



Our Environment Our Future

Expression of Interest form

1. Organisation name

Permaculture Association

2. Lead contact details

- Name

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- Position in organisation

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3. Alternate contact details

- Name

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- Position in organisation

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4. How would you like to be involved in Our Environment Our Future?

- a) **Strategic advice** – supporting the portfolio lead partnership by providing advice on policy or practice, ensuring the voice of young people is heard and that portfolio projects are delivering appropriate social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Yes ☒

No ☐

Describe how you would do this.
[300 words max]

We are willing to support in this area.

- We can identify young people from within our network with good permaculture design skills and training that could engage in the youth council. We have some incredibly talented young people that are highly motivated, and that are delivering great projects in local communities in all four countries of the United Kingdom. These are young people that already exemplify the desired outcomes of the Our Environment Our Future programme. They have green skills, lead on local environmental action and have a strong voice.
- As members of the Big Lottery Fund's Local Food Fund consortium, the Permaculture Association has experience of supporting and steering the £57.5 million fund since its inception. We have an excellent attendance record and have made consistently high quality contributions to the discussion and work, for example by helping to shape the evaluation research work by CCRI, help plan a series of successful events and by providing both close scrutiny and creative input to RSWT's programme of work. We would be happy to contribute to the steering group.
- Permaculture is a holistic / integrated approach that brings together many disciplines with thirty years experience. We can provide excellent sustainability advice and guidance, including an

understanding of the interactions and interplay between social, environmental and economic factors. We have a series of 100+ flagship projects (our 'LAND Centres' and 'LAND Learners'), a growing research base and excellent links to practitioners and academics in the UK and across the world. This gives us access to a very rich source of high quality advice and practice.

- b) Operational support** – working as part of the portfolio lead partnership to help projects learn, grow and replicate or to provide advice on partnership development, funding or impact evaluation.

Yes ☐

No **X**

Describe how you would do this.
[300 words max]

We can provide excellent permaculture advice, have strong action learning skills, have developed good monitoring and evaluation systems, and understand and use an outcomes approach. However, with the exception of permaculture, we are not leaders in these fields and do not feel sufficiently qualified to support at this level. We can provide permaculture advice to other partners and projects via the project delivery work, and would be very happy to assist occasionally with Operational Support if this was deemed useful at any point.

- c) Project delivery** – managing a project as part of the portfolio.

Yes **X**

No ☐

- i) Describe your project idea. (Please see guidance below)
[500 words max]

Permaculture promotes positive environmental behaviour change. Researchers note that permaculture trained people have lower ecological footprints (Pilkington et al, 2013). Hundreds of community projects, businesses, social enterprises and initiatives, and the flourishing transition movement are testament to its power to promote and inspire positive behaviour change.

This proposal sets out five mutually supportive work-streams that engage a wide range of young people and develops a legacy of self-sustaining initiatives. Each element

builds on and develops existing activities with proven track records.

1. Launch with a **Permaculture Youth Convergence** in conjunction with our International Permaculture Conference (September 2015). This and future events will share skills and project experience, and establish a permaculture youth network that will direct other project activities and continue after the programme;
2. Support more young people to access **Permaculture Design Courses (PDC)** (30 years experience, 6000+ graduates) and use the PDC to design their community project with follow up support. Extend participation and widen social inclusion;
3. Extend **LAND Learner Scheme** (4 years development), to provide in-depth support for projects led by young PDC graduates that are especially ambitious;
4. **Work within existing institutions** and **extend our Permaculture GCSE work** at Colne Valley High School (a LAND Learner) to three new schools. Extend the 'Community Supported Teaching' model used there and pilot progression routes into apprenticeships hosted by clusters involving LAND Centres, the sustainability sector, and other members of this consortium;
5. **Support the existing network of 30 + local YP and permaculture initiatives** to scale up, **link to the existing youth sector** and replicate their work to new groups and with more young people. The materials, activities and new relationships formed will help youth organisations understand how permaculture can engage young people in environmental action.

It will make action on the environment more accessible by removing / reducing the cost of accessing a PDC and LAND Learner support. School work cuts across socio-economic barriers and connects with a powerful public institution for ongoing sustainability. Relevance increases by using inspirational case studies of existing young people's work on the environment, and focussing on practical approaches and achievable projects that can be used at home / school / work / in the community. We already have great young people active in permaculture and they will work as peers to engage new young people.

The projects will help young people develop skills, achieve qualifications, and develop their own enterprise ideas. The PDC is accredited with Certa (12 credits / levels 2&3), and provides core skills and key ecological principles that are applied widely, including within the green economy.

Young people will achieve greater influence over their surroundings and in their community by learning new design skills, and accessing project support that enables them to understand and realise the potential of different spaces and opportunities. The PDC, GCSE and LAND support all guide and mentor young people in how to design and implement ecological solutions, with a clear underlying message throughout of

“what you do does make a difference”.

Your project should build on or replicate an existing idea with a proven track record and address the following questions.

- o Will it make action on the local environment more relevant or accessible to more young people?*
- o Will it promote positive environmental behaviour change?*
- o Will it test or develop new ways of working between the youth and environment sectors?*
- o Will it help young people develop skills, achieve qualifications, access jobs or develop their own enterprise ideas?*
- o Will it help young people achieve greater influence over their surroundings or in their community?*

ii) Project location – this could be a particular area, a country or UK-wide UK wide. We have strong networks in England, Scotland and Wales, with established project networks - LAND Centres and LAND Learners - in England and Scotland, and advanced plans for a LAND network in Wales. We have teachers, local groups and projects in all 4 countries. There are a smaller number of projects and practitioners in Northern Ireland and this programme would provide an excellent opportunity to extend their work more widely.

iii) Approximate number of young people benefiting – an indicative figure based on the assumption of securing £1 million.

Direct beneficiaries:

800 Young people aged 16-24 attend Permaculture Design Courses, use the course group design exercises to plan their projects, connect with local networks, and receive follow up support.

1200 Additional 11-18 year olds are engaged by existing and new permaculture projects / youth programmes.

120 Young people in 30 projects receive in depth LAND Learner project support and mentoring over a two year period from experienced designers.

600 Young people in 3 new schools are supported to learn about practical sustainability through their schools replication of the permaculture GCSE and project work at Colne Valley High School, West Yorkshire.

600 Of these young people also attend national and regional events to share their skills, inspire each other and help set the agenda for future

permaculture youth programmes and projects.

30 Young people benefit from work experience and student placements at the Permaculture Association office and help run the programme.

Indirect beneficiaries

2000 other young people involved in projects set up by Design Course students

500 additional young people engaged in existing LAND network of 66 Centres and permaculture youth programmes and benefit from GCSE materials and activities

300 other young people engaged in youth led LAND Learner supported projects

Many others engaged via the internet and new materials, but hard to estimate numbers at present, although we can monitor this easily.

3350 direct beneficiaries and 2800 indirect beneficiaries. We think this is a conservative estimate for some aspects (especially the wider network engagement of young people.)

Which gives a total of **6150 over 5 years**.

***Please note** – portfolio projects need to be discussed and agreed between the portfolio lead partnership and the Big Lottery Fund. No guarantees of inclusion in the portfolio or funding can be made at this stage.*

5. What other networks are you part of or can you access?

We are interested in testing our ideas with other organisations, particularly those led by or working with young people and those bringing together businesses seeking to develop 'the green economy'.

Because permaculture brings together many different disciplines in order to design sustainable settlements, we have links to a wide range of networks, both directly as organisation to organisation, and indirectly through our members, teachers and practitioners. We are strongest in the area of agro-ecological food production / local food, with links to the Food Sovereignty Network (40 + organisations and local groups), WWOOF, UK Food Group (we are members), Sustain, Federation of City Farms, Garden

Organic, Learning through Landscapes, Black Environment Network and the other members of the Local Food Consortium.

We also have strong links with the Transition Towns Network, Forest Schools networks and Home Education networks. We work with the Workers Education Association and Open College Network (we are a registered Regional Centre).

We have a range of green business members and are currently working with Lush Cosmetics to support their work to green their supply chain.

Please return this form to Samantha.cox@groundwork.org.uk by Tuesday 25/03/2014