

One Planet Abingdon 6 months on  
Submitted by Michelle Charlesworth, Chair OPACEC

One Planet Abingdon Climate Emergency Centre is young and yet, already we are strong... We have been open for 6 months and it has been a richly rewarding experience for all involved. Our plans are evolving and developing, and we are learning to be agile in these uncertain times! Relationships and collaborations with other groups in Abingdon are strengthening and we are excited by the possibilities and opportunities we are creating together.

Significant milestones include confirmation of our legal status, a 'not for profit' Company Limited by Guarantee, with powers delegated to the Steering Group. We have registered as a Food Establishment with the VWHDC and are very proud to share that we were recently awarded a 5 star Food Hygiene rating! This is as a result of hard work and cooperation from all volunteers involved. Our homemade cakes are 5 star rated too! The volunteer cake bakers use mostly local and organic ingredients and we try to cater for all, vegan and gluten free options are usually on offer. We are grateful and accept cash donations for our amazing refreshments!

Our focus initially has been on engagement and outreach, ensuring that we have sufficient events on offer to attract those outside of the 'green bubble'. This year we are particularly seeking to engage with the youth of Abingdon, they are the future and their participation and voice are most important.



*A collaboration we are very excited about! OPACEC, Friends of the Earth Oxford and Damascus Youth Project are exploring ways to find out what the young people of Abingdon feel about the climate emergency. The first of hopefully many sessions was held in February, and we are very grateful to Charlotte Orr (Illustration) and Chris Church for their support.*

We are delighted to have been asked by the Town Council to coordinate the making of the town's bunting for the *Queen's Platinum Jubilee* - we hope to engage everyone with this exciting project and make our town look good enough for a Queen without the carbon footprint! More information to be shared soon!

One Planet Abingdon is run entirely by volunteers. We do everything from stewarding events, to the day to day running of the Climate Emergency Centre which is currently open Thursdays - Saturdays, 10am - 4pm.

It's rewarding work and we're always looking for people to join our amazing team! Whether you are looking to donate time or skills; looking to learn more about the environment and the issues facing it, to socialise, gain experience, give something back to society, [we would love to hear from you.](#)

If you are a young person [you can contact us here.](#)

If you can support us financially [please donate here.](#)

OPACEC is here for you, run by the town's ordinary people doing extraordinary things. We would love for you to be a part of it. See our [events page](#) for all upcoming activities!

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