



Abingdon-on-Thames Town Council

Community grant application form - part A

Please ensure you complete all of this form and Part B and send:

- forms A and B
- your organisation's last set of accounts
- the most recent bank statement

to enquiries@abingdon.gov.uk.

1. About your organisation

Name of the organisation requesting the grant

ONE PLANET ABINGDON CLIMATE EMERGENCY CENTRE (OPACEC)

Please state briefly what the purpose of your organisation is

An inspirational community hub currently run by volunteers, for the benefit of the people and the planet.
Building resilience in a climate emergency with the aim of developing understanding and creating a sense of purpose to act on the climate, ecological and social issues that affect us all in order to deliver positive changes within our lives and in the town of Abingdon leading to a sustainable, enjoyable and positive future. We do this through nudge events, outreach and training/awareness raising. Our focus is all residents of Abingdon, particularly the young people as they are our future and we have a moral obligation to support them in this time we are all living in.

2. Your grant request

Please describe the project for which the grant is needed.

An annual grant for OPACEC which will enable the continuation and growth of the momentum that has been created in the first 2 years of its operation. In other words to support the ongoing costs of running One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre and its events and outreach. Although we have 70 volunteers who give generously of their time (3297 hrs in April 21 – March 22), there is a need for paid skilled leadership and coordination, strategic thinking and

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planning to ensure that it goes from strength to strength and delivers new and more sustainable initiatives and projects for the people of Abingdon.

We have the premises at no cost until 2028. The support that ATC has given OPACEC in providing the premises is ahead of the curve nationally. We are not aware of any CEC that has this advantage. This is something that ATC should be aware of and sharing to all who listen – so as to encourage other councils to do the same.

We have been operating for 2+ years as volunteers, but the demands of our success mean that we do now have to look at how we can make the model more sustainable by providing financial support to key deliverers of some of the important tasks.

We are also still not open for the possible 6 days in a week (currently 4 days).

Many residents still do not know who and where we are.

If successful, this annual grant would enable:

- Opening 6 days a week
- Enable outreach to other parts of the town with coordinated plans and events e.g. popping up in South Abingdon and hosting sustainable events such as toy/clothes/stuff swaps to encourage circular economy
- Enable continued planning and delivery of the vast list of events that we currently do not have capacity to deliver e.g. Basic Cooking skills for all ages as a regular event
- Extend outreach to more schools and to enable more holistic participation (school staff, students and parents, consortium of schools) Sharing of skills and resources
- Enable more provision of the training: Introduction to One Planet Living framework which gives a basic understanding of what the 10 principles are in order to live as though we have ONLY ONE PLANET. Imagine if all the residents/schools/businesses of Abingdon were given that introductory lesson? It would be a great foundation from which to continue to grow as a one planet living town.
- Fundraising capacity in order to ensure sustainability of OPACEC

What is the total cost of the project	£58 100
How much grant are you seeking	£ 35 000
What percentage of the total cost of your project are you seeking via this grant	60%
How do you plan to raise the rest of the money for your project	Via fundraising, grants and through income generated through voluntary donations
Please show roughly how the costs of the project are broken down	Delivery of various projects which includes leadership, coordination, back office administration and outreach: Outreach to schools: £150 per day at 5 days per term per school (6 schools) = £4500

One Planet Living Training : £150 per day, 1 session per month = £1800 (open to anyone)

Volunteer management to ensure opening 6 days per week: £150 per day for 6 days a week for 48 weeks = £43 200

Fundraising capacity - £300 per month(2 days) for 12 months = £3600

Sustainable Printing costs for various assets (Action booklet, leaflets) £5000

SUCCESSFUL FUNDRAISING:

One Planet Living training/set up of OPACEC/eco fair Bioregional £7000 2021

Gazebo	£500	Newbury Building Society	30/04/2022
OPACEC Youth Programme 2022	£1,315	Climate Action Fund/VOWH	25/4/2022
OPACEC Knowledge to Action	£1,610	Climate Action Fund/VOWH	25/4/2022
Abingdon Freshwater Watch	£2k	Climate Action Fund/VOWH	22/11/2022
OPACEC Youth Programme 2023	£8,604	Christ's Hospital of Abingdon	20/04/2023
EcoKids Craft Club	£500	TRUCK FESTIVAL	31/10/2023
OBGW	200	Oxfordshire big green week	21/05/2023
Connected Communities Fund (Basic sewing for adults)	£5,000	OCVA/OCC	250923

What fund-raising have you undertaken for this project or others in the past 2 years

3. Local benefit.

How many people take part in your organisation’s activities? Give local branch numbers if you are a national organisation.

As members	546 receiving our newsletter and this number goes up every month, 70 volunteers, 13 on the steering committee
As recipients	Average 500 individuals visiting the centre per month

Please fill in the table below relating to numbers of members and/or recipients falling into each category. Estimates are acceptable provided an “e” is put after the figure.

Age profile	0-16	16-65	over 65
- Members	Spread evenly as we have families involved	Spread evenly as we have families involved	Spread evenly as we have families involved
- Recipients	Spread evenly as we have families involved	Spread evenly as we have families involved	Spread evenly as we have families involved

Gender profile	Male	Female
- Members	50	50
- Recipients	50	50

Local connection	Town resident	Attend education in town	Neither resident nor attending education in town
- Members	Spread evenly as we have families involved	Spread evenly as we have families involved	
- Recipients	Spread evenly as we have families involved	Spread evenly as we have families involved	5% we do get visitors who are from all over the world coming in. They are always very impressed that the Town Council have made the centre possible

4. Vision and objectives

Please explain how your project will meet the town councils vision and objectives, which are set out below. **You do not need to respond to each point** but it is important that your project addresses the town council's vision and at least one objectives.

4a. Vision

To develop an inclusive community so that Abingdon is the place where everyone wants to live and where the wellbeing of residents is prioritised. In developing this community, the town will be one which is environmentally sustainable, vibrant, resilient and safe.

Our constitution was created by looking at yours (ATC) – so we are dovetailing your objectives every day that we operate.

The whole objective of OPACEC is to build an inclusive community (99% of what we do is by donation to ensure inclusivity) who feel they are a part of something that is good, building resilience for a future that is uncertain.

The events we plan focus on ensuring that everyone is welcome. The lift is now working to ensure that those with mobility issues can come and feel comfortable.

The events we plan to run include an element of enabling those most marginalised or isolated. By providing free soup whenever we are open this winter for eg, we are letting people know that if they are hungry or lonely, they can come in.

OPACEC itself is the project... the smaller projects we deliver will answer this in various ways e.g. the outreach to schools will have an element of wellbeing – we are acknowledging and working on a solution to offer those young people who are experiencing eco anxiety for example.

4b. Objectives

1. To respond effectively and speedily to the climate emergency

Same as above – it is why we exist. The one planet living training will ensure that everyone has a basic understanding of the problem and how we can do our bit to respond

2. To develop a resilient, sustainable town which will provide a home for residents now and in the future

In the challenging time we are living in – unprecedented time – we have already started offering climate cafes which is a safe space to help adults work through feelings of despair about the climate crisis. Not fixing anyone – as we don't have the skill for that – but enabling a facilitated space where we can share how we are feeling and know that we are not alone. As we build resilience we will be able to do more as a community and help one another more i.e. sharing of sustainable skills (repairing, growing, creating, awareness raising)

- To manage the Council's assets efficiently and effectively to meet for the needs of the community now and in the future**
- 3.

We are operating from the Mousehole café. It has never been so busy. We are looking after it and sharing the vision of the town council by actively providing for the needs of our community now and in the future

- To work with community partners to support those who are vulnerable and in need and to create opportunities to increase social inclusivity**
- 4.

We have a network of collaborators which is growing. Our success in this has meant that we are at risk of burnout – we must provide financial skilled support and leadership to ensure that we are sustainable ourselves. We have so many opportunities to increase social inclusivity but we need to bolster the internal resources first to ensure that we let nobody down. There is a duty of care when dealing with vulnerable people. Michelle Charlesworth is an accredited Domestic Abuse practitioner, the space could be used as a safe space. But we cannot offer this until we have financial support for these skills in place.

Other/previous grant awards

Please provide details of any grant awards you have received from the town council, other councils or large organisations that you have received in the past three years

See above list of applications made (those were all successful – we did not add the ones we were not successful in.

Please list any grant applications to other councils or bodies which are currently pending

Lush £10K

Shared Prosperity Fund £14400 for One Planet Living community champion work to target local businesses
(expression of interest form completed not sure about what happens next)

6. About your organisation

Please explain what structure your organisation has, i.e. is it a charity, a society, or another type of model

Private company limited by guarantee without share capital – all powers delegated to the steering group, not for profit

What is the balance of your main account according to the most recent bank statement?

£11,946.56

Additional financial information

Does your organisation have any other finances held in other accounts?

No, all in one account but see below

If so, please provide full details of all your additional finances, including recent figures.

Around 8,500 comes from 'allocated funds' and we have to keep £2,000 aside for emergencies. So there's approximately 2k available for other/general spending.

If these funds are earmarked for any specific projects, please provide further information about this.

£8500 allocated funds includes the Sewing classes (£5K) and the remainder of Christ Hospital funds for engagement of youth work

Finances

[..\..\Downloads\transactions_082023.pdf](#)

[..\..\Downloads\transactions_092023.pdf](#)

[..\..\Downloads\transactions_102023.pdf](#)

[..\..\Downloads\OPA accounts 30Nov2022.docx](#)

Annual Reports:

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