

IET Communities Volunteer Briefing: Supporting the IET's strategic aims

The Communities Resourcing Committee (CRC) is responsible for reviewing the main IET strategic aims and objectives and identifying the areas where we feel that communities can make the most effective contribution. The strategic focus that we develop informs the Communities Committees (CCs), and subsequently the activities of the Local Networks, Technical Networks, On Campus Student Groups and Young Professional Groups.

The CRC reviews this every year, just as the Board of Trustees do. Here is our focus for the current and the next session:

Strengthen the technical

Expert communities, delivering excellent output to help underpin the knowledge portfolio

Delivered, in the main, by Technical Networks but also some Local Networks, IET Communities organise highly technical and specialised conferences and seminars that provide the most up to date insights into engineering and technology. Certain events may be filmed so that the insights can be viewed by engineers around the world, largely free of charge, on IET.tv. These events also result in a number of technical papers being published by the IET Digital Library

Leadership and volunteer engagement:

Forge strong relationships between governance and communities

IET Communities are built on people and it's important we are all communicating with each other. The CCs communicate regularly with the communities they oversee so that everyone is pulling in the same direction and they will also organise Community Volunteer Conferences to help facilitate this contact.

Ensure we work to anticipate the role of communities to meet engineers' future needs

The IET has not been around for over 140 years by standing still. It is crucial that the engineering community is informing how the IET tackles the big engineering challenges in society. Our communities help us to anticipate these challenges and ultimately how the engineering profession evolves.

Raise awareness and prestige – attract more volunteers

We have over 1600 volunteers around the world and we appreciate every one of you! But committees always need fresh blood and we are aware that some volunteers can be overstretched. We want to raise the prestige of our communities so that more people want to get involved.

Reward and recognise volunteer contributions

You are amazing! The IET could not achieve many of things it does without the dedication of Communities volunteers. In many countries there would literally be no IET presence without

our Local Networks. It's important that you receive recognition for your work both from staff and from the governance committees.

Support, equip, and empower volunteers to be IET ambassadors

To be ambassadors of the IET we appreciate that you need the support and information to carry out this task. We aim to provide you with regular updates about products and services at the IET, best practice briefings on the Volunteer Gateway and self-support tools to help with events management and marketing.

Engagement with Young Professionals:

Communities a key driver for YP initiatives: OnCampus, PATW, Global Challenge and Lifeskills

Communities help to futureproof the IET and the engineering profession. Through these various activities our communities help to inspire future generations of engineers.

Lower the demographic of volunteers and audiences

It's important that communities are doing all they can to engage with new audiences.

Underpinned by..... Operational Excellence - Ensuring that communities - from the top down and the bottom up - are making effective and efficient use of resources

We have staff, tools, training, and funding to help support your activities, but none of these exists in an unlimited supply. Our strong communities' governance structure works hard to guide communities to plan and work effectively so that resources can be targeted to the areas that need them most. If we all use the tools provided it also means we can gather valuable data that can help us promote events more effectively, improve the delegate experience, and make a strong business case for future reinvestment!

And there it is! The CRC would love to hear from volunteers about what you think of the strategic aims. So if you have any comments please do let us know in the IET Volunteers community on the Engineering Communities platform.

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Briefing next review	January 2019