

## **Membership Policy for Waterwatch UK**

This document outlines the structure, eligibility, rights, and responsibilities of members within the Waterwatch UK regional Community Panels. It does not relate to national governance or trustee decision-making.

1. Purpose of Membership
  - To enable democratic representation on regional Waterwatch Community Committees
  - To give local residents and stakeholders a voice in shaping water quality actions and priorities in their area
2. Types of Membership **Community Member**
  - A registered individual affiliated with a specific region
  - Entitled to vote in local Community Panel elections and submit proposals

### **Volunteer or Supporter**

- Participates in activities and events but does not vote or stand for elected roles

### **Stakeholder Participant**

- Includes elected officials (e.g. MPs, councillors), water company representatives, and institutional partners such as the Environment Agency
  - Invited to engage in community panel meetings, summits, and discussions
  - May provide input and collaborate on local initiatives
  - Do not have voting rights in Community Panel elections or decisions
3. Eligibility Criteria To become a voting Community Member, an individual must:
    - Be aged 16 or over
    - Reside, work, or demonstrate a direct interest in the local region
    - Complete the membership registration form (online)
    - Agree to abide by Waterwatch UK's Code of Conduct

Membership is free and renewable annually.

4. Rights of Community Members
  - Vote in elections for their local Waterwatch Community Committee
  - Stand for election to the local committee (if eligible)
  - Propose agenda items for discussion
  - Receive updates on local Waterwatch initiatives
  - Attend public meetings

Community Members **do not**:

- Vote on national CIO trustee matters
- Access restricted internal documents

- Influence national funding decisions
  - Hold any formal role within the national charity, including governance, staffing, or advisory positions
5. Registration Process
- Sign up online via the Waterwatch UK website
  - Membership is confirmed automatically upon submission
  - Voting rights apply once eligibility is verified
  - Members must renew each year to stay active
6. Code of Conduct and Removal
- All members are expected to behave respectfully, honestly, and constructively
  - Breaches of conduct will result in review and potential suspension or removal from membership by the trustees
7. Data and Privacy
- All personal data will be processed in accordance with Waterwatch UK's Privacy Policy and UK GDPR
  - Membership data will not be shared externally or used for non-Waterwatch purposes
8. Review
- This Membership Policy shall be reviewed annually by the CIO trustees
  - Any amendments must be approved by a majority vote of the trustee board