

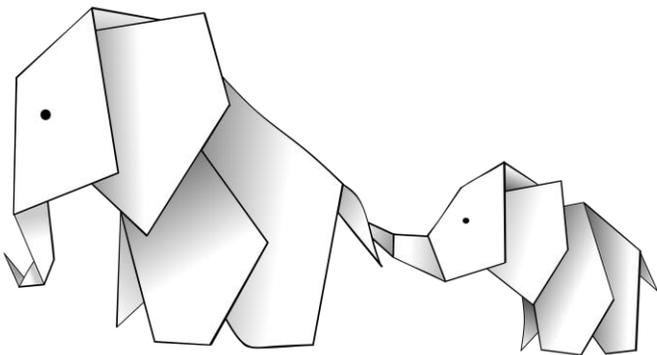
THE CLIMATE CORNER

ADVOCATING CHANGE THROUGH SCIENCE

THE CLIMATE CORNER CIC

BUSINESS PLAN

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***“Education is our passport to the future,
for tomorrow belongs to the people who prepare for it today.”***

Malcolm X

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Climate Corner CIC is first and foremost dedicated to improving the environment and advancing scientific understanding of our Earth.

As a Community Interest Company it is designed to benefit the community, in particular, the students of environmental science.

The Climate Corner CIC offers two components; the Open Wilding Projects and the web portal; theclimatecorner.com.

As the first of its kind, The Climate Corner CIC's Open Wilding will provide a space for;

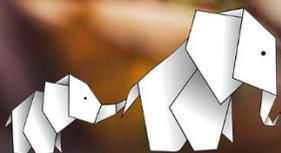
- Rewilding to benefit the environment and wildlife.
- Scientific investigation, to benefit the sciences, experiences of its students and the environment and future of the Earth.
- Communities to engage with nature and develop their understanding.

Students, that are members of the The Climate Corner CIC have the right to vote on the practices of the company and, will also have access to the land for scientific study and practical experience.

One of the most common problems highlighted by students is the lack of actual experience during and following studies, and this is particularly true of students that are enrolled in distance learning. The Open Wilding Projects provides a unique and innovative solution to this problem, and further to this, is managed by its students.

Students that are the members of a CIC will allow for the company to be run by those that are not only passionate, but by those that are qualified, specialists and developing learners.

This format will set The Climate Corner CIC apart from other companies and pave the way for more student led and owned social enterprises.



THE CLIMATE CORNER

2. COMPANY OVERVIEW

The Climate Corner CIC is dedicated to making positive environmental impacts through rewilding of purchased land and sharing environmental science information through [theclimatecorner.com](https://www.theclimatecorner.com). It is governed by Environmental Science students as an opportunity to have a direct impact on the environment and provide areas for practical research and development.

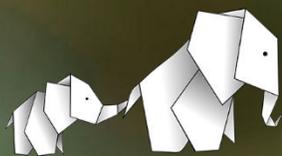
- **Mission statement:** Advocating change in the environment through science, education, and rewilding, led by, and for students.
- **Company history:** The Climate Corner CIC was developed as a hobbyist blog that soon developed into a useful web portal, offering environmental science information direct from journals and papers, in a way that could be understood by all. The company was developed and founded by Director Crystal Rosen in 2020, following the pursuit of environmental change, with a passion for wildlife and education. As a student of environmental science, with intentions of moving onto a Masters in Conservation Biology, and a PhD, opening up an opportunity to enhance the experiences of likeminded students and protect the Earth at the same time, was a natural pathway.
- **Community Interest & Services** The Climate Corner CIC is designed to provide two benefits to the community, in particular, in areas of the environment and wildlife. The first benefit is through the purchase and rewilding of land across the UK, Open Wilding, which provides a space for local communities to engage with wildlife and an area for environmental science students to study in a practical capacity. Environmental Sciences include all Earth sciences, ecology, botany, biology, geology, physics, chemistry and environmental management. The second benefit is the web portal that provides environmental science articles using information sourced directly from web journals and scientific papers, encouraging everyone to learn more about the environment.
- **Operational structure:** The Climate Corner CIC operates as required under CIC standards, and has one Director and Chair, Crystal Rosen, and members acting as a committee. For further details, please see Operation Plan. As the company develops, hierarchical changes will occur, in particular with a board of Advisors formed of specialists.
- **Financial goals:** £50,000 capital is required to purchase the first rewilding land and cover the costs of all legal fees, maintenance, and groundwork. Through donation, a further £10,000 per annum is targeted to support the work.

3. OPPORTUNITIES AND COMMUNITY INTEREST

Currently, no area in the UK is owned and governed by a student group. The Climate Corner CIC will act as the first of its kind, providing an area for scientific opportunity and development. Those involved, through membership, will have direct access and governance (where it is described under the terms) to rewild an area and use it to have a positive impact on the environment.

- **Scientific Opportunity in Open Wilding Areas** The Climate Corner CIC provides an abundance of scientific opportunity to those enrolled in university degrees within the Environmental Sciences. First and foremost, the rewilding areas offer a space to engage in environmental science in a practical manner, offering the opportunity to gain experience in environmental management and planning, biology, botany, geology and other categories of environmental science. Additionally, it creates a community of likeminded individuals. The area will be open for those enrolled in such courses following membership acceptance, where members can participate in the overall development of the area. Students can create wildflower areas, setup greenhouses for botany and investigate relationships between the wildlife and biodiversity of the area following the governance of the organization and its directors.
- **Community Opportunity in Open Wilding Areas** The areas, once developed will have planned footpaths, creating a tour around the area for the community to visit. Along the route, information and educational spots will be provided, encouraging environmental awareness and support by local constituents. The Open Wilding areas will eventually offer forestry and environmental science activities for the community. The Open Wilding areas will look to provide community allotments that can be rented to provide an income towards upkeep of the area as well as contactless donation points.
- **Camping Opportunity in Open Wilding Areas** from purchase, the land will look to offer an area for camping, providing an area of temporary residence to students using the area for study. Because of this, general facilities will look to be implemented, including sanitary and waste areas and metered electricity.
- **Community Opportunity in Web Portal** Theclimatecorner.com will provide an online article and blog website dedicated to sharing scientific information in an easy to understand and accessible capacity. Videos will correspond with the articles for those with impairments. Students that are members will be provided with opportunities to write articles for the web portal.

- **Key participants:** The students that make up the members and committee are integral to the success of the Open Wilding areas and are required to participate in its development although this doesn't have to be in the way of practical development on land. Supporting and participation could include administration, marketing, writing articles among other opportunities. Those local, or able to travel to the areas can undertake maintenance, planting and supporting additionally to the opportunities that arise from their practical scientific studies. The local communities are also an important part of the CIC and are encouraged to engage with the space, supporting it by educating themselves through the activities of The Climate Corner CIC and using the areas for public footpaths, donation and volunteering.
- **The Future** The Climate Corner CIC aims to rewild one area initially, but will look to develop its portfolio of spaces by purchasing and rewilding further land across the UK and abroad. Educational programs that work in collaboration with other registered charities and CIC's are also a potential future development. Where appropriate, animal and wildlife sanctuaries could be implemented. Sponsorships from universities will also be considered for further funding and development.



4. SWOT

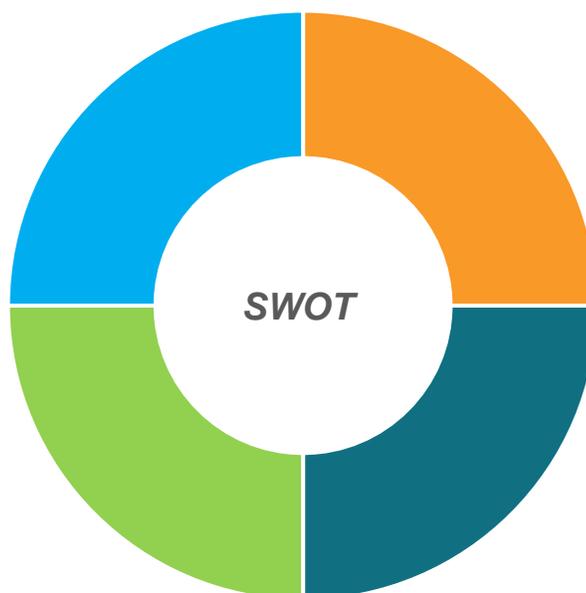
SWOT analysis:

STRENGTHS

- No other CIC of its kind
- Innovative approach
- Offers direct experience for students
- Protects the environment, wildlife and species
- Educates the public
- Provides volunteer opportunities
- Benefits the community
- Offers areas of learning to schools and communities
- Open to students
- Managed by students
- No profiteering for those managing the company
- Where dissolution occurs, the community still benefits
- Develops the scientific community

OPPORTUNITIES

- Scientific discovery and practical opportunities
- Volunteering and collaboration with experts in their field
- Innovative approach to learning
- Developing education



WEAKNESSES

- Funding required for initial cash flow
- Location of students may deter signing up

THREATS

- Purchasing of land that isn't suitable
- Over population of sign ups leading to required changes in company infrastructure

5. OPERATING PLAN

- Key employees and organization:** The Climate Corner CIC is run by its Director and appointed Board Committee and Rotating Committee. Members are offered the opportunity to have a direct impact on the outcome through voting and benefit from the projects associated with The Climate Corner CIC. To become a member, an application must be made to the Director. There are two types of committee; a Board Committee of individuals largely dedicated to the cause who remain in their positions where appropriate and to the discretion of the Director. There will be one board committee member for each 100 members, and never less than 5.

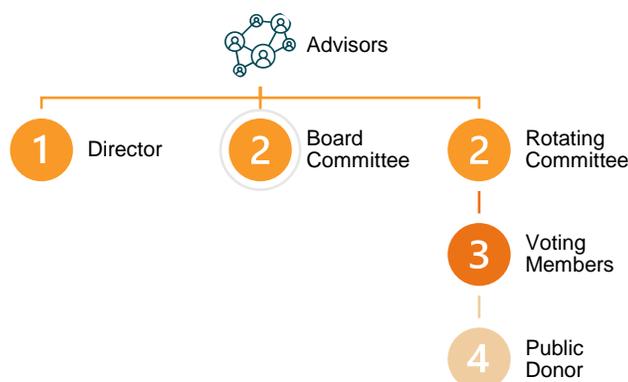
The second level is a Rotating Committee made up of the members, on a rota basis. Each member remains on the rotating committee for 90 days. Following the completion of the 90 days, the rota will change again. The rotating committee is made up of 25 members. The rotating committee speaks on behalf of all members alongside the Board Committee.

When not within the acting committees, the members will still retain the right to vote, but the vote count will be of a lower value. They will always be welcomed to voice their opinions and ideas. All members have the option to opt out of acting on the committee but this must be submitted in writing and requires renewal when their turn re-approaches.

The Director makes up over 50% but not more than 75% of the voting rights, however, decisions are largely based on the advice of the Advisors and the Committees.

Lastly public donors can sign up to a 'membership' that offers no voting rights or any governance over the company. The Director and committees will be advised by a board of professionals to be developed later including professionals in; law, environment, business & science.

- Organisation and model of responsibility**



- **Facilities:** Operation of The Climate Corner CIC is remote, with all members participating from their own residences except for work required for the Open Wilding areas.
- **Communication:** In order to operate, communication amongst members is required. To do this, a forum will be provided along with agendas and timelines for projects. Board committee members and members are required to participate in meetings as outlined in the Articles of Association of The Climate Corner CIC. The formalities of this are dependent on the numbers associated with the company and the projects undertaken.
- **Financial:** To operate our Open Wilding projects, we charge a membership fee of £8.99 a month for 12 months, or a £100 one off payment. The fee is used to generate the start up funds up to the value of £50,000. Following this, the membership fees can be used in conjunction with any area associated with the continuation of the company except for the profit of any of its members or directors. Any monies taken from membership is then the property of the company and can only be used for the benefit of the community. It cannot be returned to its members at any point. Where the company is dissolved, all assets will be donated to an asset locked body or charity of the companies choosing to continue benefiting the community.
Members are encouraged to continue with a direct debit as a donation following fulfilling the £100 payment.

MEMBERSHIPS & COMMITTEES

- In order to become a member an application must be completed. This is to ensure that members are students within the environmental sciences and whom can benefit the most from the membership. Finishing study does not end the membership although changes to rank and rights may be subject to change.
- Members are required to purchase a membership, and all payments are used for the benefit of the company. The priority of the company is in the purchase and rewilding of areas and at start of the company, all membership payments will be used to purchase land until the initial start up funds have been reached. Once obtained, the additional funds accumulated through memberships will be used in developing the areas, purchasing new areas and equipment and invested into the company. Members, Committees and Directors do not own any assets as required by CIC regulation, and all assets purchased remain property of the company and to the benefit of the community.
- Members have a direct impact on the decisions and running of the company. Their voting rights occur in two ways. The first is in a Voting Members capacity. The cumulative worth of all Voting members represents 10% of the votes. All decisions where appropriate, as deemed by the Director will be voted upon, with this invitation to vote extending to all Voting Members.
The second opportunity to vote is within the Rota Committee, where Voting Members will be placed on a higher ranked voting platform of 25 members, over 90 days. The votes of the Rota Committee are worth 20%.
- Members are accepted at the discretion of the director but will be advised upon by the Board Committee once more than 5 Board Committee members are selected.
- The Board Committee is formed from members that have shown great interest and participation in the project, and those that take on further responsibilities such as secretary and treasurer. The first 5 members of the Board Committee is decided upon by the Director. Following this, any further Board Committee members are selected by way of election from the Board Committee and its members. The Board Committee retains 20% of voting rights.
- Where the Board Committee and the Rota Committee agree at a percentage of 85% they can overrule the decision of the Director.
- Non Voting Members are members of the public that donate to the company but do not benefit from any voting rights. They are offered public access to Open Wilding areas and sign ups and registrations to scientific journals, marketing and web portal articles.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL POTENTIAL & OPEN WILDING AREA REQUIREMENTS

The main priority of The Climate Corner CIC is to benefit the environment. In order to ensure this, those with relevant training and qualifications make up the members and committee and requirements are in place to ensure any activities undertaken by The Climate Corner CIC are to a benefit of the environment and its communities.

Open Wilding area requirements For any Open Wilding areas, the opportunity to benefit the environment and further scientific discovery is the main priority. To achieve this, there are requirements placed on the types of land purchased.

- An area must be over 5 acres
 - An area must have natural water sources in the forms of lakes, streams and estuaries nearby or the potential to place one
 - Land must be suitable for planting
 - Access to the area must be available
 - No restrictions on the areas are required
 - Where outbuildings or any buildings occur, these must not be to the detriment of the area and must be safe for use
 - The land must not neighbour any industrial areas directly and avoid over urbanized areas
 - The land must not be used for any form of hunting or fishing
 - The land must not pose a flood risk
 - All land will require surveying prior to purchase
 - The land must be freehold and not leased
- **Environmental potential & key species** The Open Wilding areas have the potential to reintroduce species, all of which will be indigenous to the UK. With the knowledge of the organization, we will look to ensure that all flora and fauna implemented and encouraged in the area are to the benefit of the ecosystem. Key species are relative to the area, but where an area is purchased, a full key species document will be produced to provide information on what flora and fauna we will try to return.
 - **Providing evidence of environmental protection** It is a requirement as a CIC to provide evidence of positively impacting a community and area, and with this, annual reports of

environmental changes and impacts will be published. Information will involve calculations regarding the carbon offset as well as returned species among other information that is relevant to the area.

Open Wilding areas are used for practical scientific studies by student members. All research and study will be made available through accreditation to the site, further evidencing the benefits of the services of the CIC.

Throughout the year, through visiting, the benefits can be seen. Additionally, educational signs will be placed throughout the area to inform visitors of the benefits of different species.

The UK's 25 year environment plan states that it will create a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife. This will be achieved by

- 1 restoring 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term
- 2 creating or restoring 500,000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network, focusing on priority habitats as part of a wider set of land management changes providing extensive benefits
- 3 taking action to recover threatened, iconic or economically important species of animals, plants and fungi, and where possible to prevent human induced extinction or loss of known threatened species in England and the Overseas Territories

The Climate Corner CIC aims to assist in achieving all three of these goals. Further to this, the UN Sustainable Development Goals highlight the importance of The Climate Corner CIC's work, where Open Wilding areas will assist in achieving the outlined goals, in particular, those within Goal 15.

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

7. WHAT COULD THE OPEN WILDING AREAS LOOK LIKE?

The Open Wilding Areas will offer an abundance of opportunity for both the environment, wildlife, and from a scientific perspective.

The final designs and plans will be proposed and voted upon by the members of The Climate Corner CIC and could include:

- Forested areas
- Water bodies
- Stands
- Wetlands
- Grasslands & Meadows
- Botany Greenhouses
- Allotments
- Public walkways
- Camping areas
- Educational areas
- Species integration
- Testing areas for items such as natural fertilizers
- Vegetable areas
- Protected sections for wildlife
- Science laboratories and practical application areas
- Sanctuaries
- Sensory and quiet areas
- Eco cabins

8. STARTUP FINANCES

The Climate Corner CIC has an initial start up cost as outlined below.

Further to this, it is projected that an additional £10,000 is required through donation and new memberships to continue maintaining areas each year. This may be subject to change dependent on Open Wilding areas selected and requirements of such lands and business operations.

The Climate Corner CIC will look to be awarded funding through Social Enterprise Awards, Environmental Awards and government grants where appropriate following achieving full start up costs.

- **Projected start-up costs:**

START-UP COSTS

The Climate Corner CIC

COST ITEMS	MONTHS	COST/ MONTH	ONE-TIME COST	TOTAL
Land			£35,000	£35000
Purchase Fees			£2000	£2000
Insurance	12	£30		£360
Maintenance & Upkeep	12	£500		£6000
Development & Equipment	12	£300		£3600
Professional Services – Legal and accounting	6	£200		£1200
ESTIMATED START-UP BUDGET				£48,160

9. GOALS & NEXT STEPS



The above lists are not exhaustive

The timescale to achieve the £50,000 start up costs is 12 months from the date the company is in effect; 1/05/2020

In the event that the goal is not reached, the members are given the opportunity to vote on how best to use the raised money to serve the environment and the company.

Next Steps

- Open memberships with the intention of achieving 300 members within 6 months
- Select Board Committee Members
- Marketing and promotion with UK universities & the public
- Apply for funding and grants where available to assist in achieving the startup goal
- Begin developing the Board of Advisors
- Create step by step process for the purchase and rewilding of lands



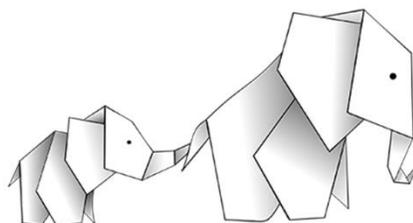
Thank you for reading. If you are interested in becoming a member please complete the membership form on theclimatecorner.com

For anything else, please contact Crystal at theclimatecorner@gmail.com

theclimatecorner@gmail.com

Company registration – 12578601

theclimatecorner.com



THE CLIMATE CORNER
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