One Planet Abingdon Annual Report

2024–2025



One Planet Abingdon
County Hall, Market Pl, Abingdon OX14 3HG

December 2025

Contents

Contents **1**

Message From the Chair **2**

1. About One Planet Abingdon **3**

2. Impact and Outcomes **4**

3. Year in Review **6**

Outreach Stalls 6

Green Focus 7

Eco Action Chats 8

Sewing The Seeds Of Sustainability 9

FreshWater Watch 10

One Planet Abingdon Climate Centre & Community Cafe 11

Youth 12

Cultural Tuesdays 13

Crochet Tuesdays at Makespace 14

Community Outreach 15

Theory of Change 16

Eco Book Club 17

Preloved Clothing Sale 17

Junior Creators 18

Repair Cafes 19

4. Reports From Committees **20**

Fundraising 20

Volunteer Coordination 21

Digital Engagement & Communications 22

Steering Group Membership 23

5. Challenges & Looking Ahead **24**

6. Financial Summary **26**

Thank you! **31**

Message From the Chair



Hello One Planet Abingdon supporters,

At the outreach stall in May, I was stood next to the spinning wheel of alternative food choices – a fun conversation starter to engage with the public. One member of the public told me that they couldn't imagine giving up meat or dairy, but that they wanted to make better choices for the environment. For me, my answer was obvious, "Well, could you just eat less meat? Maybe only two days a week, for example?" A phrase came back into my mind that an old boss used to say: "Don't let perfect be the enemy of good" – meaning that you can still make positive steps without needing to be flawless. Often we can become so obsessed with making the perfect process or decision, that we never actually implement something.

I decided that this will be my go-to phrase when people try to dismiss environmentalism as too hard. It is a good phrase against the pessimists who say they can't give up certain foods, they can't give up their car, they can't reduce or reuse rather than buying new. They can make incremental improvements and might soon find they don’t miss what they once couldn’t live without.

Spending time with the volunteers at One Planet shows me how much more fun it is to be part of a community that is working together towards a worthwhile goal, rather than retreating into a defeatist mindset. I couldn't mention all the things I enjoyed this year, but top of mind are the outreach stalls, the Saturday Eco Action Chats, the FreshWater Watch, the volunteer consultations, the socials, the Steering Group meetings. I even got some joy from being humiliated at chess by a 10 year old in One Planet while on shift, because it brought in new people and spread our message.

In the spirit of defeating defeatism, I offer you a link to the Conservation Optimism website. Among other things they put on a short film festival each year with varied heart-warming films on Conservation efforts around the world.

https://conservationoptimism.org/2025-good-natured-a-conservation-optimism-film-festival/

Thank you to One Planet Abingdon’s volunteers, visitors and financial supporters for an excellent 2025. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM this week and to more of the same in 2026!

Jonathan Price

1. About One Planet Abingdon

One Planet Abingdon's mission is to create a town where everyone is empowered to live within our planet's resources, creating sustainable lifestyles that are environmentally responsible, equitable and rooted in community – living well without costing the Earth.

Our framework comes from the *One Planet Living* principles, a global movement with several branches in the UK which provide a clear road map for a solutions-oriented and scientific way to deal with the existential threats facing humanity from climate change.

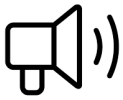
There are ten *One Planet Living* principles aiming to get individuals, communities and countries back to needing one, instead of the three planets each of us in the UK requires to meet our current needs. These principles are much broader than cutting carbon emissions. They start and end with the needs of people and have been developed with the World Wildlife Fund, Bioregional and scientific research into actionable and effective solutions.

The *One Planet Living* principles are: 1. Health and Happiness, 2. Equity and Local Economy, 3. Culture and Community, 4. Land and Nature, 5. Sustainable Water, 6. Local and Sustainable Food, 7. Travel and Transport, 8. Materials and Products, 9. Zero Waste and 10. Zero Carbon Energy.

The three pillars of One Planet Abingdon's mission are:



Knowledge – we promote information exchange and learning through shared experience to empower ourselves to make conscious informed choices that support both personal well-being and the health of the planet.



Action – we initiate and support collaborative activities and practical tools to measurably shrink carbon emissions and enable us to adopt low-carbon, sustainable and high quality lives.



Community – we put the community into all our activities, creating space to foster connection, strengthen and celebrate diversity and build a resilient, nurturing Abingdon.

In short, we carry out projects to connect communities, raise climate awareness and encourage positive, life-affirming action.

2. Impact and Outcomes

November 2024 – November 2025









347
events run

4350
visitors to One Planet Abingdon

75
active volunteers

15
new volunteers

1725
hours of volunteering at our community hub

£49,819.66
funds raised through grants and donations

Recognition

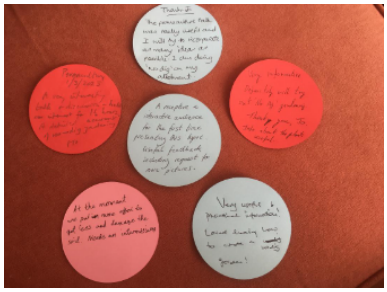
Recognition from CAG Oxfordshire

This year, CAG Oxfordshire invited us to be a community partner in their £1.5 million bid to the National Lottery Climate Action Fund. Their *Fairer Futures* project focuses on climate action linked to everyday issues like fuel costs, housing, flooding, food and green space. Being asked to join the bid shows that our work is trusted and valued locally. We hope to hear the outcome soon.

Recognition in Caldecott

A research team from Oxford University, looking at the Well Together and Community Health Development Officer programmes (which have supported our work), found that One Planet Abingdon was one of the most recognised and well-regarded groups in their survey of Caldecott residents this summer. This provides positive evidence that our presence in the community is continuing to grow.

Testimonies



“I have loved these lessons. I discovered a new passion for textile and sewing and I take a lot of pleasure in creating my own pieces, and adapting clothes that don't fit. It is inspiring and opens our eyes to what it must take to make the cheap clothes sold in high street shops.”
“Sewing The Seeds Of Sustainability” project participant

"A very interesting talk and discussion – held our interest for 1 1/2 hours, a detailed account of no-dig gardening, a comprehensive list of plants that could be grown using this method."
Eco Action Chat attendee

“[One Planet Abingdon] gives you a new perspective and reality check that the changes in the environment will impact all and no one is immune to the effects that will come if we continue at the same rate. Unity and hope is important and we can push through the challenging times.”
Wendy, young supporter

“Volunteering for One Planet Abingdon is the perfect way for me to contribute to a cause that uniquely matters while allowing me to refresh my skills and safely explore options outside of the corporate job I've been doing for years.”
Sarah, volunteer

“A pleasure and a joyful (re)discovery of who we are, a journey of insights and new connections building community in a meaningful way.”
Cultural Tuesdays attendee

“Very interesting session, very informative and educational, highly recommended.”
*“***How To Flourish On A Vegan Diet” talk attendee**

“Volunteering at One Planet Abingdon brings me into contact with lots of interesting people and has given me many insights into sustainable living...A real positive after the fracturing of the community post-Covid.”
Sabrina, volunteer

“Wow, just wow. This place is like walking into a hug...A hub at the heart of the community – we need to support this fantastic place.”
One Planet Abingdon visitor

3. Year in Review

Outreach Stalls

Feedback from volunteers this year highlighted the need to *"get One Planet's message out there"* by being more visible to the public and creating opportunities to start conversations about sustainability. In response, we ran four outreach stalls this year and plan to make this a regular part of our work in 2026.

Our data shows that outreach stalls are highly effective at bringing new people into One Planet. On the days of outreach events, visits to our community cafe more than doubled, and during the vegan outreach stall (see below) the number of visitors more than quadrupled.

Spotlight on the Vegan Outreach Stall in Abingdon Market Place, May 2025
Sue Davies

The idea of this outreach event was to encourage visitors to try plant-based food and find out how delicious it can be, in the hope that they would then experiment at home and eat more plant-based meals.



On the stall, as well as giving out free tasters of delicious food, we provided a variety of easy to make recipes for customers to take away. We displayed information on the advantages of plant-based eating, especially the many health benefits. We also had a very popular interactive game to attract families, and a sticky dot questionnaire board to gauge how often vegan/vegetarian food is eaten and the reasons for doing so.



The stall ran from 10am until 3pm and we had a constant stream of visitors tasting the food and lots of good conversations regarding food and how our current food systems affect the climate crisis, as well as raising awareness for One Planet Abingdon and Abingdon Carbon Cutters. We encouraged people to visit One Planet Abingdon by offering them tickets to claim a free vegan cookie from there and as a result 90 members of the public visited One Planet Abingdon that day.



In an indoor venue at 2pm, we had nutritionist Kerry Lock deliver an excellent talk '*How To Flourish On A Plant-Based Diet*'. This was well attended and very informative in dispelling many worries that people often have about plant-based diets.

Green Focus

Daniel Scharf

This was something that the Town Council asked One Planet Abingdon and Abingdon Carbon Cutters to run following its Climate and Nature Emergency declaration in 2019. The Green Focus has taken the form of One Planet Abingdon agreeing the focus of work for successive quarters, using display panels, organising relevant debates and using the One Planet Abingdon outreach stall. When a subject is chosen an online survey is created and the results analysed by a micro-intern from Oxford University as part of writing a report that is then posted on One Planet's website. One of the purposes of the surveys has been to raise questions relevant to the topic, as well as finding out what responders are thinking.



The subject for Winter 2024 was *Environmental Impacts of New Housebuilding*. Housebuilding was becoming a politically hot topic and the report from our microinterns, with the assistance of Daniel Scharf, Sue Davies and Dr Sue Roberts from Bioabundance looked into many issues that are being lost in the clamour for more building. January to March 2025 looked at *Sustainable Food* and from April to June *Air Travel on One Planet*. From July the focus turned to the *Global South* and a collaboration with Solar Schools SDG, Tree Aid and the Nasio Trust and this focus will continue into 2026. The display is at One Planet and the survey is now online and micro-interns are being recruited. Nine volunteers from One Planet Abingdon and Abingdon Carbon Cutters participated in a sponsored walk and reception, raising £1,000 for Solar Schools SDG

The surveys attract up to 100 respondents, the activity of recruiting micro-interns includes hundreds of Oxford University students, and enables One Planet Abingdon and Abingdon Carbon Cutters to assemble a collection of well researched and referenced reports on subjects key to our purposes. Having chosen the Global South as our current focus we hope that this can raise awareness of the immediacy of climate change impacts in places least implicated in the causes, and attract different people to working with One Planet Abingdon and Abingdon Carbon Cutters. We also hope to use this collaboration to raise funds for the different charities.



Eco Action Chats

Kim Jones

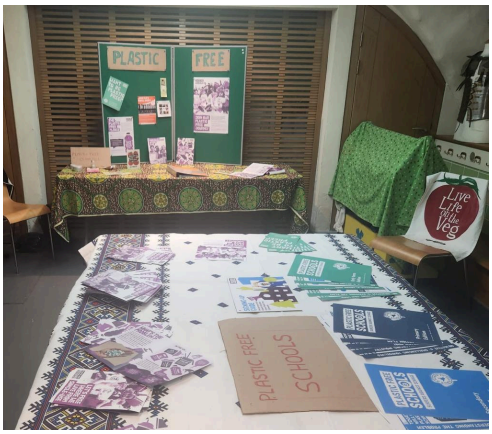


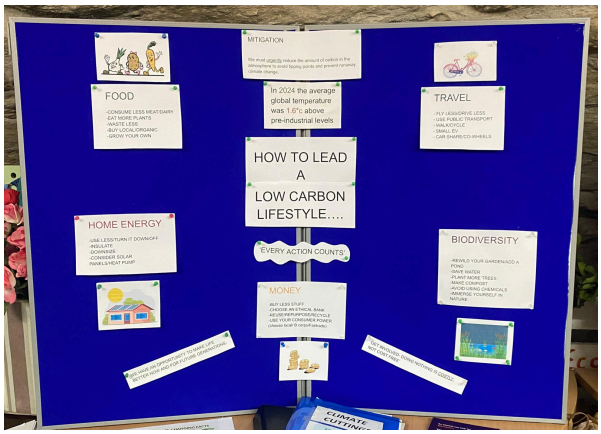
Since September 2024 Eco Action Chats have taken place initially on a weekly basis and latterly, as and when volunteers come forward to lead a session. They are held on Saturdays from 11am–12pm in the Kempster Room. The idea being to share knowledge and ideas on various topics in relation to climate change, in an informal way, and consider the individual actions we might then take.



We have covered many topics including solar, air source heat pumps, banking, electric cars, single use plastic, nature friendly gardening, cleaning, holidays, direct action, local impacts of climate change and travel by train in Europe. Many people have contributed to these sessions and on average around 8 people attend. We have also made new connections with some of the individuals who attended sessions, which has led to further collaboration such as that with Solar Villages.

We have received lots of positive feedback from attendees and many people have informed us of changes they have made in their lives as a result. A big thank you to everyone who has taken part!





Sewing The Seeds Of Sustainability

Rachael Stevenson, Halima Brewer, Taiwo Oluwatuyi

Our Sewing the Seeds of Sustainability project was an initiative which aimed to empower and support local people to take action to reduce their carbon footprint and mitigate at a local level the global damaging effects of fast fashion on the planet. It combined practical skill classes in machine sewing and hand mending (and a new crochet class with participants from the former Cultural Tuesdays project) alongside discussions regarding the textile industry's contribution to the climate crisis.

Three very experienced seamstresses enabled complete novices and beginners to learn how to use a sewing machine and begin to upcycle, refashion and mend garments and other textiles. Several community projects were also undertaken in order to give back to the community of Abingdon and bridge connections between One Planet Abingdon and other local groups. The funding also enabled the mentoring of two young people of Afro Caribbean descent to be trained in sewing machine skills and garment design.



Around 28 participants took part and more participated during the One Planet Abingdon Festival to showcase the project.



Participants reported feeling more confident, creative and motivated to engage in sustainable fashion practices. 100% said they intended to continue mending their clothes, and many reported changes in behaviour such as buying fewer clothes, choosing second-hand and extending the life of their garments. Participants also reported improved wellbeing, stronger social connections and reduced feelings of isolation.

The project had a wider community impact through creating recycled bunting for the Royal British Legion's VE Day celebrations, making syringe driver bags for Sobell House, and producing upcycled items from materials that would otherwise have been discarded.

Future plans include seeking funding to continue the classes and enabling more people to participate.

FreshWater Watch

David Marsh



Over the last year the 11 members of the One Planet Abingdon FreshWater Watch group have continued to take monthly water samples from 8 different locations in the Abingdon area. On-site observations and digital photos are submitted to Earthwatch Europe together with measured levels of nitrates and phosphates taken using a dedicated kit that team members have received training to use.

The FreshWater Watch submitted nearly 80 survey reports in the last 12 months. It is important that data is collected over a number of years to show trends and gather evidence that is robust, evidence that can be used to put pressure on decision makers locally and nationally.



With training from Oxford Rivers Project Officer, Claire Robertson at Thames 21, One Planet Abingdon has also begun taking samples from the Thames at Marina Gardens, to measure the levels of bacteria (e-coli) present in the river. This involves a smaller team of 4 taking samples and growing any bacteria present, twice monthly.

Over the last 12 months the group have found levels of phosphates and nitrates well above normal and these readings are, unfortunately, markers for poor ecological state of the waterways in and around Abingdon.

One Planet Abingdon FreshWater Watch is always looking for new members who are able to commit to carrying out a monthly survey on a local water course. Full training and support is given.

One Planet Abingdon Climate & Community Hub



Our climate centre/cafe continues to act as an essential hub for our activities and community. We gained 15 new volunteers this year, many of whom have done shifts behind the counter. Despite a change in the coordination team, we continue to receive a large number of visitors – over 4000 this year – many of whom have written in the Visitors' Book about how much they enjoy coming to One Planet Abingdon.

Keeping the cafe open for its regular hours has been a challenge at times. There was a drop-off in volunteers doing shifts in the middle of the year, however following improvements to internal communications and management systems (for example, making the rota more accessible and sharing it on a weekly basis) volunteering is picking back up. Overall, our volunteers have done a sterling job: One Planet Abingdon has operated for at least four days per week across the year. Very many thanks to all our regular volunteers, we couldn't stay open without you.

Food Report

Susie Howard

There are currently eight regular bakers who bake with varying degrees of frequency. Six to eight cakes are provided each week. The cost of ingredients is reimbursed monthly.



We try to set an example by baking vegan where possible and using organic, local, seasonal, Fair Trade or 'heading for out of date' ingredients. We generally manage to have at least one vegan option, as well as gluten free, each week. It's a challenge for the bakers to make vegan baked goods and to do it well requires learning new recipes and using unfamiliar ingredients. We would also like to prioritise more use of organic, local and seasonal produce.

Cakes and baked goods always receive wonderful compliments from customers and we're lucky to have a regular stream of fresh, homemade goods made with love and care delivered to One Planet.



Weekly batches of vegetarian soup are mostly provided by four members of the Abingdon Carbon Cutters Food Group on a rota basis. Homemade bread appears as needed.

We have attempted to demonstrate and serve seasonal, nutritional, salads with homemade bread. These sessions were enjoyable and tasty, however they need to be better publicised. This venture is on hold during the autumn and winter period.

Youth

Katy Williams & Lily Bower



Working with young people, giving them support, hope and a sense of empowerment about the future is a central part of One Planet's mission. This year, we worked with young people across a wide range of ages and activities, from Eco Tots events for preschoolers to summer internships for university students. These included Youth Sundays, Youth Takeover sustainability workshops and outreach events such as Junior Chess Club, crochet club, and Home Educated Socials for families. Events had an average of around 10 attendees per session and covered topics such as sustainable fashion, eco anxiety, climate action, nature walks, gardening and recycling.

Across the year, we worked closely with schools, offering work experience and a summer media project for sixth form students. We delivered presentations on sustainability, including a talk at Fitzharrys School on climate optimism and the "feel good" aspects of sustainable living, with two more sessions planned for January 2026. We also ran a workshop with the OX14 Learning Partnership Pride group on the intersection between LGBTQ+ and environmental issues.





A real highlight was the youth-led element of the programme, with young people of different ages taking on leadership roles. Older children and teenagers helped to run Youth Sundays and outreach events such as Junior Chess Club and crochet sessions, meanwhile sixth form students organised sustainability workshops, gave presentations in schools and took part in meetings with local councillors.

Impact

Providing youth events is really important. Much of the news about climate change is negative, so having a space to talk about feelings around the climate crisis, think more positively, find hope and take action together really matters. Even having a space available outside of school for young people to get to know each other is a rarity now and we often received feedback that simply having a place to do this really mattered.



Next year, we will be looking to secure additional funding to allow us to run youth activities more regularly and promote them more consistently in schools and online.

Cultural Tuesdays

Dr Dianne Regisford, Michelle Charlesworth



The pilot of the Cultural Tuesday program included support from Abingdon Muslims in the first trimester. The success of having a day set aside each week to come together with intent confirmed the need for a regular session for our colourful community to grow.

We were very encouraged with the successes of the pilot which included new volunteers from those attending, childcare problems resolved, homeless advocacy support, social isolation reduced, improved wellbeing of those attending and improved understanding of the crisis (as well as English speaking!). The latter half of the pilot was part funded by Well Together funding and Dr Dianne Regisford shares her reflections below:



"I was invited to facilitate a series of sessions of the Cultural Tuesdays programme at One Planet Abingdon.

The impulse guiding our previous engagements has been to find ways to embody and create experiences of the One Planet 'Culture and Community' principle. I responded to the invitation by creating an artist-in-residence approach. Within this three month residency, I stewarded an Evoking Belonging enquiry into ecological citizenship amongst communities under-represented in climate discourse.

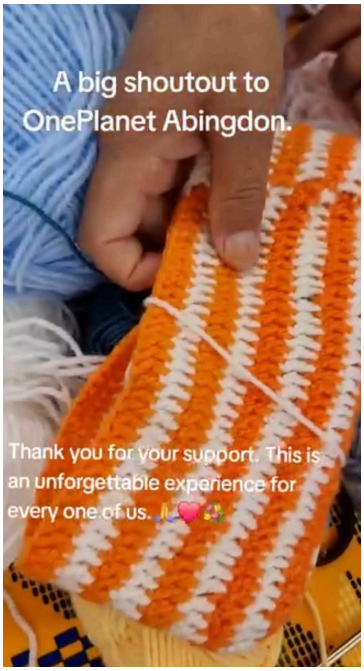


To ensure that no-one is left behind in the globally recognised Sustainable Development Goals, the Cultural Tuesdays programme was designed to be a local response to create inclusive pathways for Abingdon's increasingly diverse communities to engage in local efforts to address the climate emergency. Following the adage: 'there is no climate justice without social justice', the Cultural Tuesdays programme was intentionally anchored within a justice paradigm to ensure equitable access for all in Abingdon."

Crochet Tuesdays at Makespace

The Cultural Tuesdays programme ran for a fixed amount of time. When the sessions came to an end, it became clear that One Planet Abingdon was not the right venue. However, there was a strong desire from participants to continue meeting and so the session moved to Makespace, hosted by Taiwo as a new crochet class (see Sewing The Seeds Of Sustainability Project). There continues to be fantastic participation from the Afghani, African-Carribean and Muslim communities, although these sessions are open to women of all backgrounds.

Taiwo Oluwatuyi
Our adult participants have been thriving in our crochet sessions. They've created a wonderful variety of items, from cozy shawls and stylish baby dresses to practical water bottle holders and handy shower gloves. The creativity and passion they bring to each session are truly inspiring.



Beyond the craft, these sessions have had a profound impact on the participants' lives. Every week, they come together not only to create but also to share their experiences, fostering a sense of community and belonging. This has been a safe haven, helping to combat loneliness and depression and instilling a renewed sense of hope.

Moreover, the skills they've gained have positively impacted their families, giving them a creative outlet and making their loved ones proud. It's become a highlight of their week, something they truly look forward to.

We're also committed to sustainability by using 100% eco-friendly wool, which helps us contribute positively to the environment.

A special thank you to our crochet tutor, Fumi, for her dedication and guidance and to Michelle from One Planet Abingdon and Mason's for their generous donation of wool to us.

We're excited to continue making a positive impact in our community and would greatly appreciate any additional support to keep this initiative going.

Community Outreach

Our outreach events aim to provide an accessible way for people who might not think of themselves as climate-focused, or who are just dipping their toes into sustainable living, to get involved with One Planet Abingdon. We have run knitting events, as well as crochet sessions, Chess Club and Junior Chess Club throughout the year (see reports below). These activities are often youth-led and so also provide opportunities for younger members of One Planet to gain experience leading their own events, helping them to build confidence and develop leadership and organisational skills.



Knit & Chat and Knitwits

Dorothy Giacomin

The knitting events are available for anyone who wants to knit, crochet, sew or learn to knit. I also restarted the Knitwits youth event in September. Participants have enjoyed the sessions but they need to be better publicised to attract more people.



I also started a project to knit tiny toy wild animals which can be made in one session, to sell to raise money for Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) or give as Christmas presents to friends along with a donation to BBOWT. So far we've raised about £20. Before Christmas I will collect the money and send a donation to BBOWT to cover the amount collected.

Junior Chess Club

Ava Hall

The Junior Chess Club is held on Sundays, led by myself until May this year. It has been an effective way of bringing young people through the door; many regular players built a strong relationship with One Planet after starting at the club. Chess is proven positive intellectual stimulation for children, and as the only club of its kind in Abingdon, I believe it became very important to the participants. In December last year, the club held a chess tournament in the Royce Room, in partnership with Abingdon School, to publicise One Planet. The club is now run by two young volunteers who hope to continue and grow the club.

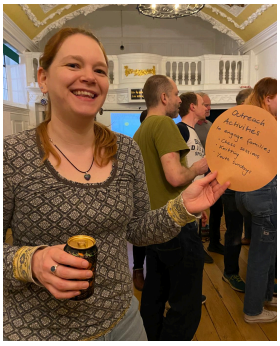


Theory of Change

Jess Osborn

One Planet Abingdon had been advised that, in order to achieve longer term funding, we needed to develop a theory of change, i.e. a roadmap of how we intended to achieve our mission of enabling Abingdonians to transition to a sustainable way of living. This coincided with a general feeling among some One Planet volunteers that we were not having the impact in the town that we would like to have. So we decided to recruit two university interns, Beatrice Osbourne and Umar Shareef, to research what the latest thinking was on how to motivate people to take up more planet-friendly habits, and to see how we could incorporate this into One Planet's forward strategy (along with methods for measuring this improved impact).





Beatrice and Umar carried out two week's worth of desk research. We then needed to find out how that research worked on the ground, so we carried out a workshop with One Planet volunteers to test our interns' findings. You can find the full report with the results here.

Examples of some findings were:

Action First, Motivation Second

Research finding: Carrying out climate actions can themselves generate motivation, rather than the other way round.
Testing in the workshop: Many volunteers said they joined One Planet Abingdon because they wanted to do something meaningful, and the motivation to take climate action came as a result of feeling part of the One Planet community.
Next steps: Incorporate meaningful collective activities that appeal to the general public into the One Planet event calendar.

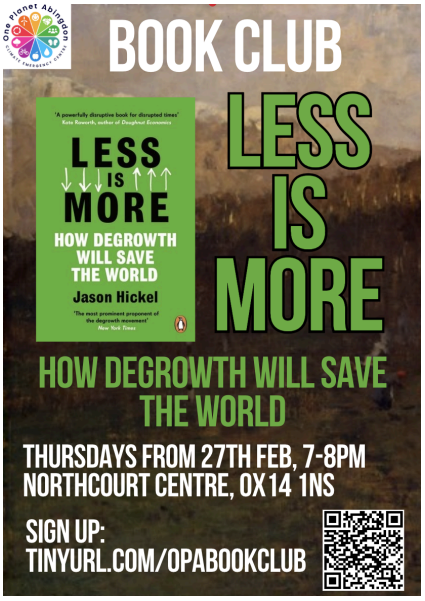
Individualisation vs Community

Research finding: Climate change is often blamed on individual choices, and can lead to a sense of individual helplessness. So, One Planet can help to create a real sense of collective agency to try and overcome this individualisation problem.
Testing in the workshop: Most volunteers favoured activities that immediately showed positive impact (e.g. reduction in carbon emissions).
Next steps: Incorporate real time impact mapping tools into group activities so people can see the results of collective action.

The project led to a more conscious forward strategy for One Planet activities and projects. This is reflected in the adjusted One Planet Abingdon mission statement, and provided the framework for the next funding bid to the Big Lottery, i.e. seeking funding for a Communications and Impact Officer to work with an Outreach and Education Coordinator.

Eco Book Club

Ben Johnson
Katy and I ran a book club earlier in the year where we read a chapter a week from Jason Hickel's Less is More. This book links the climate and ecological emergencies to the need for capitalist economies to grow their economies to remain stable, and suggests more economic planning to “degrow” rich economies in the Global North.



The club lasted 8 weeks at the Northcourt Centre in Abingdon and had 8-10 regular participants across a range of different ages. We encouraged everyone to participate in summarising what they had read and what they thought of it. Many remarked reading together had helped them make sense of why the climate crisis was linked to other issues and it gave us a common language to discuss these issues.

Going forward I recommend this format as it only takes 1-2 people to run, works around a full time job, and is rewarding.

Preloved Clothing Sale

Pippa Siret-Godfrey
We ran two sustainable fashion events this year, one in February and one in November. The sessions focused on reducing waste and rethinking how we buy and use clothes, with practical, hands-on activities. The events helped people better understand the scale of the problem, from textile overproduction to clothing going to landfill.



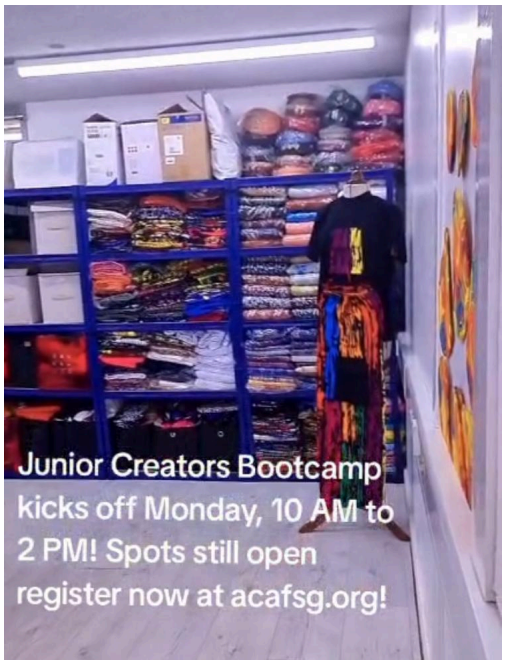
The Preloved Clothing Sales are always very well attended, with hundreds of people taking part. They provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the impact of fast fashion and gain practical ideas about swapping, repairing and buying clothes more thoughtfully. These sessions continue to be some of our most popular events.

We plan to keep running these events, building on what’s working well and reaching more people in the community.

Junior Creators

Taiwo Oluwatuyi

Our Junior Creators program takes place every Saturday from 10am–2pm. We start with piano and guitar for 30 minutes each, alternating crochet sessions every other week, followed by an hour break. The last two hours are dedicated to sewing. The children have been absolutely wonderful, always eager to learn, help each other and contribute creatively.



The impact on the children has been remarkable. This program has provided them with a creative outlet, helping them stay away from excessive screen time and social media. They've gained confidence, a sense of belonging and valuable skills that will benefit them in the future.

It's heartwarming to share that some parents have even provided wool and sewing machines at home, allowing the children to continue their projects and create items for themselves and their families.

We also emphasize sustainability by teaching them to upcycle old fabrics, turning old clothes into new creations.

I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Funmi, our crochet instructor, and Reni, who has been teaching guitar and piano. Your dedication has had a profound impact on the children. We also want to extend a special thank you to Michelle from One Planet Abingdon for her generous support in the past.

Although we are currently running the sessions without funding, we would be immensely grateful for any future assistance.

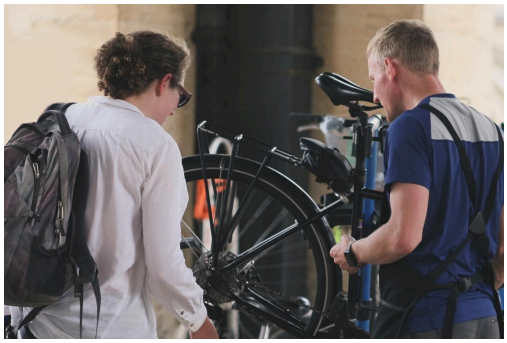
Repair Cafes

We're delighted that our partnership with Abingdon Carbon Cutters on the Abingdon Bike Checks (see report below), Sewing Repair Cafe and Household Repair Cafe continues to be so popular with members of the public. This is a waste reduction programme where you can get free repairs to a wide range of items such as: electronic gadgets, bicycles, toys and furniture, clothes and tool sharpening. Each of the cafes is held once a month, in a variety of locations and attracts a large number of visitors.

From January 2026, the Household Repair Cafe and the Sewing Repair Cafe will be held on the same day, on the first Saturday of the month in Unit 25, Bury Street to make these a one-stop shop.

Abingdon Bike Checks

Clive Elsmore



Like the other repair cafes, there's a big climate aspect to our work. Keeping bikes running well helps the environment by extending their lifespans, which reduces the need for new manufacturing, conserves resources, and decreases waste. It also encourages more cycling, a near zero-emission form of transportation that can replace cars, thereby lowering greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality and reducing noise. There are physical and mental health advantages too which not only benefit the participants but also put less load on our health services. Cycling doesn't demand much infrastructure – which is good for our natural environment and for preserving biodiversity – it needs far less cement for roads or oil for tarmac, and it doesn't pollute our waterways with vast quantities of microplastics from tyre wear. Just like walking, cycling allows you to quietly explore countryside that you can't get to by car, alone or in a community of cyclists. And you can fix bikes, alone or, as we do, in a community of fixers.



Abingdon Bike Checks is a small community of volunteer bike fixers. It's part of Abingdon Carbon Cutters, and it fits well with the principles of One Planet Living.

What we do is important for safety, performance, and cost savings. Regular maintenance prevents minor issues from becoming major problems, ensures components like brakes and gears work correctly, provides peace of mind and makes the bike more enjoyable to ride.

Finally some statistics: we have just closed for the winter but in the preceding nine 3-hour sessions this year we worked on a total of 260 bikes (one more than last year). On average each session had 5.8 mechanics and 2.2 admins, putting in a total of 216 customer-facing hours for the year. Although we don't ask for them, donations amounted to £395, roughly half of which went to St Ethelwold's House to contribute to the fund for critical structural repair work, and the other half went to One Planet Abingdon to help pay for the tea and cake!

4. Reports From Committees

Fundraising

Jess Osborn

Key Grant Funding Received in 2025

- Abingdon Town Council: £10,000 for Coordination
- Abingdon Town Council: £4,800 to work with Orchard Fundraising
- Christ's Hospital: £2,000 for schools outreach and engagement
- Active Travel Oxfordshire: £2,943 for a 'bike bus' project
- National Lottery: £20,000 to fund a Volunteer Coordinator

Working with Orchard Fundraising

In February 2025 Abingdon Town Council awarded One Planet Abingdon £4,000 (+VAT) to work with professional fundraisers Orchard Fundraising. The objective was to seek funding for One Planet Abingdon coordination positions. Orchard advised from the start that the best thing for One Planet to do was to seek funding initially for what we were already doing. Once One Planet was on a secure financial footing then we could start to be a bit more ambitious in seeking funding for new projects.

We therefore looked at what One Planet's immediate funding needs were. Jess carried out two initial consultations with the Steering Group and with the volunteers, and it was agreed that a Volunteer Coordinator to help the volunteers run the cafe and to support them on events and activities was the most important. From the data gathered at the consultations, Orchard submitted a bid to the Big Lottery's Awards For All for the maximum amount of £20,000 for one year and the bid was successful. You can find the link to these consultation reports here:
Consultation reports 2025



The next task was to look at longer term funding. For this, Jess and helpers carried out 2 more consultations with the Steering Group and volunteers, and also 2 further public consultations to test the results. From data gathered at these consultations it was decided to put in for an Outreach and Education Coordinator and for a Communications and Impact Officer, to scope and run circular economy/sustainable living projects that help people financially, creatively and in terms of their well-being, as well as being beneficial to the planet, and to provide relevant climate education in a community group setting. You can find the project presentation here.

Orchard Fundraising is currently drafting that bid and we hope to be able to submit by Christmas. An interim report on Orchard's work has been submitted to Abingdon Town Council, which you can find here.

Volunteer Coordination

Katy Williams

Our volunteers are at the heart of everything we do at One Planet Abingdon. This year, our priority has been improving the volunteer experience to ensure that volunteers feel confident, empowered and supported.

We have focused on several key areas:



- **Internal communications:** We've introduced monthly email updates to help volunteers feel connected and informed, including news from Steering Group meetings, positive stories from the community and upcoming events.
- **Volunteer feedback:** We ran two volunteer consultations over the year, ensuring volunteers have a voice in shaping the organisation, including decisions around project funding, coordination and strategy.
- **Rota management:** We have improved administration around the rota, making it easier for volunteers to sign up for shifts in our climate centre/cafe.
- **Volunteer socials:** We ran a series of get togethers this year to make it easier for volunteers to get to know each other, especially new volunteers, and build a stronger sense of community within the organisation.



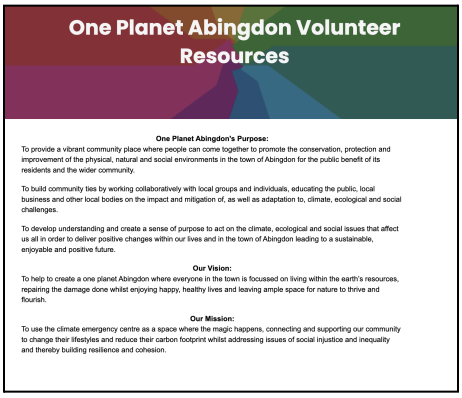
- **Re-engaging past volunteers:** We have contacted previous volunteers to check in and see if they would like to re-engage with One Planet.
- **Partnerships:** Working with the Buck Project, a local charity supporting job seekers, has brought new volunteers into the organisation.

Looking ahead, we are excited that we have been awarded £20,000 from the National Lottery to fund a Volunteer Coordinator. This role, starting in 2026, will continue to build on the progress made this year and ensure the volunteer experience at One Planet Abingdon is the best it can be.

Digital Engagement & Communications

Anne Cossutta & Ro Shaw-Moore

Progress update



This year, the focus was on enhancing both our public presence and internal volunteer support. We successfully maintained and updated the main One Planet Abingdon website, ensuring our external voice remains current and accurate.

Our major project was the creation and launch of a comprehensive internal Volunteer Resources website. This central digital hub streamlines operations by consolidating crucial documents, including the volunteer rota, operational procedures, safety guides and event organisation materials. It also provides essential references such as the One Planet Living Framework and Climate Conversations resources to support public-facing volunteers in the café, as well as access to steering group minutes for transparency.

Looking forward, we aim to expand our external site by developing a directory of "green" initiatives across Abingdon, while the internal volunteer site will continue to evolve based on valuable feedback from our volunteers.

Social media presence



Over the past year, we've been growing our online presence and engaging with more people through social media. On Instagram, our posts received 2,604 views in the last 30 days and reached 308 accounts. We gained 13 new followers over this period, which is consistent with our usual monthly growth of around 10 followers, as seen in July, September and October.

On Facebook, our posts achieved 7,616 views in the last 28 days, with slower follower growth: a net gain of six followers over the same period. TikTok posting has been infrequent, but even just posting infographics, some content has reached up to 2,000 views. Our TikTok account currently has 639 likes and 12 followers.

Our top-performing content continues to be event posts, event posters and infographics. For example, this year, we launched a youth 'Climate Activist Spotlight' series, highlighting inspiring stories and role models to help young people feel empowered to take action on climate change.

Looking ahead, we aim to increase the frequency of posts across all platforms, start advertising events on TikTok and share more photos from events generally to better engage our community.

Steering Group Membership

Jonathan Price

Per the One Planet Abingdon constitution, the Steering Group should consist of up to **15 members including 4 officers**. Up to **5 additional members may be co-opted** onto the Steering Group at the discretion of the Steering Group. In the event of an officer standing down during the year, a replacement will be co-opted by the Steering Group until elected by the next General Meeting of members. The Steering Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month to discuss achievements, challenges and key project updates. Meetings are open to any member of One Planet Abingdon wishing to attend, who may speak, but not vote.

Thank you to our members (below) for their continued contributions. We have a few open spots on the group, so if you're interested in joining, please let Jonathan and Katy know.

	Name	**Role**
1	Anna	
2	Daniel	Director/Co Founder
3	Dianne	Culture and Community input
4	Dotty	
5	Halima	
6	Jonathan	Chair
7	Katy	Youth Coord
8	Meredith	
9	Michel	Co Founder
10	Michelle	Director/Co Founder
11	Sophie	Secretary
12	Susie	Co Founder
13	Gary	
14	Sarah	
15	*Vacant*	Webmaster/Membership Secretary

5. Challenges & Looking Ahead

Coordination capacity

Challenge: Coordination capacity has been a key limitation of our work this year. Currently, there is funding available from Abingdon Town Council to cover one, part-time general coordination role. This funding has been vital in enabling the organisation to operate, however the workload is sufficiently large that, moving forward, the coordination of One Planet needs to be split into separate roles to reduce the pressure placed on a single individual.

What we're doing: We have successfully been awarded £20,000 from the National Lottery to fund a Volunteer Coordinator for one year and this post will start in 2026. We will continue to fundraise next year for additional coordination roles through another bid to the National Lottery for £100,000–£150,000, specifically to cover Outreach & Education, Communications & Impact and also to other funds to cover Youth Coordination.

Accessing funding within our current governance structure

Challenge: While this year has been successful in fundraising, professional fundraisers and other partners have advised us that One Planet Abingdon's current status as a Company Limited by Guarantee will significantly limit access to larger funding opportunities in the future.

What we're doing: In 2026, we plan to explore transitioning to either charitable status or Community Interest Company status to support greater long-term financial stability. We have applied for funding from Abingdon Town Council to support this work.

Volunteer capacity

Challenge: We have grown our volunteer base by 25% this year and kept the cafe open for at least 4 days per week throughout the year. However, gaps in the rota remain at times and we continue to rely on a small number of highly committed volunteers who contribute significant amounts of time.

What we're doing: We have already made improvements to the volunteer experience through better internal communication, more regular rota sharing, clearer points of contact and dedicated volunteer social events. However, as mentioned above, capacity to deliver this support remains a limitation. Next year we will have a Volunteer Coordinator in place who will be able to provide the dedicated capacity needed to recruit, train and support volunteers more effectively.

Internal procedures

Challenge: This year highlighted the need to strengthen internal systems and processes. While our focus on outreach, events and education remains essential, it has limited the time available to review and update core organisational procedures.

What we're doing: Our Webmaster has produced an internal intranet for volunteers with key processes and procedures which has been an essential resource for existing and new volunteers. Next year we plan to review and update key policies, including safeguarding, data protection, volunteer management and financial procedures to ensure they meet the standards

required by major funders. We have applied for funding from Abingdon Town Council to support this work.

Issues with the website

Challenge: We've experienced some technical issues with our website this year, which has been made more challenging as our webmaster has had to reduce her involvement with One Planet.

What we're doing: To address this, we plan to recruit digitally literate volunteers to provide the support needed.

Our impact

Challenge: Currently One Planet Abingdon is very good at recording event attendance and project outcomes, however it hasn't found a way to measure the difference this is making in the community. This has been making it harder for volunteers to stay motivated.

What we're doing: The Theory of Change project helped us to understand how behaviour change happens within a climate change context. This is reflected in the three pillars of our mission statement which we will now start applying to our projects. In terms of measuring the impact that One Planet Abingdon is having, we plan to explore how to do this using real-time mapping tools. This work will be built into the application we are submitting to the National Lottery in 2026 for the Communications & Impact Officer whose job it will be to research and implement appropriate impact measurement tools.

6. Financial Summary

Meredith Williams

One Planet Abingdon financial report for AGM – accounts as of 9th November (Financial Year to date)

One Planet Abingdon accounting year runs to the 30th November every year. The figures presented in this report represent One Planet Abingdon accounts as of the 9th November 2025 for the financial year starting 1st December 2024.

Assets 01/12/2024	**£39,979.33**
Assets 09/11/2025	**£38,684.84**
Accumulation over year	**£1,294.49**

Income during FY to 09/11	**£49,819.66**
Expenditure during FY to 09/11	**£51,114.15**
Income – spending	**-£1,294.49**

1. Balance at beginning of period 1st December 2024

Current Assets	
Cash float	**£10.00**
Paypal	**£309.30**
Cash other	**£794.32**
Bank account	**£38,865.71**
Accounts receivable	**£0.00**
Debts/accounts payable	**£0.00**

Total:	**£39,979.33**

2. Balance sheet on 9th November 2025

Current Assets	
Paypal	£404.28
Cash other	£10.00
Zempler account	£7,206.79
Unity Trust account	£31,063.77
Accounts receivable	£0.00
Debts/accounts payable	£0.00
Total:	£38,684.84

Income	
Donations /grants	**£42,858.83**
Cash donations	**£6,865.85**
Paypal income	**£94.98**
Total:	**£49,819.66**

Outgoings	
Purchases	**£50,052.95**
Consumables (café)	**£982.75**
Banking fees/charges	**£78.45**
Total:	**£51,114.15**

3. Assets

One Planet Abingdon holds cash assets in a number of forms. The bulk are split between **two bank accounts**. The older account is with **Zempler** (previously CashPlus). During 2025 a second account was opened with **Unity Trust** which offered greater flexibility and crucially allowed the organisation to comply with best accounting practices set out by various funding providers (e.g. the National Lottery). This enabled a successful submission to the National Lottery Community Fund for £20,000 to fund a Volunteer Coordinator. The main advantage of the Unity Trust account is that it has three appointed 'signatories' who are able to make payments. All payments are approved by another signatory, thereby giving greater oversight.

One Planet Abingdon funds are categorised as either **allocated** or **unallocated**;

Allocated funds: funds and grants received for which a specific purpose and/or budget has been agreed (e.g. particular funding may be received from Abingdon Town Council with the agreement that that money is spent on coordination activities by One Planet).

Unallocated funds ('free funds'): monies received as donations from the public or as grants from other sources for which no specific purpose is stipulated. One Planet Abingdon is able to spend this money in any way that fits within the organisation's goals, framework and principles.

The plan will be that allocated funds will be held in the Unity Trust account. The Zempler account will then continue to operate for more general spending on day-to-day costs or for other projects as determined by the Steering Group. This allows for a clear distinction between these spending categories whilst also facilitating reporting back to funding bodies. (NB: the current balances for these two accounts do not as yet reflect this division).

Smaller amounts of money are kept as cash until banking but also to ensure that cash is available for purchases when needed. Cash donations that have been collected, but not yet deposited into the bank, are listed above as '**cash other**'.

A small amount of cash is always kept in the cafe by way of a **cash float** that can be used to provide change to visitors or to purchase smaller consumables for the cafe. This float is at a minimum when cash has been collected by the treasurer but then builds up due to new donations in the centre or at events. This money is then kept in a locked cash box in the cafe and is securely locked away out of hours.

Additionally, the One Planet Abingdon **Paypal** account accumulates donations made online. On occasion the Paypal reserve has been used to make online purchases for One Planet. Paypal deducts a fee from all payments made into the account. This fee varies depending on the nature of the transaction.

Furthermore, One Planet Abingdon has a **Sumup** card reader. This allows for donations to be taken from credit/debit cards from visitors. This money goes into a temporary account at Sumup with the balance transferred to the Zempler account on a weekly basis. Sumup deduct a small fee of 1.69% from all payments made. These amounts only show in One Planet Abingdon accounts once deposited into the bank account by Sumup.

While One Planet Abingdon does own equipment, none of these items are considered to be of high value and none are therefore categorised as fixed assets.

4. Income

Annual income by source

	Source	Amount
Funding/grants from organisations	ATC coordination budget	£10,000.00
	ATC fund raising budget (Orchard)	£4,800.00
	Active travel Oxfordshire	£2,943.00
	Christs' Hospital	£2,000.00
	National Lottery	£20,000.00
	Broken spokes	£129.00
	ATC donation	£2,134.66
Donations from members of the public	Personal donations (digital)	£1,472.75
	Paypal donations	£94.98
	Cash donations (public)	£5,883.10
	Events (costs)	£259.36
	Misc.	£102.81

One Planet Abingdon received income in a range of forms this year:

- Funding and grants from organisations. This is the main contributor to One Planet Abingdon funds. These grants are generally a result of a funding bid and are usually targeted towards specific goals and activities. The above table lists funding/grants received in the past year showing the amounts received. Grant awarding bodies will usually request a report on how money has been spent and a summary of what was deliverable. Each of these funding budgets has an assigned funding coordinator whose role it is to track/oversee payments from the fund, coordinate with the treasurer on spending, report to the Steering Group and report back to the funding body.
- Donations from members of the public. These are generally made in cash either at the centre or at an event being run externally into a collection tin. Digital donations can also be made using the Sumup card reader, via the Paypal account (there is a donate button on the website) or directly into the bank account. A small number of supporters have set up regular monthly payment to One Planet Abingdon which is a great way to support our work.
- Donations from members of the public linked to a specific event, activity or campaign. These are often booked via the webpage.
- Money that One Planet receives as a general donation with no specific purpose attached to it is designated as ‘free funds’ to be used as One Planet sees fit. Spending is always in keeping with the agreed aims of One Planet Abingdon and is overseen by the Steering Group. Of the ‘free funds’ available an amount of £2,000 has been ring fenced, by agreement of the Steering Group, and kept as a contingency fund.

- Accounts receivable. One Planet Abingdon does not sell materials or services and as a result is never owed money. While One Planet will at times be expecting receipt of funds, either as lump sum or as part of an agreed milestone, these are discretionary and based on performance so are not considered to be owed.
- Accounts payable – money One Planet owes others. To make accounting simple One Planet has a policy of paying invoices when received and as result does not generally have debts outstanding.

Funds currently open

Awarding organisation	original budget	Funds available	Purpose
Oxfordshire Active Travel	£6,642.00	£4,455.55	Active travel projects specifically focusing on cycling
Midcounties Coop	£500.00	£268.00	Fresh water project. Water monitoring, citizens' science, scools.
CAF VWHDC	£7,255.00	£108.60	Sewing and clothing repaid for sustainability
ATC	£4,800.00	£645.00	Fund raising project coordinated by Orchard funding
Christ's Hospital	£2,000.00	£2,000.00	Scools outreach and engagement
ATC	£10,000.00	£5,792.00	Coordination activities at OPA
National Lottery	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	Coordination activities at OPA (Volunteer coordinator role)

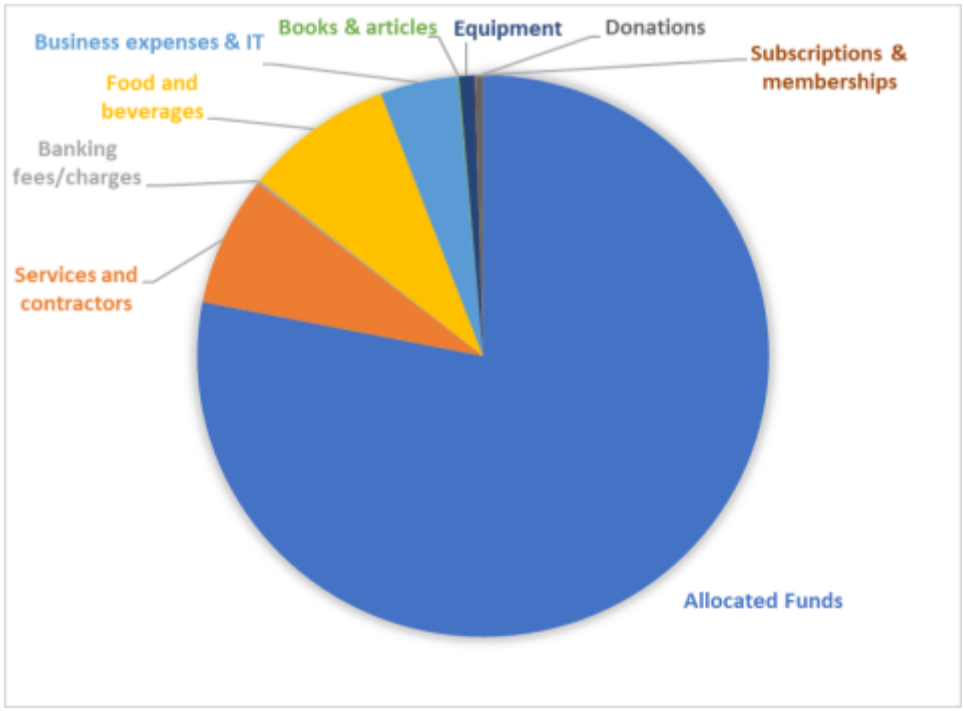
Explanatory note – Historical summary of allocated funding received (incl. funds used this year but received in previous financial year):

Funding source	purpose	date received	Original Budget	Budget remaining at start of FY	Spending during current FY
ATC	Coordination	24/01/2024	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
ATC	Coordination	02/05/2025	£10,000.00	na	£4,208.00
ATC	Fundraising via Orchard	26/02/2025	£4,800.00	£4,800.00	£4,140.00
Christs Hospital 2	Youth activities	29/04/2024	£11,388.00	£1,534.55	£1,534.55
Connect communities fund (OCVA and CFO)	Sewing	19/10/2023	£5,000.00	£1,444.15	£1,444.15
Lush	Youth activities	09/02/2024	£5,000.00	£4,043.32	£4,043.32
UKSPF (VWHDC)	Organisation outreach - Supporting decarbonisation and improving the natural environment	02/04/2024	£9,500.00	£4,434.11	£4,434.11
Oxfordshire Active Travel	cycling projects	12/04/2024	£3,699.00	£1,974.75	£462.20
Coop Midcounties (CO3144 community grant)	Fresh water project (schools and citizens' science)	23/07/2024	£500.00	£452.00	£184.00
Tesco (Ground work UK)	Youth activities	29/05/2024	£500.00	£500.00	£500.00
OCVA (Well together)	Caldecott community projects	13/09/2024	£6,120.00	£6,120.00	£6,120.00
CAF (VWHDC)	Sewing and sustainable clothing	01/11/2024	£7,255.00	£7,255.00	£7,146.00

5. Outgoings (spending)

Summary of spending over the year by category and amount. The largest contribution is for contractors. This covers payments made to individuals or organisations providing a service to One Planet Abingdon for which an invoice is received.

	Item	Amount
Allocated funds	Christs' Hospital (Youth focus)	£1,534.55
	Lush (Youth events)	£4,043.32
	UKSPF VWHDC	£4,434.11
	Oxfordshire Active Travel	£462.20
	ATC coordination	£9,208.00
	Youth events	£1,277.27
	Water project	£184.00
	OCVA (Well together Caldecott)	£6,120.00
	CAF VWHDC (sewing)	£7,146.40
	Orchard fund raising	£4,140.00
	Services/contractors	£3,695.22
	Banking fees/charges	£78.45
F & B	Baking/food prep costs	£2,573.73
	Consumables (café)	£982.75
	Café consumables (card purchases)	£48.86
	Food for events	£440.00
	Refreshments at meetings	£125.80
Business expenses	Companies House	£492.36
	Room hire for events/meeting	£1,425.76
	Printing	£14.19
	IT web hosting	£233.85
	Books & articles	£44.53
	Equipment centre/office	£435.22
	Subscriptions & membership fees	£30.00
	Donations	£200.00



Thank you!

Thank you to all our volunteers, supporters and partners for making this a brilliant year for One Planet Abingdon. We've achieved so much together.

Particular thanks goes to Abingdon Town Council who continue to provide us with our premises free of charge and for their financial and strategic support this year, helping our organisation to move forward and develop.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has generously made a donation to One Planet Abingdon. 💚