

Local group charter

Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland is the UK's most influential grassroots environmental campaigning organisation. Our activists drive much of the success and ethos of the organisation.

Local groups and networks work in partnership with the national Friends of the Earth body to promote our shared vision while enjoying some autonomy in their campaigning activity. The parties function in harmony with one another under a set of values and behaviours outlined in this charter.

A local group/network should:

1. Campaign on environmental justice and sustainability issues. It should determine its own activities and may choose to work on a local or otherwise relevant issue, as well as support the work and vision of Friends of the Earth by working on national campaigns.
2. Be visible, maintain a public profile and provide regular meaningful opportunities for new people to get involved.
3. Engage in the wider movement, and once a year at least provide Friends of the Earth with an update on the profile and activities of the group/network.
4. Have a named coordinator who is the point of contact for the group/network, is accountable and chosen in a transparent manner by members.
5. Maintain a culture of openness and actively work to ensure everybody feels included and involved in decision-making regardless of identity or background.
6. Keep records of its finances and make them available for review by members of the group/network and Friends of the Earth.
7. Aim to promote and protect our shared reputation as Friends of the Earth.

Friends of the Earth will:

1. Provide information, support, training and networking opportunities to help local groups and networks organise, campaign and participate in national activities.
2. Enable local groups and networks to participate in Friends of the Earth's strategy and national campaigns planning.
3. Communicate regularly with local groups and networks about campaigns and important information. And keep them informed about relevant Friends of the Earth planned activities (eg. in their vicinity).
4. Administer the Friends of the Earth governance processes in which local groups and networks are entitled to participate.
5. Provide an initial response to local group and network enquiries within 5 working days.
6. Provide public liability insurance to cover local group and network activities.
7. Provide a grant fund that local groups and networks can apply for funding from in order to support their campaigning activities.
8. Be open to input from local groups and networks and seek feedback on resources and projects that directly affect them.
9. Champion and maintain the strength of local groups and networks.

The small print:

Subject to campaigning under the Friends of the Earth Trademark name, and in accordance with the terms set out in the Trademark Licence Agreement, Friends of the Earth local groups, networks and their coordinators are expected to adhere to the values and behaviours set out in this charter. Failure to do so are grounds for termination of the Trademark Licence Agreement. Friends of the Earth reserves the right to amend this charter.