

York Climate Commission Chair/Co-Chair Role

The York Climate Commission (YCC) is at an exciting stage. Originally acting as an advisory group to guide the City of York's strategic direction and bringing together some of the city's major partners to accelerate their own Net Zero objectives, it was relaunched in January 2024. The relaunch opened the commission to representatives from all sectors across York, recognising that local and grassroots action is critical to meet climate mitigation and adaptation goals, and that community groups are underutilised in climate conversations and decision-making. Professor Matthias Ruth, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research at the University of York, has served as Chair since the Commission's inception, helping steer climate action citywide, and we are very grateful for his hard work, insight and input. We now seek a new Chair, or two Co-chairs, to take the Commission forward in its new form. This role includes reviewing governance and decision-making processes to help York meet its Net Zero and Nature Rich objectives, fostering a thriving green economy and opportunities, and leaving no one behind.

Are you:

- A leader, used to influencing and building strong relationships across sectors and building momentum in place?
- A strategic thinker able to cut across sectors and silos?
- Passionate about progressing urgent and well-informed climate and nature action?
- Approachable and able to demonstrate a collaborative approach?
- Able to stand back and hold an impartial view, ensuring the Commission's independence?
- Do you have experience of working with leaders across the private sector or with policymakers?

If so, we would love for you to apply to become Chair/Co-Chair of the York Climate Commission (Dec 2024 – Nov 2027).

Context

The York Climate Commission (YCC) began in 2019 in response to York declaring a Climate Emergency. It provided scrutiny and feedback on the City of York Council's (CYC) Climate Action Plan and strategy, challenging major businesses and emitters in York to take action on reducing emissions. It was re-launched in January 2024 in response to calls to expand membership and provide greater transparency.

What is it?

An independent, transparent, collaborative group of organisations with a stake in York's future, bringing together a wide range of people from the public, private and third sectors to support, facilitate, enable and drive ambitious, impactful, positive and fair climate and nature recovery action to meet York's net zero and nature recovery goals.

What does it do?

- Leads, promotes and influences.
 - Enables and supports action.
 - Collaboratively focuses on barriers to progress with effective and transparent governance.
 - Helps support measurement of impact for activity across the city to reach net zero and help nature thrive.
 - Communicates and engages with residents, businesses and visitors to the city to raise awareness of the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis, while providing balanced evidence-based information on these topics.
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How does it work?

- The Chair(s) and Steering Group set the agenda, source funding and partnership opportunities and identify key priorities each year.
- Working groups with the Chairs of each group and relevant specialists from the Steering Group, meeting quarterly.
- Reports from working groups (including identified needs for action on barriers to progress) inform the Commission's work alongside an overview of city-wide progress towards climate and nature goals.
- Engage with York Environment Month and other City events where appropriate.
- An annual meeting celebrates achievements of the previous year and enables larger discussion, to help promote action and engage the whole city to reach net zero and a thriving natural environment.

How are we going to deliver this?

- Convene and facilitate stakeholders to share effective climate and nature action, mobilising existing capacity and allowing difficult questions to be asked and shared solutions to thrive, avoiding unnecessary duplication.
 - Catalyse action and focus on impact by utilising the independence and trust of the Commission to create collaboration, access funding and create partnerships to lead ambitious new climate/nature action projects.
 - Help create a more stable climate/nature positive policy environment that builds confidence and facilitates action at all levels on climate and nature within the city.
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Chair role description:

- Chair the quarterly main Commission meetings, in partnership with the Co-Chair.
 - Agree on agenda, assist in preparation and agree on actions to take forward.
 - Promote the Commission and its work with key city stakeholders.
 - Support fundraising and grant application activities in the short term and review the YCC's progression to an appropriate self-sustaining model in the medium term.
 - Work with the Steering Group and Commissioners, providing a strategic steer and review of the YCC's work, including assistance with funding bids, approval of spending and guiding resource allocation of funds secured, as well as ensuring good and diverse presentation across the Commission and supporting recruitment when necessary.
 - Assist YCC in establishing good governance
 - Advocate and champion on behalf of the Commission.
 - (Co)author press releases and support with media where appropriate.
 - Attend and support engagement events (online and in person).
 - Connect with Yorkshire and Humber Climate Commission Chairs, as well as other Commission Chairs around the country, sharing thoughts and developing strategic leadership connections.
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What are we offering?

- A clearly positioned part of the collective senior leadership on climate and nature action across York.
- The ability to use the convening power of the Commission to accelerate actions within the Commission's priorities.
- The opportunity to see exemplary work in the city (and beyond!) through in-person visits aligned with the Commission meetings.
- The opportunity to work with us and an inspiring group of Commissioners, Associates and Affiliates to make a difference to York now and for generations to come.

Expected time commitments:

- Attendance and input at quarterly meetings and/or specific task and finish project meetings as necessary.
- Annual January face-to-face networking and collaboration event.
- Additional ad hoc meetings with external parties as required.
- Commitment to be Chair/Co-Chair until November 2027. Future governance and appointments need consideration during the term of office. The position covers the period December 2024 – November 2027.

Please note this is a voluntary role.

How to apply:

Apply using this online form: [York Climate Commission Co-Chair vacancy](#).

Deadline for applications:

Sunday 24th November 2024 (midnight)

For further information, contact Katy Brooke, Manager, York Climate Commission:
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