

## SWM Membership – FAQ's

### 1. What kind of organisation is SWM? Does it make a profit?

SWM is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee. Our company number is 04390508 and we are registered at Companies House for England and Wales.

We work with our members in the business, public and third sectors. Our role is to act as a catalyst for change through our advice to leaders, to develop practical solutions with our members and share success through our communications.

Our vision is that by 2020 businesses and communities are thriving in a West Midlands that is environmentally sustainable and socially just.

We are governed by a Board of non-executive directors who all work in a voluntary capacity. There is more information about the company structure and governance here.

### 2. How is SWM funded?

SWM is funded through a mix of paid-for client projects, and network and event sponsorship. From January 2016, membership fees provided us with an additional income stream.

We also receive significant support in the form of good will and non-financial benefits provided by our members and supporters.

### 3. How many members does SWM have?

As of January 2017, our membership includes more than 50 organisations, the majority West Midlands based, spanning the public and private sectors, and ranging from large companies and local councils to small enterprises, and third sector organisations.

### 4. Why is SWM introducing a membership fee from Jan 2016?

We were set up in 2002 as a grant-funded body and have already made a successful transition to become the independent, project-driven organisation that we are today. The Board's decision to introduce fees and gear up the membership offering from January 2016 represented the next step in our evolution. It improved financial stability and allowed SWM to pick up the pace towards its 2020 vision for a thriving, sustainable West Midlands.

### 5. How much does membership of SWM cost?

Organisations pay a sliding-scale annual membership fee according to their size, from just £50 for the smallest enterprises, up to £1,000 for large private sector companies. A full list of the new membership fee charges can be found here.

### 6. What does membership of SWM provide for my organisation?

SWM members have access to strategic, practical and profile-raising benefits including access to our extensive communications network, a place at the annual conference, use of meeting rooms at our central Birmingham offices, support for funding bids and a wide range of networking opportunities. A full list of membership benefits can be found here.

### **7. Are there any qualifications for membership?**

Yes. To become a member you should be:

- a) An organisation based in, or having significant operations within, the West Midlands region (Birmingham, Solihull, Black Country, Stoke and Staffordshire, Shropshire, Herefordshire, Coventry and Warwickshire, and Worcestershire)
- b) Committed to contributing towards the [2020 Roadmap](#) with SWM and other members

### **8. Is membership available only to organisations? Can I join SWM as an individual?**

Membership for micro enterprises (<10 employees) is available at a cost of £100 per year.

### **9. How will SWM use the income it gets from membership fees?**

SWM and its members work together to achieve the vision of a West Midlands region that is economically productive, environmentally sustainable and socially just. The regular income provided by membership fees will contribute to our continued development, helping to increase the reach and the impact of our work throughout the region. Specifically it will be used to expand the events programme, grow the team and enable us to get involved in more strategic sustainability projects for the benefit of the West Midlands. It will also provide match funding, allowing us to access additional EU or public funding for the region.

### **10. When will my membership fees be paid?**

In the first year you will pay for membership once your application has been approved and the amount paid will be pro-rata for the first year, depending on when you join. In future years we will invoice for annual fees in January.

### **11. What if I decide I no longer want to be a member?**

Just let us know in writing. You can withdraw your membership at any time although fees paid for that calendar year will not be refunded.

### **12. How do I join?**

Please complete the [membership application form](#) and return it to us. This will then be reviewed by our board and we will contact you once approved.

### **13. If I have a query about membership, who should I contact at SWM?**

Please contact us at [enquiries@swm.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@swm.org.uk) or on 0121 237 5890.