

Carla-Leanne Washbourne

Associate Professor, University College London





Connection to Engineers Without Borders UK

I first became involved with EWB UK almost 15 years ago as a PhD student, running EWB workshops in local primary schools to promote interest in engineering and encourage diversity within the profession. EWB UK's mission and my career as an academic in environmental policy have converged over the past year, and I now work with EWB UK and other institutions to promote teaching of 'regenerative' approaches in engineering education; which go beyond the approach of 'minimising harm' to focus on repair of natural systems, empowering people and planet to thrive.

Skills and expertise

Since completing my PhD I have pursued an academic career at the intersection of engineering, social, and environmental sciences, working with bodies including the Scottish and UK parliaments, multiple global cities, and UN agencies to shape policies on the urban environment, including sustainable approaches to infrastructure provision.

I have spent more than a decade developing education programmes within the Faculty of Engineering at University College London, and have extensive first-hand experience of the practicalities of delivering meaningful education experiences at a time of great change for the profession. I have been a trustee of a small charity, Academics Stand Against Poverty UK, for several years and have a strong appreciation of the demands of a trustee role.

Motivation for running

As a trustee I hope to draw upon my work in higher education and policy to support the reach and impact of EWB UK's transformative work on engineering education and practice and maximise the positive role of engineering in addressing the multiple global challenges we face.