

York and North Yorkshire Bioeconomy Cluster Constitution

Context and Purpose:

The BioYorkshire partnership unites key players in York and North Yorkshire's bioeconomy, bringing together a powerful combination of academic, research, and industry expertise. BioYorkshire recognises that the bioeconomy has the potential to drive inclusive and sustainable regional economic growth. To support this, we have developed a network called the **York and North Yorkshire Bioeconomy Cluster**, to foster collaboration, knowledge exchange, nurture start-ups, and attract further investment and companies to the region, leveraging the economic benefits of geographic concentration. Our overall aim is to make York and North Yorkshire the home of the UK's bioeconomy, driving inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The Cluster is funded by the York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority's Business Innovation Fund, with match funds provided by the University of York and in-kind funding providing by industrial partners. The first phase operates from October 2025 until December 2026.

Information relating to the Bioeconomy Cluster is held on the BioYorkshire website (www.BioYorkshire.co.uk).

Bioeconomy Cluster Aims:

The Bioeconomy Cluster focuses on three key aims:

1. **Bioeconomy Networking:** Facilitating support, knowledge exchange, and collaborative working among businesses, particularly towards investment opportunities.
2. **YNY Bioeconomy Cluster Advocacy:** Promoting the region nationally and internationally to attract investment and new businesses.
3. **Business and Public Awareness and Action:** Building broad support to sustain and develop a thriving bioeconomy ecosystem.

Bioeconomy Cluster Membership:

1. Membership is free and open to individuals with a valid interest in the bioeconomy from businesses, academic institutions, local government, investors, and regulatory bodies. Membership provides access to Cluster meetings, workshops and the bioeconomy conference, as well as communications and updates from the Cluster. Whilst the Cluster has regional funding, we welcome members from outside the York and North Yorkshire region too.
2. Prospective members must complete an application form and confirm that they agree with the Cluster Constitution. All membership data provided is held securely by the Cluster team at the University of York and will not be shared any further.
3. All members may join one or more of the Cluster's Sub-Groups – these are: Product and Process Development, Valorising Anaerobic Digestion, and Building Biomass Supply Chains. Additional Groups may be developed.
4. The Leadership Forum, a non-executive group of senior leaders, comprises of Cluster members and is chaired by Steve Bagshaw. Membership of the Leadership Forum is by

application or invitation, and the list of members and meeting outputs will be published on the Cluster's webpage.

5. All Cluster members will behave in a manner which is respectful to other members and staff. Individual meetings and events may have their own Terms & Conditions, and these will be available on the event webpage.

Cluster Governance:

The Cluster has an **Operations Team** (Director - Professor Ian Graham; Manager - Dr Caroline Calvert; Communications Manager - Mel Fenna and Administrator - Stephanie Simpson). This team is responsible for the delivery of the Cluster activities.

The **Cluster Management Group** comprises Cluster partners who elect to join the group – these are partners who have committed an in-kind contribution to the Cluster. The Cluster Management Group is chaired by Steve Bagshaw and meets quarterly with representatives of the Operations Team to discuss strategy, cluster activities and monitor and evaluate progress.

Cluster Core Values:

Planet Positive

Addressing the challenges of climate change and biodiversity loss, the Cluster aims to reduce our environmental impact in our activities. We recognise that a bio-based economy is the most effective mechanism we have for achieving net zero and carbon negativity. Practical application of our environmental principles include:

- Events will be held within easy reach of public transport and at venues that are actively reducing their environmental impact – we will ask members to consider making a small donation to an environmental charity in exchange for the catering provided at meetings.
- Communications will be web-based and minimised for environmental footprint.
- Advocacy for low carbon manufacturing and business – such as promoting their practices during workshops and the conference and involving such companies in the leadership of the Cluster.

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - EDI

The Cluster aims to provide an inclusive environment free from discrimination, committed to equal opportunities and creating a community that reflects society. We request that members provide EDI data when they register (this is not mandatory) so that we can monitor EDI performance.

We have a small budget allocated to EDI to enable participation in the Cluster, terms and conditions published for each event will indicate how to access this fund. Dr Caroline Calvert, Cluster Manager is responsible for EDI.

Responsible Management

The Cluster Operations Team and Management Group will uphold the seven principles of public life - honesty, integrity, objectivity, accountability, selflessness, openness and leadership.

Date agreed: October 2025