

Transition Town Kingston

Governing Principles

Our core purpose is to mobilise and facilitate community action in order to respond effectively and positively to climate change and peak oil.

We hope to achieve this by:

- raising awareness in the Kingston area of climate change and peak oil
- Engaging and building networks with people and groups already active with these issues
- providing a framework for an effective response to climate change and peak oil, including the creation and implementation of an Energy Descent Action Plan
- Creating visible practical projects that will reduce our CO² emissions, reduce our dependency on fossil fuels, and empower residents to participate.

We do this with the aim of creating a world that uses less energy and fewer resources and because we believe that by doing so Kingston will become a closer knit, more self-sufficient and thus resilient community.

What we stand for

We support the Permaculture ethics of:

Earthcare: Enabling all life systems to continue and flourish.

Peoplecare: Enabling access to the resources people need for a good quality of life.

Fairshare: Voluntary limits to population and consumption, to share resources for Earthcare and Peoplecare.

We are non party political and non- sectarian.

How we work

These are the principles that guide the way TTK works. These continue to develop and evolve:

- We work together because we know that together we are greater than the sum of our parts. We work in a collaborative way because we get better results for less effort.
- We don't need permission to act. There is no hierarchy. Leadership for TTK is shared by everyone. In representing TTK, individuals agree to abide by and uphold all TTK principles and take responsibility for their own decisions, actions and results.
- We trust that those who step forward have good intentions and will make good decisions. We give autonomy and support to those who wish to be part of TTK.
- We are open to working with everyone. We welcome diversity and see it as a strength. We avoid categories of "them and us".
- We acknowledge other initiatives and seek to find ways to collaborate and further the aims of TTK.

- Individually and as a group we identify what needs to be done and people volunteer for tasks when they already have the skills or want to develop the skills. We help and support each others' learning.
- We don't have a blueprint. We believe in multiple paths, ideas and possibilities. We think questions are as important as answers. It's fine to make mistakes and learn from them.
- We work with a natural momentum, driven by our passion and positive approach.
- We are transparent in everything we do.

There are also some specific principles that deal with the **organisational structure**:

- TTK Groups form as needed to do what needs to be done: make decisions, take action; they dissolve when the need is gone.
- Each Group is responsible for raising and acquiring its own money and resources – and for using these wisely.
- Groups exist to deliver the aims of TTK in a positive and concrete way.
- Each group has a representative on the TTK Steering Group.
- Everyone is responsible for ensuring the free flow of information and knowledge around the TTK network and also the wider TT network.
- We always consider the effects of our actions on our public reputation.

There are also some specific principles on **fundraising** for projects:

- Projects for which funding is sought need to be agreed with the Steering Group.
- The project must support the aims of TTK, be in line with the TTK principles and be designed to deliver on key objectives.
- The individuals who raise funding will hold the budget for the project and account for it publicly.
- The individuals who developed the project are responsible for monitoring the project, its process and outcomes.
- If anyone in TTK does not agree that a project is in line with TTK aims and principles then that person can take the matter to the Steering Group and TTK Yahoo Forum for discussion.

And finally, a principle on how we evolve the principles:

- We make changes to these Principles where necessary, but only with a high level of consensus.

It is anticipated that this governing document will be reviewed, and if necessary revised, at the dissolution of the 'Launch' Steering Group and the formation of the on-going Steering Group made up of representatives from each Working Group.