

Developing a collaboration and crowdfunding platform for the environment sector: Roundtable discussion

Wednesday 9th January 2019

10:00 – 13:00

Rm 406, Calman learning Centre, Durham University, Stockton Rd, Durham DH1 3LE

Background

The Water Hub hosted a design sprint at Northumbrian Water's Innovation Festival where we asked: *what can nature do for you and your business?*

Delivering effective multiple benefit projects was identified as one of the long-term goals. The ability to collaborate on projects between businesses was recognised as a major challenge to achieving this. The concept of a collaboration and crowd funding platform was developed as a solution to this challenge – a portal to upload project information, to know who was doing what, where, and when, and provide the means to connect and share resources. Some wireframes of the Green Partners app developed at the Festival are available at Annex 1.

Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency both consider this platform could help deliver multiple benefits for their own projects and have offered seed-corn funding to explore the concept further.

This Roundtable discussion is an opportunity to discuss openly whether the wider environmental sector believe that this is a concept worth exploring and, if so, to develop a strategy to take the concept forward.

Objectives

- to demonstrate the potential for collaboration tools and crowd funding platforms to support business development in the environment sector
- to learn about existing initiatives already being developed in the sector
- to agree whether the concept of a cross sector platform is worth pursuing
- to identify funding opportunities and partners to develop the concept

Agenda

Welcome and Introductions	AG	10:00	15 mins
Background to the Roundtable	AG	10:15	15 mins
Tech demo (TBC – intro to collaboration tools / crowd funding platforms)	TBC	10:30	30 mins
Show and Tell An opportunity for attendees to share their own work in this area	Attendees	11:00	45 mins
Break		11:45	15 mins
Roundtable discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is there a need for a bespoke collaboration and funding platform for the sector? • What functionality would it need? • Funding opportunities • Collaboration and delivery options and opportunities 	AG Chair	12:00	45 mins
Round-up and next steps	AG	12:45	15 mins
Lunch		13:00	

Show and Tell

The Show and Tell session is for you to present the concepts and platforms being developed at your own organisations. It is hoped that we can learn from work already underway and identify opportunities to align or build from existing initiatives. This could include presentations, demos or verbal updates. Please let me know if you would like to speak here so I can allocate time accordingly.

Annex 1: Three wireframes produced at the Innovation Festival

