



Department	Ouseburn Farm Volunteering
Volunteer Role	Sustainability Volunteer
Availability	2 – 5 hours per week (or more if you can offer)
Location	Ouseburn Farm Charity Ltd, Ouseburn Road, Newcastle, NE1 2PA
Category	Environment
For more information and to apply for this role	Email: volunteering@ouseburnfarm.org.uk or call Sarah on 07816978309

About this volunteer role

Our team provides farming experience and friendship for Autistic adults, adults with Learning Disabilities and Learning Difficulties and teaches children and young people how to look after the environment. As you can imagine, this is at the centre of the work we do and the services we provide. All activities are inspired by and, indeed, take place in and around our working farmyard, gardens, on site café (run by Smile for Life Children's Charity) and popular visitor centre, which attracts 30,000 people every year.

As a Sustainability Volunteer, you will support the farm on our Green Street Action Plan. You will help us become more environmentally friendly in all we do, for example: by helping us to become plastic free; restoring our water harvesting system; developing and expanding on our composting to involve local businesses.

You may also support our work with local organisations on environmental projects in the Ouseburn area. This is all carried out under the guidance of our Farm Manager.

Role responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities may look different dependent on your skills and interests and will be agreed during your application and induction. Roles and responsibilities could include:

- Supporting the farm with a short term and long term environmental action plan
- Delivering environmental workshops to staff, volunteers and placements.
For example, **how to save energy**
 - Identify with the group how they could save energy
 - Create an end of day checklist with the group which includes turning off/reducing overnight energy usage
 - Be an influencer
- Choose a focused area to develop using your personal skills, experience and knowledge.
For example, **helping the farm become plastic free**
 - Identifying what plastic products we could remove
 - Researching alternatives
 - Sourcing environmentally friendly suppliers

Knowledge, skills and experience

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills
 - Caring and positive nature
 - Ability to work as part of a team
 - Reliability and flexibility to work on a range of tasks
 - Willing to commit to this role for at least 6 months for a minimum of one session per week
 - A strong interest in environmental work and sustainability
 - Currently studying or previously studied an environmental and sustainability subject (desirable but not essential)
 - Working in a role which focuses on environmental and sustainability solutions (desirable but not essential)
 - Experience delivering activities to groups (desirable but not essential)
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Check requirements

All volunteers must provide two character references and complete a DBS check.

Learning and development

- Complete all Ouseburn Farm Volunteer mandatory training within the first month of volunteering
 - Attend Ouseburn Farm Volunteer Induction
 - Attend in person ongoing training, as required
 - Attend scheduled volunteer meetings
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General Information

- We comply with the Workplace Health and Safety management system
 - We demonstrate skills, knowledge and behaviour to work with vulnerable adults in a respectful and enriching way
 - Volunteers will be reimbursed for travel in line with our Volunteer Policy
 - Volunteers attending for a full day will be offered free refreshments and discounted lunch from onsite café, Café Beam
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What is in it for you?

As well as making a difference to a locally loved community resource, set within the beautiful surroundings of Ouseburn, this is a great opportunity to meet people from a wide variety of backgrounds and to gain experience of working as part of a small, dedicated team.

You will learn a lot about how we work with animals and plants, the ethos here at Ouseburn Farm and absorbing, first-hand, the day-to-day life here.

As part of our promise to all of our volunteers, you will receive support to help you carry out your volunteer role confidently and competently.

As an Ouseburn Farm Sustainability Volunteer, you will also gain valuable experience of working in a farm setting within a visitor centre and training environment. If you are looking to gain work, this could greatly enhance your CV.