

One Planet York

Overview and status report for the Climate Change Policy and Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 12 November 2019

Overview

One Planet York works within the Bioregional One Planet Living framework to guide the emergence of a sustainable community by facilitating, sharing and interlinking the sustainable activities and projects of its members.

Typically in the UK we are using the resources of three planets when we only have one. One Planet York is an active network of organisations working towards a more sustainable, resilient and collaborative 'One Planet' future.

One Planet York aims to raise awareness about work already underway, foster greater collaboration, raise aspirations and encourage even more people to get involved.

We do this by facilitating collaboration on projects of shared interest towards this common goal. While our networking events provide opportunities for meeting other individuals and organisations involved in One Planet York, our social media reaches out to the public to raise awareness and generate interest amongst those living in various parts of the city.

Brief History

OPY was founded by a broad range of partners and has been an active body for several years, organising and running network events, interactive workshops and other events for pledger members and members of the general public.

As an example, on the 14th of November, OPY is running a collaborative "Circular Cities" workshop jointly with the Circular Economy Club, aimed at mapping the circular economy in the region, and contributing to a much broader mapping resource for the UK as a whole.

Since its inception OPY has been hosted by City of York Council, which provided website services, social media management and events coordination resource, and general secretarial support.

In the middle of this year I took on the role of Chair, and the leadership team decided to conduct an exercise to define more specifically what OPY's role was. The output of that exercise is attached - "One Planet York Strategy Deck".

Current Challenges

To deliver on our intended strategy, more resource is required - we identified a need for one "Full Time Equivalent" post (possibly divided across two part time roles), and therefore a need for OPY to have a sustainable and appropriate revenue stream. We have options to use voluntary resource as much as possible but there are concerns over long term consistency if we are entirely reliant on this model.

During resource planning following the change of Council leadership, the current provision of regular support for OPY from CYC was reallocated, and was phased out across September and October. This has further underlined the need for OPY to have its own sustainable revenue stream.

Our current plan is to derive funding from our pledger base through tiered subscriptions (individuals and community groups being entirely free to ensure OPY remains inclusive). Our hope is that the majority of funding will come from "anchor partner" memberships - large public or private sector organisations.

We are being supported by York Community Consulting in developing a proposition that pledgers see sufficient value in to justify a subscription model, and their terms of reference is attached.

While we resolve fundamental questions of funding, OPY's ability to coordinate a full calendar of events, and to make a difference by active coordination and stewardship, is somewhat hampered.

Mike Bonsall

OPY Chair