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MANCHESTER
CLIMATE CHANGE AGENCY

Food Wave – Empowering Urban Youth for Climate Action

APPLICATION TO JOIN THE FOOD WAVE PROGRAMME

1 Introduction

The Food Wave programme is a four-year EU funded programme engaging an international community of young people across 16 European Cities and Sao Paulo, Brazil. The programme will help to create awareness on sustainable ways to consume and produce food with the aim of influencing food and climate change policy. The vision is to move towards a fair and sustainable global food system by 2030. Read more about the Food Wave here: www.foodwave.eu/

The four-year project (2019-2023) will develop an international campaign to raise awareness and gather public opinion – particularly young people – on key climate change issues, and the role of urban food policies in tackling them. By 2023 Food Wave will engage 15 million young people (15-35 years old) on the food-climate link at a European level and actively involve 5,000 young people.

2 Joining the Food Wave programme

Over the lifetime of the project, Food Wave activists will participate in hands-on environmental projects and events, design and develop a range of campaigns and take part in the continued championing of sustainable food and climate change awareness.

All activities will promote the project's key messages:

- Choosing a sustainable diet
- Supporting local alternative food systems
- Fighting against waste
- Taking action in your community

We are looking for 30 x committed and enthusiastic young people (18-35 years old) to join the Food Wave programme for Manchester. Successful applicants will attend a 5-week induction course run by a variety of Manchester-based environmental organisations.

All applicants must be aged 18 – 35 years when their application is submitted. We would like to hear from a diverse range of young people, including those who have had experience of acting on climate change and sustainable food, and/or have relevant qualifications, and/or young people who simply have a passion for the environment.

As part of this training, you will:

- Enhance your communication and participation skills to act as catalysts and agents of change within your communities.
- Increase your understanding of global issues and local-global links with relation to food and climate.
- Connect with other activists across Europe
- Develop useful project experience in the environmental and food sector.



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The Food Wave Programme is funded by the EU and is therefore FREE to participants. Reasonable expenses will be covered e.g. travelling within the city to visit sites of learning. If you are interested in joining you will need to complete the Food Wave application form and return to info@sowthecity.org by **5pm on Friday 4th June 2021**.

3 Induction course

The Food Wave induction course starts on **30th June 2021, running for one afternoon each week for 5 weeks**. We will be taking a blended learning approach to the course. Training will be delivered over 5 half day sessions (5 x 3 hours = 15 hours). These will include remote sessions via Zoom plus **some site visits/ talks in the Manchester area** (within covid restrictions) and at least **3.5 hours per week of independent learning - activities or reading**. For example, we will provide tools for you to assess your personal carbon footprint, provide opportunities to volunteer for local community projects and food events, and provide resources to undertake a digital campaign to promote climate change awareness and activism. Participants will track learning through a participant evidence form.

Online sessions will be led by partner organisations and cover a variety of topics, increasing your understanding of climate change issues, their effects, and mechanisms of mitigation in the local context. Modules will include:

- **Introduction to the local, Manchester context** and familiarisation with local climate forward organisations, citizen, and corporate engagement.
- **Food production** – urban/ community gardens and social cohesion, organic horticulture and job opportunities in sustainable food production.
- **Nutrition and wellbeing** – food security and sovereignty, nutritional quality, food and mental and physical health.
- **Policy and youth activism** - connection to international sustainability festivals/events, increasing citizen engagement and project outreach.
- **Food and climate change** – climate change and the global food system, sustainable food consumption behaviour and local authority initiatives.
- **Social communication** – unconventional social media campaigns for social change engaging the public and raising awareness about food and climate change issues, involvement in developing street and neighbourhood-based activity.
- **Global negotiations and the UN Climate Change Conference (COP26)** – equip activists to understand global negotiations on climate and the upcoming Climate Change Conference 2021 - held in partnership between Italy and the UK.

On completion of the course, trainees will receive a certificate endorsed by Sow the City CIC, Manchester Metropolitan University, Groundwork Greater Manchester and the Manchester Climate Change Agency.

There will be a range of supported opportunities to participate in throughout the lifetime of the project. You will be invited to help in the design and delivery of ongoing large-scale activities and events to raise awareness and encourage residents to choose sustainable diets, support local alternative food systems, reduce waste and engage in local community action. There may also be the possibility of taking part in international exchanges, with opportunities best suited to French speaking candidates.

4 The Facilitators

Food Wave will be facilitated in Manchester by a range of experts from the educational, environmental and community sector. This cross-sector partnership includes:

- **Sow the City** – helping urban communities to grow and live sustainably since 2009, Sow the City works to support research, advocacy and changes to policy both locally and nationally on food growing, health and wellbeing.



- **MetMUnch** - student-led social enterprise based within Manchester Metropolitan University promoting sustainable, healthy and nutritious food. MetMUnch educate and inform, providing skills and training to promote health, wellness and wellbeing.
- **Groundwork Greater Manchester** is part of a federation of charities mobilising practical community action on poverty and the environment across the UK. They work to create a greener, more resilient city region with stronger, healthier communities, responsible businesses and enhanced prospects for all local people.
- **Manchester Climate Change Agency** - a network of key groups and organisations with specific roles in driving forward Manchester's climate change commitment and tackling the global climate emergency.

5 Candidate Selection

We would love to hear from you if you are passionate about the environment and want to take action to tackle the climate emergency.

Candidates will be required to complete an application form by 5pm on Friday 4th June 2021 and will be shortlisted against primary and secondary recruitment criteria using the attached application form.

Essential criteria:

- Availability on training dates – 30th June and 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th July, 13:00 – 16:00.
- A device with internet access.
- Basic knowledge and understanding of climate change issues, and awareness of food systems and sustainability.
- Motivation to increase knowledge and engage in climate change action.
- Connection with the city of Manchester (resident or city user) so you can attend some sessions in person.
- Availability to be actively engaged in climate action after training.

Desirable criteria:

- Previous engagement in activism.
- Experience of studying or working in the food and/ or sustainability sector.
- Digital skills (familiarity with social media, digital communication skills in e.g., videomaking, radio, photography, web journalism etc.)
- Familiarity with different steps of the food chain (production, distribution, consumption, waste).

Food Wave and partner organisations are committed to creating an inclusive community, tackling climate crisis together. We aim to support the National Equality Act (2010) which promotes a more equal society and protects individuals from unfair treatment through equal pay, reduced sex discrimination, positive race relations and employment equality. Please contact us with any enquiries regarding special requirements needed for you to be able to attend this course.

Please note we are recruiting another 30 participants in autumn 2021. Let us know if you would like to apply next time, we will add you to the list and contact you when the opportunity becomes available.

4 Contacting the Team

If you have any questions or want to have chat about your application prior to submission please email info@sowthecity.org.

We will be in touch with you on the 11th June to let you know if we are able to offer you a place on the programme.

Best wishes,

Sow the City, Met Munch (Manchester Metropolitan University), Manchester Climate Change Agency, and Groundwork Greater Manchester