and ensuring effective decision-making. Additionally, board members attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM), and we aim to meet in person at least once a year to review progress and foster collaboration.
- **Support and advice:** Offering your unique skills and expertise to guide SNaB's work, helping with fundraising efforts, project development, and wider outreach activities.

The expected time commitment is around 8 hours per month, with some variability.

Serving as a director of a charitable organisation like SNaB is both a rewarding and impactful role. It offers the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in sustainable building practices, while helping to steer a passionate and growing organisation through an exciting phase of development. The role is voluntary, but general expenses incurred while acting on behalf of SNaB, such as travel costs, will be covered.



Who are we looking for - priority profiles

SNaB is looking for individuals who are passionate about natural building, sustainability, and community empowerment, and who are excited to take ownership of their role as part of our collaborative team. Our board brings together leaders with diverse backgrounds and expertise, and we welcome candidates with experience in the private, public, or charity sectors.

We particularly welcome individuals who may have been traditionally excluded from the construction industry, including women, underrepresented groups, and those from non-conventional backgrounds. While strategic leadership skills are valued, we are equally interested in board members who are hands-on, proactive, and ready to contribute to various aspects of SNaB's work.

Whether you have specific expertise or broader leadership experience, what's most important is your enthusiasm for SNaB's values and your commitment to making a positive impact. Some of the skills and experience we particularly need at present are as follows, but we welcome applications from anyone with broad leadership experience in any sector.

Higher Education (HE) Sector Experience

SNaB offers residential training programs for higher education institutions, hosted at Tod College in Todmorden. We also actively participate in university events and deliver guest lectures. Our goals for growth in this sector include:

- Expanding our residential course offerings (ongoing)
- Supporting an increase in Natural Building training across built environment faculties

Further Education (FE) Sector Experience

Further education colleges are vital for training the next generation of builders, yet many curriculums still rely on outdated and unsustainable practices. SNaB seeks to expand our influence in this sector by:

- Integrating sustainable, whole-building approaches into FE curriculums
- Co-developing courses with partner colleges
- Exploring the potential to accredit our courses through FE collaborations

Financial Experience

This role would suit an accountant or financial leader with experience in:

- Budget forecasting and planning to support long-term goals
- Monitoring and analysing financial performance to ensure robust oversight
- Identifying opportunities for growth, cost savings, or investment that align with our mission

Marketing Experience

To support our advocacy goals, we need to strengthen our external communications. This role could involve designing information campaigns, developing a social media strategy, or graphic design and media production. If you're passionate about telling the transformative stories of self-builders, community groups, and pioneering professionals, we'd love to hear from you

Curriculum Development Experience

As we refine and expand our training programs, we are seeking expertise in curriculum development to help refresh and strengthen our courses. This expertise will be particularly valuable as we collaborate with educational institutions across both the FE and HE sectors.

Policy/Lobbying Experience

SNaB has always been a strong advocate for the use of natural materials in construction, training everyone from self-builders to professionals. With our new mission to mainstream natural building, we are looking to enhance our capacity for lobbying and public campaigns, helping us drive change at local, national, and international levels.

Volunteer Coordination Experience

We have a growing number of people eager to volunteer with SNaB, but we currently lack the capacity to organise and manage this valuable resource. We're looking for someone who can unlock the potential of our volunteers, helping to coordinate and grow this aspect of our work in the medium to long term.

Our Commitment to Openness, Diversity and Inclusion

We believe that embracing diverse perspectives is key to fostering resilience and innovation in a constantly evolving sector. SNaB values the differences that diversity brings, and we strive to create a culture built on openness, fairness, and transparency. We welcome people of all backgrounds and will not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, nationality, religion, age, sexual orientation, family status, or any other irrelevant factor. Previous board or charring experience is very welcome, but we also encourage those who haven't sat on a board before - we can access training where needed.

By nurturing a diverse and inclusive community, we aim to strengthen both our organisation and the impact we have on the world and construction industry. Please see our [Equal Opportunities](#) policy for further information

How to apply

To express your interest in becoming a director, please send a copy of your CV with a covering letter to hello@schoolofnaturalbuilding.co.uk. We are especially keen to know:

- Your reasons for becoming a board member
- What you could offer to SNaB
- Where you see yourself fitting into our organisation.

We can also arrange an informal chat with a current member of the board if you have any specific questions or are unsure if this is the right fit for you.

The board will review applications on a rolling, monthly basis, though we welcome early applications as we will begin recruitment immediately. Upon review of expressions-of-interest, shortlisted candidates will be invited to a video call with at least two current board members. A final decision will be made at the following board meeting and communicated to the candidate.

Closing date: Sunday 23rd February

Please refer to our [Privacy Policy](#), that explains how SNaB will collect and protect personal information and how it will be used. SNaB is committed to the safe and fair management of personal information and takes privacy very seriously.