

Reference: CAF-FW_1

Post: Climate Action Officer, Food Waste

Thank you for your interest in the post of Climate Action Officer (Food Waste), please find enclosed:

- Information about Octopus Community Network and the Action for Local Food Climate Action project (you can also visit our website at – www.octopuscommunities.org.uk)
- The Job Description and Person Specification

Octopus Community Network

Established in 1999 the Octopus Community Network (Octopus) is a group of pioneering community organisations working collaboratively to provide services and opportunities that support the most deprived communities in London.

Our principal objectives are:

- To promote the benefit of the inhabitants of Greater London by associating local authorities, voluntary organisations and other agencies and inhabitants in a common effort to advance education and provide facilities to improve social welfare, recreation and leisure-time occupation.
- The promotion of the voluntary sector for the benefit of the public.

We do this by:

- Engaging diverse communities in meaningful activities and services by reaching out to and supporting those most in need.
- Inspiring our communities by developing activities that raise aspirations and a 'can do' mentality to advice social and economic integration.
- Motivating our communities to live life to its fullest potential.
- Equipping our communities with the skills, confidence and competence to seize a meaningful and rewarding place within society.
- Supporting our communities into positive and relevant activities to ensure a better quality of life and greater opportunities.

About Action for Local Food, Climate Action Fund

The Action for Local Food project is an ambitious project developed through a collaboration between Octopus Community Network, Global Generation and Islington Council.

Essentially, the project focuses upon putting in place all the right conditions to create a people's climate-wise food growing strategy for Islington that embraces capturing, sharing and disseminating learning at different levels.

Our vision is for the diverse communities of Islington to be at the forefront of creating a vibrant and sustainable local food system in the London Borough of Islington, which maximises the amount of food grown in the borough and encourages people to eat and shop local; which promotes, demonstrates and practices soil improvement, water harvesting, and which actively seeks to reduce waste, aiming for zero food waste. Our project will put food at the heart of this response to the climate emergency.

Our Climate Action project represents an ambitious rethink; it will broadly employ the three **permaculture** ethics, as a 'thinking tool' for designing low carbon, highly productive systems as a means of connecting local people, who live, work, study and visit Islington more deeply to nature's patterns and of practically applying that understanding to everyday life. In its initial development phase, we will focus on Diagnosis and Test. The Doing Cycle will be realised as a result of a larger, longer-term programme of work.

Developing an "Action for Local Food" food growing strategy for Islington, and one that is community-led, is considered by key stakeholders as the "missing piece of the jigsaw" in the progressive and innovative approach to tackling climate change in Islington. Developing this proposal has included lengthy engagement of key people within Islington Council Homes and Communities, Parks and Public Realm, and Waste Management teams, to uncover past and existing climate change action, and capture ideas and ways forward. Fundamentally, the Council, through their involvement in this proposed development project, are committed to maximising:

- food growing spaces on housing estates, within parks, on site at community centres, 'meanwhile spaces' and creating edible streetscapes;
- the potential for food growing on roofs;
- the potential for food waste reduction and management.

The focus of the Climate Action Officer (Food Waste) role will be on building a movement of people who are passionate about reducing food waste and distribute food surplus in our community. A key objective of the role will be to initiate and sustain a community-led 'Call to Action' to the community on reducing food waste.

Job Description

Job Title: Climate Action Officer, Food Waste

Salary: £18,720 + 5% workplace pension contribution, part-time, 22.5 hours per week, 18-months

Reports to: Network Development Manager

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Scope and Objectives

The post of Climate Action Officer (Food Waste) will focus on building a movement of people who are passionate about reducing food waste and distribute food surplus in our community. A key objective of the role will be to initiate and sustain a community-led Call to Action to the community on reducing food waste.

Over a period of 18-months, the specific objectives of the post will be to:

- Initiate a wide-reaching awareness raising campaign of the carbon impact of food waste and the importance of reducing it, using digital tools, social media, the press and direct marketing.
- Design and implement a programme of activities that will stimulate interest and encourage residents, and especially children and young people to become more active in their community in the drive to reduce local food waste.
- Design a set of attractive and engaging tools that will help residents and businesses to become aware of the level of food waste that they generate and how to reduce it.
- Design a set of attractive and engaging tools that will help residents and businesses to become aware of the level of surplus food generated and how to distribute it for social causes tackling food poverty.
- Engage and recruit three pilot sites to become test-beds for the programme, to include: a street or part of a street; an estate or one block on an estate; a local food business.
- Work closely with colleagues in the Community Plant Nursery to design a tailored programme of learning activities that will support the food waste reduction initiative.
- Work closely with key stakeholders engaged in the Formal Leadership Roundtable within the scope of the Vision Statement and Guiding Principles that provide the framework for their operations.

Specific responsibilities

Community Engagement

- To be responsible for engaging the wider community in a food waste reduction programme through awareness raising, peer to peer exchange and In collaboration with the Octopus Community Network.
- Taking a place-based approach, design and implement three small community-led pilots to measure and reduce food waste and distribute surplus food in the local community.
- Explore the possibility with a selected estate of implementing an eco-digester to manage food waste on the estate.

Community Development

- Work collaboratively with colleagues and partners to support the design and development of a borough wide campaign to reduce food waste, identify and distribute surplus food.
- Work collaboratively with key stakeholders and opinion leaders to identify best practice in the reduction of community food waste.
- Collaborate with the Community Hubs to develop and implement a food waste reduction programme for each Hub that is both practical and sustainable.

Community Learning

- Work collaboratively in the development of the Community Plant Nursery as a borough-wide Climate Action Learning Hub, including supporting the delivery of community-led food waste reduction workshops.
- Work with colleagues responsible for the Community Plant Nursery to ensure that effective demonstrator facilities to support food waste reduction are implemented: to include composting using a variety of different methods.

Management and Impact Evaluation

- Take a proactive role in the design and implementation of a quality driven monitoring and evaluation framework that demonstrates outcomes and impact of the Climate Action programme.
- Take responsibility for defined aspects of monitoring, evaluation and reporting as defined within the scope of the remit of the Climate Action programme.

General

- Attend, prepare for and present at team meetings, stakeholder and network meetings, performance and impact evaluation reports.
- To gather data required for impact and performance reporting purposes and ensure its compliance with GDPR policy and protocols.
- Undertake tasks and contribute to activities that support the successful delivering of the wider Urban Growing programme.

Special Conditions

Octopus is committed to equality, diversity and equality of opportunity, and provides learning and support within a safeguarded environment. You are required to hold Enhanced DBS, work within Octopus Equality and Diversity, Safeguarding, Health and Safety and other relevant policies.

This post is funded for 18-months.