

Dear Candidate

Reference: CAF-SG_1

Post: Climate Action Officer, Sustainable Gardening

Thank you for your interest in the post of Climate Action Officer (Sustainable Gardening), 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 advance 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 (Sustainable Gardening) role will be on building a movement of people who are passionate about a sustainable approach to growing, including food growing in our community. A key objective of the role will be to initiate and sustain a community-led 'Call to Action', which will influence the creation of a draft sustainable local food policy and a community-led growing strategy for Islington.

Job Description

Job Title: Climate Action Officer, Sustainable Gardening

Salary: £19,500 + 5% workplace pension contribution, part-time, 22.5 hours per week, 18-months

Reports to: Network Development Manager

Reference: CAO-SG_1

Scope and Objectives

The post of Climate Action Officer (Sustainable Gardening) will focus on building a movement of people who are passionate about a sustainable approach to growing, including food growing in our community. A key objective of the role will be to initiate and sustain a community-led Call to Action, which will influence the creation of a draft sustainable local food policy and a community-led growing strategy.

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

- Initiate a wide-reaching awareness raising campaign to raise awareness of sustainable gardening and food growing and the importance of reducing it, using digital tools, social media, the press and direct marketing.
- Design and implement a programme of creative and inspiring activities using a place-based and online approaches, to stimulate interest and encourage residents, and especially those not represented within the climate action movement to become more active in their community in the drive to maximise local food growing.
- Design a set of attractive and engaging tools that will help residents lead place-based action, use and implement impact measurement tools to capture change and distance travelled.
- With Project Ambassadors and local leadership in place, lead the development of three demonstrator sites to become test-beds for the programme, which will include demonstrating water harvesting solutions and permaculture approaches to sustainable gardening and food growing.
- Work closely with colleagues in the Community Plant Nursery to create a Climate Action Learning Hub by designing a tailored programme of learning activities that will support the sustainable growing, water harvesting and a permaculture approach.
- 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

- Lead on the implementation of a community 'call to action' movement to influence changes and develop opportunities for community-led sustainable growing, including food growing, through creative and innovative place-based and online approaches.
- To be responsible for engaging the wider community in a climate action programme that focuses on sustainable gardening and a permaculture approach through awareness raising, peer to peer exchange and In collaboration with the Octopus Community Network.
- Taking a place-based approach, design and implement three community-led demonstrator sites and a Climate Action Learning Hub to establish effective practice examples of sustainable growing in the local community, which can be scaled up/adopted by other communities.
- Take a place-based approach to place-based movement making to ensure that community assets are identified and engaged in the development and longer term sustainability of the demonstrator sites.
- Take a community-led approach to ensure locally owned visions and goals set the foundation for a more extensive Climate Action proposal and programme of work.

Community Development

- Work collaboratively with colleagues and partners to support the design and development of a borough wide campaign to influence the creation of a draft community-led growing strategy and sustainable local food policy.
- Work collaboratively with key stakeholders and opinion leaders to identify best practice in implementation of local food networks, policies and action plans.
- Identify and effectively develop a movement of people who will take forward the project's 'call to action' by putting in place activities to build their skills, competence and confidence.

Community Learning

- Work collaboratively in the development of the Community Plant Nursery as a Climate Action Learning Hub, including supporting the delivery of community-led sustainable growing, water harvesting and permaculture workshops.
- Work with colleagues responsible for the Community Plant Nursery to co-design and implement a seasonally appropriate programme of Climate Action workshops aligned to the aims and objectives of the project.
- Support the project's Ambassadors in devising and implementing a programme of Climate Action support that they take cascade in their local community/the wider community.

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.
- Take responsibility for implementing effective practice in project management to ensure the production of high quality impact and performance reports to funders, key stakeholders and partners.

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.
- To undertake tasks that support the wider Urban Growing programme, as reasonably requested.

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 through the National Lottery Climate Action Fund for 18-months.