



The Baring Foundation

**AN
UNEXAMINED
TRUTH**

The Baring Foundation

The Baring Foundation was set up in 1969. Its purpose is to improve the quality of life of people suffering disadvantage and discrimination. It aims to achieve this through making grants to strengthen organisations which serve disadvantaged people and by bringing added value to this process, especially through learning from grant-making.

The Author

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Executive Summary

The background

The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change in 2006 concluded that climate change threatens the basic elements of life for people around the world and that the people who will be most affected are those that are already the most vulnerable. Whilst Al Gore called this truth inconvenient, it is also a truth that has gone largely unexamined by non-environmental voluntary organisations working in the UK.

Despite the challenges, climate change remains a problem that can be solved and the solution presents a major opportunity for securing a better future. Non-environmental voluntary organisations have important roles to play in achieving this.

In September 2008, the Baring Foundation launched a Special Initiative that aimed to explore very practically how to support non-environmental voluntary organisations to explore how the impacts of climate change will affect their primary charitable purpose and then to share this new insight with practitioners and policy makers.

The activities

In September 2008, four projects were funded that went on to work with 22 organisations:

The Big Response, delivered by the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, Global Action Plan and Green Alliance working with organisations that support vulnerable people. These included British Red Cross, Equinox Care, Friends of the Elderly and the Royal National Institute of Blind People.

Towards *Climate Smart Children and Youth Organisations*, delivered by National Children's Bureau and the Institute of Development Studies working with children and youth organisations including the Pre-School Learning Alliance, Action for Children and the National Youth Agency.

Shared Energy, delivered by bassac, New Economics Foundation, Community Development Foundation, Community Sector Coalition and Groundwork working with nine community anchor organisations.

The "Climate Refugee" roundtable delivered by Climate Outreach Information Network working closely with five refugee and human rights organisations, the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, the Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Asylum Aid and Praxis, and having wider engagement with a further 29 other refugee and human rights organisations.

The results

All four projects designed **new processes to engage the organisations**. These adopted various approaches including bespoke training, workshops, roundtable meetings, games and exercises, scenario planning and input from climate experts.

Each project developed and tested printed material and websites that are now publicly available and that are being widely distributed to organisations in the voluntary sector.

All the non-environmental voluntary organisations that took part in the project succeeded in making **meaningful connections between the impacts of climate change and their primary charitable purpose**. Levels of understanding about climate change increased dramatically.

Organisations' responses were particularly strong on **planning how future services would have to adapt**. They grasped the importance of adaptation in order to ensure services will meet the needs of their beneficiaries and how these needs might change or become more severe as a result of climate change.

Some organisations also **developed policy positions** and have gone on to carry out advocacy work with others in their sector, reaching large numbers of organisations through their members and networks, and with local and national policy makers, including submissions to a range of ministries including DCSF, DCLG, DECC, DEFRA and OTS.¹

Organisations have sought to **sustain their work on climate issues** by including it in their strategic plans and by ensuring that trustees include environmental responsibility as part of their remit.

New partnerships have arisen out of this work between a range of voluntary organisations that will outlast the life of this Initiative.

All four projects have contributed to developing the theory and practice of how to broaden the types of organisations engaged in action on climate change. One example is that six of the organisations involved in delivering the Special Initiative went on to be members of the *Joint Ministerial and Third Sector Taskforce on Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Development*.

The lessons

- A range of **internal factors** appeared to determine how successfully organisations engaged:
 - Where organisations could incorporate the work into existing planning and strategic planning cycles;
 - Where the right people were engaged – working with senior management or the chief executive was crucial as was having an internal champion who kept the work from being submerged under more urgent and immediate pressures;
 - Where wider staff, trustees and beneficiaries were enthusiastic;
 - Where the project harnessed the different motivations for organisations to get involved, such as providing an opportunity to involve service users; and
 - Where language was used with organisations that spoke directly to their concerns, for example exploring issues through themes such as well-being, strong communities, fuel security or tackling poverty.

1) Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department for Communities and Local Government, Department of Energy and Climate Change, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Office of the Third Sector.

- It was clear that even for organisations that had previously been interested in climate change, outside support was necessary for them really to engage with the issues. In all cases this took time, and in some cases staff involvement was helped by a financial contribution.
- The project confirmed the valuable role non-environmental voluntary organisations have to play in action to tackle climate change across a range of areas – providing services, identifying new needs, planning for emergency responses, engaging people on issues such as behaviour change and influencing policy.
- Broad statements about the need for greater action on reducing carbon emissions often feel very distant from the actual activity at local level that needs to take place to achieve this. The approaches developed by this project provide practical detail on how to engage important new audiences and activists.

The issues for taking this work forward

Organisations do face barriers to engaging with climate change issues.

Most obviously, they have to deal with the urgent and present needs of their beneficiaries which create constant pressure and compete with work that necessarily involves strategically thinking about the future.

Much of the support offered to organisations was highly labour intensive.

Delivering the project in its current form to a significantly larger number of organisations would appear to be valuable, but would require funding.

The techniques, toolkits and resources have been developed for organisations to carry out this work themselves as far as possible, however there are barriers to this that external support can help to address. It may be that targeting support at a smaller group of particularly influential organisations would be sensible, paying attention to their capacity to influence others.

Organisations may need additional support with developing confident policy positions but this work is vitally important given the scale of action that is required. Policy work needs to go further than broad calls for action and on to specific proposals for achieving reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and helping to minimise the effects of climate change that are already inevitable.

The next steps

Momentum is growing around efforts to engage non-environmental voluntary organisations in action on climate change and there is greater expertise in how practically to achieve this. The Foundation will seek to contribute to this further with a new round of funding from 2010-2012. These plans will be announced in Summer 2010.

Baring Foundation Climate Change and the Third Sector Special Initiative – project summary

The plan

To work with a group of non-environmental voluntary organisations to explore the connections between the impacts of climate change and for their mission and for this to encourage organisations to take new action in response.

The activities

Four projects were funded, delivered by combinations of infrastructure bodies, environmental organisations and research institutes.

The four projects recruited organisations working on different issues: vulnerable people, children and young people, local communities and refugees and human rights.

Altogether, 22 organisations participated in a range of different processes including workshops, exercises, roundtable meetings and action planning.

The results

The organisations' levels of understanding about the impacts of climate change increased dramatically.

Organisations' responses were particularly strong on planning how future services would have to adapt.

Some organisations also developed policy positions and sought to influence policy makers in local and national government.

Organisations have sought to sustain their work on climate issues by including it in strategic plans and ensuring trustees include environmental responsibility as part of their remit.

The projects developed expertise in how to engage new organisations. A range of resources were developed, tested and are now available for other organisations to use. New and productive partnerships were created that will take forward work on this theme.

The lessons

A range of internal organisational factors influenced success including timing, who was involved from the organisation (from beneficiaries to trustees), harnessing the different motivations for organisations to get involved and offering the right incentives.

Many of these factors are relevant in any process of organisational change.

The way climate change issues are communicated to non-environmental voluntary organisations is key, needing to focus on language that reflects organisations' own interests.

Non-environmental voluntary organisations can be involved in work to tackle climate change in many important ways: providing services, identifying new needs, planning for emergency responses, engaging people on issues such as behaviour change and influencing policy.

Funders and policy makers have to recognise and support the role of non-environmental voluntary organisations in action to tackle climate change.

The issues

Organisations face barriers to engaging with climate change, most obviously, having to deal with the urgent and present needs of their beneficiaries and lacking the time, capacity and expertise to engage with this longer term issue.

The work with organisations was labour intensive. They required tailored hands-on support. This creates a challenge if the goal is for large numbers of organisations to go through this process.

Having engaged with the issues, organisations need to develop clear policy demands relating to the interests of their beneficiaries that will achieve the necessary levels of emission reductions.

The next steps

The Foundation believes drawing more non-environmental organisations into action on climate change is possible and desirable and will announce plans for taking this forward in Summer 2010.

The Foundation would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with others on this.

Section 1: Background

'There is broad scientific consensus that warming above 2°C increases the risk of runaway climate change and irreversible change to the biosphere. In 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change showed that without immediate action, the world could lose the ability to contain warming to below 2°C. To have a 50/50 chance of limiting warming to 2°C, greenhouse gas concentrations must be stabilised below 450 parts per million (ppm). But current efforts will not keep the planet from crossing this dangerous threshold. Unless we change course, we are likely to reach 550 ppm within two decades, making it nearly impossible to return to a 450-ppm path.'

'Despite the challenges, climate change remains a solvable problem and the solution presents a major opportunity in terms of both economic growth and global development. Central to this is a successful global agreement on an effective climate regime to spur the needed investments at the international, national and local level and help policy makers drive their economies along a low-carbon, climate resilient growth path'

(European Climate Foundation, 2010: p.5)

The Baring Foundation

The Baring Foundation is a generalist funder and, in the past, has not had any particular focus on the environment. However, the stark conclusion of the Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change that 'climate change presents very serious global risks and it demands an urgent global response' (Stern Review, 2006: p.i) prompted our trustees to explore what the Foundation could contribute. We became interested in the ways in which the human impacts of climate change make this more than just an environmental issue, presenting challenges and opportunities for organisations from right across the voluntary sector, not just environmental groups.

The human impacts of climate change

In 2009, the publication of the UK climate projections set out how the impacts of climate change are likely to be significant for the UK within the next few decades. Greatest temperature increases will be in London and the South. There will be increased winter rainfall in the South West and Northern Ireland and coastal areas will be especially at risk of flooding. (DEFRA 2009) Evidence presented by bodies such as the 2010 Marmot Review into health inequalities and the 2009 Global Humanitarian Report pointed out the significant impacts of climate change on issues such as health and well-being, especially for the most vulnerable.

The 2010 Marmot Review into health inequalities

The global impacts of climate change will directly and indirectly affect England and the health of its population. Climate change is predicted to result in an increase in deaths, disability and injury from extreme temperature and weather conditions, heatwaves, floods and storms including health hazards from chemical and sewage pollution. The heat wave in Britain during the summer of 2003 for example resulted in an estimated 2,000 excess deaths, 17 per cent above the expected number. It is estimated there will be an increase in respiratory problems from the damaging effects of surface ozone during the summer as well as an increase in skin cancers and cataracts. While air pollution is expected to decrease, the increases in ozone concentrations is expected to result in an additional 1,500 deaths per year. Climate change will also have long-term, less direct impacts such as the effects on mental health of flooding and other climate-related events, which could cause anxiety and depression. Worldwide, food yields, food security and affordability will be increasingly affected. Those likely to be most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change are those already deprived by their level of income, quality of homes, and their health. Although low-income countries will suffer most acutely, in all countries the risks associated with climate change will fall disproportionately on the urban poor, the elderly and children, traditional societies, subsistence farmers, and coastal populations. People on low incomes in the UK are more likely than the better-off to live in urban areas which will be warmer, and therefore to be at risk of heat stroke. They are more likely to live in homes that are less well protected and in areas that are more exposed to weather extremes and flooding. They are also less likely to have access to insurance against risks associated with climate change such as storm and flood damage. (Marmot Review, 2010: pp.77-78)

The Global Humanitarian Forum

The Global Humanitarian Forum, led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, reviewed the impacts of climate change in its Global Humanitarian Report and concluded that we need to 'refocus the climate change debate, long centered on distant environmental or future scenarios, towards its current human effects.' (Global Humanitarian Forum, 2010)

Targets for reducing GHG emissions

The UK government has made the UK the first country in the world to have a legally binding long-term framework to cut emissions and build the country's ability to adapt to climate change. The UK Climate Act 2008 commits the UK to a 26% reduction in carbon emissions on 1990 levels by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. (Office of Public Sector Information, 2010) But despite this legislative effort, there is widespread concern that, in practice, emissions are not on target to decrease in time to meet these commitments.

The role of grant-makers

Grant-making trusts play an important role in identifying needs and providing funding and other support to voluntary organisations to carry out work to meet these needs. There are a number of highly expert funders in the environmental field, but analysis of UK grant-making points out that this is not an area that many trusts are currently supporting.

“by and large... trusts do not engage with efforts to de-carbonise economies and lifestyles. Indeed, less than 0.3% of the grants made by the largest grant-making trusts in the UK were directed to climate change mitigation (2005/06 and 2006/07).” (Cracknell et al 2009, p.2)

And yet, just as climate change threatens to undo progress, to complicate or to increase the scale of issues being dealt with by non-environmental voluntary organisations across every area of the sector, so climate change will profoundly affect the non-environmental issues currently being addressed by trusts.

Section 2: A Special Initiative on Climate Change and the Third Sector

Alongside our main grants programmes, the Foundation periodically explores other issues through its Special Initiatives. The Special Initiative on Climate Change and the Third Sector began in 2007 when we offered a group of former grantees free environmental audits. This followed the lead of the City Bridge Trust (City Bridge Trust, 2007) and the audits proved to be a good way in to a new issue for the Foundation.

For the organisations that took part, audits generated some useful ideas for reducing their carbon emissions and some organisations went on to make quick progress in implementing these ideas. However, the potential reductions in emissions were small, and a number of organisations did not take actions forward. The Foundation concluded that many remained unconvinced that climate change is much of a priority when set against the immediate needs of their beneficiaries. Importantly, organisations certainly saw no role for themselves in engaging with the issue in terms of planning for the impact of climate change on future services or of calling for bolder action by government on the basis that climate change would have adverse effects on the issues they sought to tackle.

We saw that this meant organisations were, firstly, not considering how climate change would affect the nature and scale of their work in the future and, secondly, that the skills and resources of these organisations were not involved in efforts to achieve the necessary urgent global response to climate change.

Stephen Hale, then Director of Green Alliance, helped us to think these issues through and in early 2008, the Foundation supported the publication of his pamphlet *The New Politics of Climate Change*. In it, he argued that:

'There has been a welcome increase in public and political concern in many countries, since Tony Blair made climate change a central focus of the G8 meeting in 2005. But in the eyes of many people and their governments, climate change is still characterised as a second tier 'environmental' issue, of far less concern than core economic, social and security priorities. This view is profoundly mistaken... We must establish a widespread understanding of the connections between climate change and issues of poverty, housing, health, security and well-being that are of concern to so many.' (Hale, 2008: pp.2-3)

He argued that a much broader range of organisations needed to be engaged in work to tackle climate change, bringing with them skills in policy influencing and the authority of their staff, beneficiaries and supporters.

The need to widen the range of organisations involved was also reflected in George Marshall's influential article *Asleep on their watch: where were the NGOs?* which reflected on the lack of engagement in climate change by human rights and development organisations. Marshall searched the websites of several prominent organisations for the term 'climate change' and found no, or very few, references. As a test, he ran a search for the words 'donkey' and 'ice cream' and found these terms mentioned more times. (Marshall, 2007)

Since then, useful progress has been made, particularly by the international development organisations. For example, in 2007, Oxfam collaborated with the New Economics Foundation (NEF) to scope out how climate change would affect disadvantaged people in the UK. Respected research institute the International Institute for Environment and Development also drew together research on the impacts on children in developing countries. (Bartlett, 2008) And in 2008, NEF brought together leading environmental and social justice organisations in the UK saying that:

'for too long now, groups tackling poverty and protecting the environment have operated separately. The fact that climate change and poverty are connected, and must be tackled together, has not been sufficiently understood. Yet they are two of the most pressing challenges faced by our generation.' (Johnson et al. 2008: p.i)

The resulting next stage of the Special Initiative reflected on these themes and went on to build a proposal based on the following assumptions:

- It was beneficial to go beyond environmental organisations to engage non-environmental voluntary organisations in tackling climate change, to widen the circle of those involved and draw on the sector's capacity to engage staff, beneficiaries, supporters and their wider communities.
- This could be done by engaging these organisations in processes that explored and hopefully established how climate change would have adverse impacts on the organisations' beneficiaries. Organisations would draw conclusions on how the nature and scale of their work would change in the future.
- Bringing together climate experts with experts in the non-environmental voluntary sector in this way would in turn generate new perspectives about the wider impacts of climate change and encourage new organisations to get involved in action on tackling climate change.
- This work would aim to achieve more than solely raising general awareness of the connections between climate change and non-environmental concerns. It would lead organisations to carry out practical action, partly on their own environmental performance but, notably, on influencing policy. This would build on the strengths of the participating charities, their reach into communities and the credibility and influence they bring to lobbying activities.
- Action to influence policy makers on the need for climate change was especially important given that progress requires action on such an enormous scale and complexity, more than can be achieved with the relatively small amounts of direct funding available from independent trusts. Action needs to harness the capacity of national governments and international bodies to raise taxes, set regulations and provide the incentives for investment in technological innovation.
- There was some value in contributing to establishing the political climate to act and achieve the necessary steep emission cuts, reflecting perhaps Franklin D Roosevelt's famous advice to a group asking for his support for their cause "I agree with you, I want to do it, now make me do it."

It is important to be clear that the aim was not to try and create new expert climate change organisations. We would work with experts on, for example, children, community development, refugees and so on but recognise that in order to be experts on these issues, organisations needed to know about climate change and the impact it will have on their beneficiaries. So, these organisations would remain experts in their particular fields, but with important new knowledge about issues that will affect them. It was also not about co-opting a new set of organisations to deliver someone else's objectives but how organisations can best serve the interests of their beneficiaries.

Consequently, in July 2008, the Foundation issued an invitation to tender for a project that would work with a group of non-environmental voluntary organisations to help them explore how the impact of climate change affects their primary charitable purpose. The results of this work would then be shared with other practitioners and policy makers with the aim of influencing wider practice and policy on tackling climate change.

In September 2008, grants totalling £280,190 were made to four groups of organisations. Each group chose to work with a different section of the non-environmental voluntary sector: organisations working with vulnerable communities, children and youth organisations, community anchors and refugee and human rights organisations.

Working together, a set of outcomes and indicators were established and are set out in Table 1:

Table 1. Planned outcomes and indicators of the Special Initiative

Outcome	Indicator
<p>The group of non-environmental voluntary organisations funded to participate in the project have a greater understanding of the link between climate change and their primary charitable purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Public statements by these organisations making the link between their work and climate change. (ii) Practical involvement of these groups in efforts to share this message more widely with other non-environmental voluntary organisations. (iii) Practical involvement of these groups in efforts to influence policy makers. (iv) Lessons about tools and approaches for engaging non-environmental organisations in action on climate change.
<p>Other non-environmental voluntary organisations beyond those funded to participate in the project have a greater awareness of the link between climate change and their primary charitable purpose.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Public statements by these organisations making the link between their work and climate change. (ii) Practical involvement of these groups in efforts to influence practitioners and policy makers. (iii) Increased involvement of sector infrastructure bodies in climate change issues.
<p>Policy makers responding to the project's conclusions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Commitment from government departments not primarily focused on environment to take action on climate change (particularly those departments most closely associated with the areas of the voluntary sector participating in this project e.g. the Department for Children, Schools and Families). (ii) Statements of government support for climate action by non-environmental voluntary organisations. (These indicators will evolve as more specific policy recommendations are generated by the work).

Section 3: The four projects

This section sets out in more detail what each project went on to do. The information here draws on the final reports produced by each project. These reports contain a great deal of detail on how organisations were engaged and the impact of this. For those that might like more detail, these reports are publicly available and details about this are included below.

1. THE BIG RESPONSE, delivered by National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), Global Action Plan (GAP) and Green Alliance working with organisations that support vulnerable people. These included British Red Cross, Equinox Care (working with people with alcohol, drug and mental health problems), Friends of the Elderly and the Royal National Institute of Blind People. The full project report is available at <http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/thebigresponse>.

Rationale – NCVO, GAP and Green Alliance joined together in a new partnership to deliver this project. NCVO, the umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector, brought its experience in strategy development and mission delivery for voluntary organisations. GAP is an expert in communicating climate change and encouraging practical action as well as an expert in environmental auditing. Green Alliance is a highly effective environmental charity focused on policy advocacy and political engagement. The project also drew on the data and analysis of the UK Climate Impact Programme (see <http://www.ukcip.org.uk/>)

The partners chose the theme of vulnerable communities because:

- Vulnerable and low income communities are most likely to be exposed to climate change impacts and least likely to have the adaptive capacity to cope; (Simms *et al*, 2007)
- There has been very little research on the effects of climate change impacts in the UK on the basis of social and economic class; (Burkeman 2008)
- Links to climate change are not immediately obvious or a current priority for vulnerable communities, whose concerns tend to focus on more immediate issues of meeting basic economic needs, health and their immediate environment; (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2001)
- There is a wide existing donor base for these causes which could potentially help these organisations to prepare for climate change: around 29% of donors choose to support social welfare causes, whereas environmental causes are supported by only 16% of donors. (Office of the Third Sector, 2007)

Aims – The project recruited four organisations to take part aiming to support them to:

- Appreciate better the relevance of climate change to their work and the urgency of responding;
- Develop their policies and behaviours to protect their beneficiaries' long-term interests in a changing world;

- Influence other stakeholders, especially policy makers, about the relevance of climate change and the urgency of responding.

Activities – The project worked with the four organisations over an eight month period during 2009. Each organisation received nine days of tailored support, a free environmental audit and a final action plan. Expenses were covered if needed. Table 2 shows what support was offered.

Table 2. Support modules offered as part of The Big Response

Module	Details
1: Beneficiaries (one day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your beneficiaries and the issues they face • Expectations of UK climate impacts • Implications for your beneficiaries and demand for your services
2: Strategy (two half days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider the implications of the findings from the beneficiaries module (and operations module if chosen) for your mission and purpose • Consider other players • Consider future options
3: Operations (half day to one day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts of past weather events • Expectations for future weather events and indirect impacts • Implications for planning to maintain services • Signposting to further tools
4: Engaging stakeholders (half day)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communicating climate change, consulting and engaging • Choose a focus stakeholder group, e.g. beneficiaries, staff or policy makers • Map out a plan of engagement
5: Environmental audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment of head office or alternative premises • Energy, waste, water, purchasing, etc

The final project report contains detailed case studies describing how the process unfolded in each organisation and the project generated a number of other outputs.

- A film to encourage other non-environmental voluntary organisations to explore the impact climate change will have on their work. This is available on all three project partners' websites and has been shown at various sector events;
- Guidance available on NCVO's website to help organisations consider what climate change will mean for them and what action they could take; (see www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/climatechange)
- A workshop, featuring the organisations that took part in the project as well as practical exercises drawing on the project methodology that has been delivered at sector events; and
- An event for policy makers will be held in 2010 in collaboration with the other projects involved in the Special Initiative.

Outcomes – The project enabled all four organisations to find the time and space to focus their minds on climate change. This helped all the organisations to understand

the need to engage with the issue although all continue to experience a number of competing pressures which does hold back more urgent action on a larger scale. A notable success for the project, given this organisation's profile and influence, was that the British Red Cross agreed for the first time to incorporate climate change into its strategic plan. All four organisations explored options for advocating on climate change and two are taking forward specific work in this area. Equinox has undertaken to engage others in its sector through running sessions at conferences and events. The methodology developed for the project has the potential to be used to support any organisation with a social mission. This will continue to be promoted through the on-line guidance, the film and other opportunities to deliver the workshop.

Green Alliance played a leading role in the *Joint Ministerial and Third Sector Taskforce on Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Development* with NCVO providing the Secretariat for the Taskforce. British Red Cross was also a member, making all these organisations well-placed to share findings from this work.

'We are definitely further along the road towards this... We've got a much higher awareness of the big issues... We need to embed climate change within the business... I don't think that a charity that has a key mission can then take on environmental things as a separate key mission; it's got to be part of who we are.' Richard Furze, Friends of the Elderly

2. TOWARDS CLIMATE SMART CHILDREN AND YOUTH ORGANISATIONS,

delivered by National Children's Bureau (NCB) and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) working with children and youth organisations Pre-School Learning Alliance (PLA), Action for Children (AfC) and the National Youth Agency. The full project report is available at www.ncb.org.uk/osow/about_us/climate_smart_future.aspx

Rationale – NCB is an infrastructure body for the children and youth sector with a mission to advance the well-being of children and young people across every area of their lives. IDS is a leading global charity for research, teaching and communications on international development. The starting point for this project was the Government's Every Child Matters policy. This sets out a framework for promoting the well-being, personal development and future prosperity of all children and young people from 0-19 years old. It focuses on five outcomes: Being healthy; Staying safe; Enjoying and achieving; Making a positive contribution and Achieving economic well-being. The potential to deliver on all of these objectives will be severely limited by the impacts of climate change and further unsustainable development. Through building the capacity of children's charities to become *Climate Smart*, they would be better equipped to communicate a positive vision for promoting climate adaptation, sustainable development and well-being that makes sense and encourages responsibility, ownership and action.

Aims – The project aimed to make children and youth organisations in the UK *Climate Smart*. This was an approach to help organisations effectively manage the risks and opportunities presented by climate change. The project sought to:

- Test the *Climate Smart* organisational change framework and tools as a way of moving children and youth organisations towards mainstreaming climate change across all their activities;

- Help organisations by learning from the existing partners of the Children in a Changing Climate programme (see <http://www.childreninachangingclimate.org/>); and
- Reflect on the process and develop outputs that other children and youth organisations can use.

Activities – The project involved delivering a series of workshops and mentoring support by experts using a number of organisational change tools. The process worked with participants to identify activities that are both more climate *friendly* (for example reducing carbon footprints) and climate *resilient* (addressing the impacts of climate change and its implications for organisational aims and areas of work).

An initial group workshop involved presentations from experts and identified challenges and potential solutions for the children’s sector as well as specific activities that organisations could carry out to help them shape and implement their journey to becoming *Climate Smart*. This was followed by individual workshops tailored to fit the aims and objectives of each organisation. Teams of individuals from across the organisation attended these events. Several organisations involved children and young people in this. Throughout the programme, mentoring was provided to all the participants by an organisational change expert. This included face to face meetings, regular emails and telephone support and signposting to other relevant support. Finally a knowledge sharing workshop was held for organisations to present what they had done and to reflect on lessons.

This work contributed to a policy influencing event in November 2009 with government, including the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Office of the Third Sector plus a wider range of organisations with an interest in working with children and young people.

Lessons from the programme to date have been reflected in a new toolkit produced by the project. (See www.ncb.org.uk/osow/about_us/climate_smart_future.aspx) Other outputs include action plans for each of the organisations that took part and a policy briefing.

Outcomes – All the participating organisations strongly made the connection between climate change and their charitable purposes. What particularly emerged was the moral dimension of the debate. This was a powerful motivation common to all the organisations, where society’s response to the issue reflects how much we care for and value our children now and in the future. Table 3 presents some of the common hooks and connections identified across the organisations.

Table 3. Motivations for children and youth organisations to get involved in climate change

General hook / motivator	Specific comments
Child Rights	Recognising the relationship with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and children's futures
Children now and as future care takers	Opportunities to improve children's lives now, but also to build their knowledge, awareness, skills and agency for the future – preparing them for change but also ensuring they are leading the wider culture change needed
Connecting to the core beliefs and mission of the organisation	Recognising that climate change is connected to improving children's lives – easy to connect with education, health, well-being, inequality, family, employment, community
Beneficiary buy-in	Children and young people support action, they are aware of and concerned about the issue, they have ideas/inspiration and want to be engaged
Integrity – being a role model	Leader in the field demonstrating action
Being part of the solution – not the problem	A sentiment of both employees and children and young people

All the organisations involved have gone on to make public statements about the link between their work and climate change. NCB has also begun contributing to public debate by, for example, issuing a press release at the time of the Cockermonth floods and the COP15 discussions in Copenhagen highlighting the importance of involving children in disaster management and adaptation responses. NCB also secured a role on the *Joint Ministerial and Third Sector Taskforce on Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Development* which provided further opportunities to draw in other organisations and influence government.

PLA produced a special edition of its magazine *Under 5's* that focused on environmental issues in the early years. It is also aiming to publish a book targeted at early years practitioners to engage pre-school children with issues about their own environment.

NCB now convenes a national policy forum on the children's sector, sustainable living and climate change made up of children's, environmental, international development, education, research, government and other organisations. The forum is a helpful vehicle for policy messages and a range of government departments have been engaged and the experience and lessons generated by the *Climate Smart* project are contributing to this work.

'I was very inspired by your policy workshop and think there is a lot of potential there for developing consensus on policy action.' Project participant

3. SHARED ENERGY, delivered by bassac, New Economics Foundation (NEF), Community Development Foundation, Community Sector Coalition and Groundwork working with community anchor organisations.

Rationale – This group of organisations gathered together to propose that the Special Initiative focused on the role of community anchor organisations. Bassac is one of the umbrella bodies for community anchors bringing expertise in supporting its members across a range of organisational issues as well as having a strong policy voice. NEF is a leading research organisation with a strong programme of work on climate change. It also worked with Oxfam in 2007 to connect climate change and poverty. Community Development Foundation was the lead body for Every Action Counts, a major initiative to encourage action on climate change. Groundwork is one of the country's leading environmental organisations with experience of environmental auditing and the Community Sector Coalition is the membership body for 25 national umbrella bodies for community organisations.

The proposal argued that community anchor organisations are well placed to help achieve action on climate change. Their activities build links and trust with individuals (through training, events, outreach, classes, services such as crèches, advice and support), they are concerned about community well-being and are also adept at bringing people together. Individually and collectively they have a policy voice that reflects the concerns and wishes of local communities across the country. However, many community organisations do not currently identify climate change as a priority above more urgent and immediate needs. Moreover, they lack the knowledge, skills and confidence to take work forward.

Aims – The aim was to help community anchor organisations to understand and prepare for climate change. The work would pilot a comprehensive approach to engaging community organisations.

Activities – Bassac identified nine community anchor organisations in three areas of the country: London, Yorkshire and Humber and Bristol. Seven of these were bassac members. The organisations were Bankside Open Spaces Trust, St. Lukes Parochial Trust, Maiden Lane Community Centre, BARCA Leeds, Cardigan Centre, North Doncaster Development Trust, Barton Hill Settlement, Kingswood Foundation, and Vassall Centre Trust. The organisations were provided with the following:

- Tailored advice and support – Groundwork worked one-to-one with organisations to identify actions to improve environmental performance and then to support organisations to implement these actions. All the organisations went on to put environmental policies in place;
- Scenario planning workshops – NEF delivered workshops in each of the regions. NEF already had experience of engaging organisations in new topics, such as evaluation, in interesting and creative ways. It has approached this project in a similar way with a range of exercises and materials that encourage community anchors to think about climate change. These included:
 - A climate walk, which took participants on a journey from the present to the year 2100. Through a mixture of choice and chance, and individual and collective action, three different scenarios can be reached that set out what the future might hold;
 - Scenario planning using four newspapers set in the year 2027. The newspapers reflect four possible futures – 'Control Express; the back to the war newspaper', 'Chaos Telegraph; the chaos and lifeboats newspaper'; 'Coping Standard; the we stayed resilient newspaper', and 'The

Interdependent; the values shift newspaper.' This reinforced the point that there is the potential now to influence how the future might unfold as regards climate change.

The newspapers stimulated further discussion about the potential impact for the participating organisations.

- Final meetings of organisations in each region – these were held to share lessons, identify challenges and discuss possibilities for taking work forward, particularly around influencing policy.

A scenario-planning toolkit for voluntary organisations has been produced (available at <http://www.bassac.org.uk/node/881>) and the following outputs are also planned.

- A briefing paper for practitioners and influencers in the UK voluntary sector;
- A briefing paper for Government at local, UK and European level;
- A media pack to promote outcomes of the project;
- Briefings targeted at Ministerial level;
- A coalition of organisations willing to use evidence from the project.

Outcomes – All nine organisations reported that their awareness of climate change had either stayed the same (if they were already fairly aware) or improved. Motivation to address climate change through their organisation was also either maintained or improved. Organisations could see tackling climate change as a central part of creating sustainable communities, reducing isolation and strengthening the voice of local people. Barton Hill Settlement has been inspired to set up a new fruit and vegetable box scheme for local people and a recycling and composting scheme. North Doncaster Development Trust went on to make links with its local Transition Town movement. Both of these send helpful messages to the local community. Not all the organisations identified an explicit link with climate change. The Chief Executive of one organisation felt that it was not primarily the aim of an urban community anchor organisation to lead on tackling climate change and that this was more relevant to environmental organisations.

Organisations have got involved in policy influencing at different levels. In Leeds, the Cardigan Centre sees itself as having a key role in promoting the vision of a more sustainable city through the 2011-2030 'Vision for Leeds.' Bassac and the Community Sector Coalition joined the *Joint Ministerial and Third Sector Taskforce on Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Development* and fed conclusions from this project into that body.

The Community Sector Coalition will disseminate the work across its members (24 national members with 70,000 groups under them) in 2010. The Coalition is also running events on sustainable development and climate change. Wider work on policy influencing will take place in 2010.

'The Climate Walk completely changed my view of climate change. It was that exercise that made me think we need to act now. Shared Energy was the catalyst that got us thinking about climate change seriously.'

North Doncaster Development Trust

4. THE “CLIMATE REFUGEE” ROUNDTABLE delivered by Climate Outreach Information Network (COIN) working directly with five refugee and human rights organisations: International Secretariat of Amnesty International, the Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Asylum Aid and Praxis and through wider engagement with 29 other refugee and human rights organisations. The full project report is available at <http://coinet.org.uk/refugee-migrant-resources-and-toolkits>

Rationale – Human displacement linked to climate impacts is one of the most serious consequences of climate change. Climate change also has the potential to impinge upon the full range of internationally protected human rights: Those displaced by climate change are not refugees in any legal sense of the word and would be refused protection should they have to flee the consequences of climate change or environmental degradation. It is clear that climate change is a crucial issue for the refugee and human rights sector on many levels, not least how to raise concerns in the difficult context of public opinion on immigration.

COIN is a UK charity established in 2004 to engage the public about climate change. It had been aware that the UK refugee and human rights sectors were almost totally unengaged in this issue. This prompted the organisation to organise a Roundtable forum on ‘Climate Refugees’ in June 2008. Funding from the Special Initiative enabled the Roundtable to be developed further.

Aims – The project aimed to:

- Establish the importance of climate change as a primary issue of concern to refugee organisations;
- Create a strong and effective voice for refugee organisations on climate change;
- Prepare a strategy for defending the rights of climate refugees;
- Create a strong awareness and understanding of climate change issues among directors, staff, and members of five refugee organisations and help them to embed climate change issues in their project work; and
- Build lasting bridges between the refugee rights sector and the climate change campaign movement.

Activities – COIN’s focus was on developing a process of engagement that enabled organisations to move at their own speed and to have their issues and reservations dealt with in a respectful manner. That process was broken down into two core streams of work.

1. Continuation and expansion of the ‘Climate Refugee’ Roundtable as a forum for discussion and joint strategy development; and
2. The development of joint action programmes through partnership with five organisations.

Partnerships were agreed with the International Secretariat of Amnesty International, the Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Asylum Aid and Praxis. COIN facilitated a total of 21 workshops with the staff, senior management and trustees of the organisations. Two external sessions were also held with Asylum Rights Campaign members and 30 staff at the London-based refugee organisation Praxis. Sessions covered the questions ‘do climate refugees exist?’

and 'how climate change challenges (your) work,' and delivered training in reducing carbon footprints and workshops on the connections and challenges of human rights and climate change.

The Climate Refugee Roundtable also met six times and increased its membership to 36 organisations. Participating organisations include: the Refugee Council, Refugee Action, Asylum Aid, Amnesty International (International Secretariat), Amnesty International UK, UNHCR London, Migrant Rights Network, Institute for Public Policy Research, Refugee and Migrant Justice (formerly Refugee Legal Centre), Praxis, PANOS, WWF, City of Sanctuary Sheffield, the Quaker Society, Christian Aid, World Development Movement, OneWorld, and the Evelyn Oldfield Unit.

A forum has also been held for refugees and migrants themselves to explore whether they want voice in the climate change debate and, if so, how to act on that.

Outcomes – First of all, COIN notes that its own understanding of the issue has grown considerably over the project. Part of this is reflected in a number of resources that have been developed out of the project.

Tool 1 – A policy overview of climate change and displacement which identifies different ways the refugee and human rights communities in the UK can take action. It looks at how UK, EU and international legislation may need to change to meet the needs of those displaced by climate change.

Tool 2 – A standard training package on climate change and migration for use in refugee organisations.

Tool 3 – An office carbon footprint tool and resource guide to help organisations reduce their carbon emissions.

Tool 4 – Climate change and migration factsheets for supporters and members of refugee organisations.

These resources are available at <http://coinet.org.uk/>

Across all the participating organisations there is evidence of greater understanding and commitment to action on climate change issues. New environmental policies on issues such as travel, energy and waste have been introduced and in two cases, a Sustainability Task Group has been formed. Policy position papers on climate migration have been, or are being, produced. Amnesty International (International Secretariat) gained accreditation and attended the UNFCCC COP15 negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009 – historically there has been no involvement from human rights organisations in international climate negotiations. Further requests for information about COIN's work on linking climate and migration are being received from other organisations in the refugee sector. Plans are underway to develop the Roundtable into a UK Climate Migration Coalition which would also seek to engage with refugee organisations at a European level. It is an aim that a campaign strategy will emerge from the Coalition.

'The most significant thing I gained was the sense of urgency of this problem and the impact this is having on our current and future clients.'

Training participant.

'At the Refugee Council we face a daily challenge to provide the best service to our clients and to speak out in defence of asylum seekers and refugees. But despite this immediate challenge, we also know that we need to act now to do our bit to tackle climate change, as only by getting involved now can we hope for a sustainable future' Jonathan Ellis, Director of Policy and Development, the Refugee Council

Summary of the resources generated by the four projects

The four projects generated a range of resources and toolkits that will be of use to other organisations interested in exploring this issue.

Big Response

A section on climate change has been added to NCVO's web-site with links to a film about the project and an on-line guide that helps voluntary organisations explore how they can respond to climate change.

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/climatechange>

<http://www.ncvo-vol.org.uk/advice-support/climate-change/get-ready>

Towards *Climate Smart* Children and Youth Organisations

A toolkit has been produced to support child-centred third sector organisations to become *Climate Smart*. It outlines a staged process that organisations can undertake to integrate climate change and sustainable development issues into their thinking, operations and activities.

Hard copies are available from NCB (tel. 020 7843 6000) or on-line at www.ncb.org.uk/osow/about_us/climate_smart_future.aspx

Shared Energy

The Shared Energy Toolkit helps community organisations raise awareness of climate change, make the links between climate change and their vision and mission and plan for possible future scenarios.

Hard copies are available from bassac (tel. 020 7336 9442) or on-line at <http://www.bassac.org.uk/node/881>

"Climate Refugee" Roundtable

A range of material has been produced including:

1. A policy overview of climate change and displacement which identifies different ways the refugee and human rights communities in the UK can take action
2. A standard training package on climate change and migration for use in refugee organisations.
3. An office carbon footprint tool and resource guide to help organisations reduce their carbon emissions.
4. Climate change and migration factsheets for supporters and members of refugee organisations.

Hard copies are available from COIN (tel. 01865 403 334) or on-line at <http://coinet.org.uk/>

Section 4: Lessons, issues, conclusions and next steps

The lessons

Organisations understood the importance of addressing their own carbon footprint

The organisations understood the concept of measuring their own carbon footprint and realised the financial benefits of being efficient with resources.

Some organisations felt that they needed to address their own environmental performance in order to have the legitimacy to encourage others to take action. The implementation of efficiency measures, however, is still fairly patchy.

Some organisations declined to take part in the project

Some organisations that were invited to take part in the project declined the offer. As an indication, NCVO had to invite 14 organisations to sign up four. (The Baring Foundation had a similar response rate to our offer of environmental audits in 2007). It was important for the project to record the reasons for this. In some cases, initial responses indicated that organisations had not understood the focus of the project and assumed it was solely about reducing carbon footprints. Invitation letters to chief executives were forwarded by them on to buildings and operations staff rather than colleagues in policy or services teams.

The principal reasons organisations gave for not taking part was that it was felt this work could not be prioritised over other needs and they could not commit the necessary time. Some of the projects made funding available to pay for participants' time (up to £2,000) or covered expenses but this was not enough to overcome this barrier. Some organisations faced immediate urgent priorities such as a financial review and organisational restructure so the time was not right.

Other reasons included organisations saying they lacked the capacity for long-term thinking, lacked resources for staff training and even cited entrenched behaviours working against new actions, belying somewhat the sector's widely held view of itself as being flexible and responsive. One of the projects included a partner that has extensive experience of working with the private sector. Its view was that engaging the charities involved appeared more challenging than engaging the private sector.

Participating organisations had a range of reasons for signing up

In some cases, organisations were responding to encouragement or demands from staff or users to respond to climate change issues. In some of these, staff and users went on to be directly involved in working groups set up as part of the Special Initiative. Some organisations had begun thinking about the issues but not been sure how to take this forward. The offer, then, was timely. One organisation was keen to challenge a perception that it was not open enough to external projects, others were just intrigued.

All the participating organisations made meaningful links between the impacts of climate change and their primary charitable purpose. This led them to take action.

The different processes adopted by each of the four projects did in all cases succeed in helping organisations to make the link between their mission and the impacts of climate change. Initially, projects found there was little knowledge and understanding of the potential impact of climate change on the daily lives of beneficiaries and its potential to increase vulnerability and poverty now and in the future. Organisations went on to become confident about describing how climate change is likely to have an impact on their beneficiaries. This may be about the scale of needs increasing or about new needs emerging. It may even threaten the ability of organisations to deliver their core missions. Organisations came to see action on climate change as being integral to the organisation's function rather than viewing it as an isolated external issue. For the children and youth organisations involved, it was overwhelmingly a question of justice and morality, with today's children having to bear the brunt of future impacts.

Organisations' responses were particularly strong in thinking about how services would need to adapt in the future. They grasped the importance of adaptation in order to ensure that their services are meeting the needs of their beneficiaries and how these needs might change or become more severe as a result of climate change. One of the participating organisations operates residential homes on the River Severn that had been flooded. Risk management plans needed developing. Another, working to treat drug addiction, noted that methadone treatment requires lots of water but that their organisation was not on a priority list for emergency supplies of water in case their area ever suffered from water restrictions following a drought.

Some organisations also developed policy positions and have gone on to carry out advocacy work with others in their sector, reaching large numbers of organisations through their members and networks, and with local and national policy makers including submissions to a range of ministries including DCSF, DCLG, DECC, DEFRA and OTS.

A combination of factors contributed to making the process work

A range of internal factors appeared to determine how successfully organisations engaged:

- where an organisation was, at the time of being invited, in its internal planning cycle, it being especially **useful if organisations were about to begin strategic planning**;
- **where the right people were engaged** – working with senior management or the chief executive was crucial in terms of working with those responsible for strategic and continuity planning and, in larger organisations, having a lead department that was able to reach across the organisation as a whole. An internal project champion was also useful;
- **where wider staff, trustees and beneficiaries were enthusiastic**. It has already been noted above that in some cases the initial enthusiasm for taking part stemmed from staff or users. Where this was already happening, the projects brought welcome recognition and the opportunity to develop this more strategically. There was, of course, large variation in what staff knew about climate change. It was challenging to engage those who did not already have some sympathy or interest in the issues;

- where projects **approached the work with an understanding of organisational change** and built on tools available for this. For example, NCB used the model of 'pioneer, emergent, mature' as a useful way of describing the process for organisations. The Shared Energy project used the model of 'awareness +agency + association + action' and both provided a helpful structure for activities;
- **having time to process the information.** Most projects took place in less than a year which was felt to be too condensed for the nature of the work, especially to move on to lobbying activities;
- **providing some funding to reflect the staff time involved** in taking part. This was not universally offered, or taken up where it was offered, however for some it made participation possible;
- **recognising that there are a range of 'entry points' for organisations** including: broad aims to improve environmental performance and to save money; using climate change as a way to engage with beneficiaries; and identifying policy gaps and levers for change;
- **recognising that organisations have other valuable motivations for getting involved** in the work. These included organisations seeing that the work offered opportunities for involving service users, engaging the local community, connecting up staff across the organisation and developing new ideas for projects. For example, one organisation working with people not in employment, education or training decided to explore whether income could be generated by training people to install insulation.

Another set of factors relate to how the projects were delivered:

- Ensuring that projects were **using language that connected directly with the interests of participating organisations** whether that was about beneficiaries affected by flooding or about future life chances for children. Using tangible examples building on organisations' own experience such as the effects of the 2009 snowfall, rather than graphs and figures, was important. One participant reported the concern about being perceived as 'preachy' for trying to get colleagues to change their behaviour at work. Organisations stressed the importance of developing discourses not about the environment but about wider concepts such as well-being, sustainable living, strong communities, fuel security or tackling poverty. For COIN, language was an extremely thorny issue where some organisations believe strongly that using the term 'climate refugees' risks exacerbating anti-immigration sentiments. The participants in the roundtables even agreed to write a letter to the environmental and development NGOs asking them to abandon use of the term 'climate refugee';
- ensuring organisations had **confidence in the expertise of the organisations leading the work**, both in terms of climate expertise and organisational training;
- **ensuring methods suited the needs and context of the organisations involved.** In some cases support was quite tailored, in others, more standard processes had been designed to ensure different people and organisations could engage;

Some **external factors also seemed to have an effect** in particular a sense of increased pressure from commissioners, local authority funders and broader public

expectation that organisations should be taking action on their environmental performance. Events such as the 2009 snowfall and swine flu had also made the risks more present and helped to press home points about continuity planning.

An important overall conclusion is that **organisations needed external support to start engaging with this work**. The existence of a 'project' provided a framework and resources for action. It was argued strongly by all the participants that outside help is important to engage others in the future, whether this is from central or local government, from funders through financial support, from sector bodies to provide information, advice and support or a combination of these.

A range of factors will help organisations to sustain their engagement

It was clear that this is helped where organisations **incorporated climate change issues into strategic plans**, making them part of the core principles and priorities for the organisation. The role of trustees was also important in taking responsibility for monitoring and reviewing this work in the future. The Charity Commission's guidance in its *Hallmarks of an Effective Charity* has been revised to include charities environmental responsibilities, even when their purpose is not specifically related to the environment. (Charity Commission, 2010)

Organisations clearly felt that **establishing awareness and commitment was the most important step** and that once this has been achieved resources would follow. Interestingly, some organisations saw how work on these issues can make helpful contributions to other aspects of organisational management such as involving service users. These types of additional benefits will also help to sustain efforts.

Future work might also depend on how much organisations carry out work to look forward at issues that will have an impact on their work in three / five / ten years' time. One project commented that the organisations it works with are historically reactive. A project like this forces people and organisations to think ahead.

All the projects highlighted the challenge of the relatively short duration of the project. They stress the need to continue to monitor what happens in the organisations that took part. It has been proposed to go back to the participants in January 2011 to find out what activity has been carried out since the end of the project.

The collaborative nature of the project added to its value

Collaboration was a striking feature of this project in a number of ways: A number of organisations got together in new partnerships to deliver the work; the Foundation brought the all the projects together regularly to compare notes; and new links were developed between the participating organisations.

As the work on sharing the outcomes of the Special Initiative with policy makers begins, the wide range of organisations that are committed to seeing the work make progress will stand the work in good stead.

The issues for taking this work forward

Organisations faced barriers in participating in the project and in taking next steps most notably a strong sense that despite being able to make the connection, there were more urgent and immediate problems to deal with. In others, there was

reluctance and resistance to broadening what in some cases are already wide mandates. Freeing up the time for leaders in the organisations was also a challenge.

Much of the **support offered to organisations was highly labour intensive**. This presents a real challenge for this project on how to scale up. The project worked with twenty two organisations over several months. Support was tailored and in some cases involved project staff returning to the organisation to take part in strategic planning meetings with senior management. It is possible that having now developed techniques and resources, this process could reach larger numbers of organisations more easily and even that organisations could use toolkits to navigate this themselves. However, delivering the project in its current form to a significantly larger number of organisations would require funding on some scale. It may be that targeting support at a particularly influential group of organisations, paying attention to their capacity to influence others, would be sensible.

Future policy work is planned and it will take time for messages to be agreed and disseminated. However, some organisations queried their confidence and capacity and said **further support would be needed to carry out effective policy work**. Organisations were acutely aware that the issues are highly complex and contentious and could lead them into difficult debates. Some organisations felt that additional training in how to influence others would have been beneficial.

More work is also needed on what exactly the policy messages should be, beyond general calls for government to take the bold action necessary to meet emission reduction targets.

It was noted in the assumptions underpinning the Special Initiative that this work might respond in some way to politicians' call to create the political space for them to act. An important view expressed by one participant was that this feels disingenuous in the light of politicians' response to the most recent genuinely mass mobilisation, that against the Iraq war. There might also be concern about whether now is the right time to be focusing on winning policy arguments when government is more focused on dealing with recession and public spending cuts.

Conclusions and next steps

The Foundation has concluded that drawing more non-environmental voluntary organisations into action on climate change is both desirable and possible. Plans for taking this work forward in ways that reflect the lessons above will be announced in Summer 2010.

As the Foundation takes the work forward, it will continue to share lessons and, as always, would welcome collaboration with others.

Examples of other recent work exploring the theme of connecting climate change issues with non-environmental organisations

The **Joint Ministerial and Third Sector Taskforce on Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Development** was established in April 2009 and published its findings in May 2010 in a report called *Shaping our Future*. Its aim was 'to enable a rapid acceleration of commitment and action on climate change, the environment and sustainability throughout the third sector.' (Joint Ministerial and Third Sector Taskforce, 2009: p.1) The Taskforce's final report sets out four areas of activity for a third sector climate change initiative: leadership training for senior figures from national third sector organisations, capacity building for community leadership, advocacy and representation and communications and outreach.

The **Third Sector Declaration** revised and relaunched in March 2010 is a statement of intent about the role of the sector in tackling climate change. The declaration states that the signatories 'accept the need for action on climate change is inextricably bound to our work on environmental and social justice' (Every Action Counts, 2010). It is supported by a new website www.justact.org.uk

The **Low Carbon Communities** movement is already linking with non-environmental groups. Plans involve the installation of energy efficiency measures and small scale renewable technology. (Low Carbon Communities, 2010)

ACEVO and the **Charity Finance Directors Group** have published guidance for their members (King *et al*, 2010) and (Charity Finance Directors Group, 2010).

Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF) has launched a climate change and poverty programme to provide evidence on the social impacts of climate change in the UK and to support the development of socially just responses to climate change. (Joseph Rowntree Foundation, 2010). JRF worked with the Local Government Association and the Economic and Social Research Council on a seminar called 'How will climate change affect people in the UK and how best can we develop an equitable response?' (Economic and Social Research Council, 2010)

The **King Baudouin Foundation** in Belgium has launched a three-year programme at European level to promote the integration of social justice priorities into climate change mitigation policies in Europe. (King Baudouin Foundation, 2009)

Carnegie UK and the **Eden Project** are carrying out work looking at examples of where organisations have linked social justice and climate change. As part of its Inquiry into the future of civil society, Carnegie UK supported NEF to produce a report on bridging the gap between climate change, resource scarcity and social justice. (Johnson *et al*, 2010)

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Who this report is for:

This report describes a pilot project that has supported non-environmental voluntary organisations to explore how the impacts of climate change will affect their primary charitable purpose. The approaches taken by the four groups of organisations that led the work will be of interest to all those in the voluntary sector, the independent funding community and in government that are interested in practical ways to widen the circle of organisations involved in action on climate change.

A clear message for funders, policy makers and infrastructure bodies is that it is desirable and possible to engage the non-environmental voluntary sector in action on climate change. However, organisations need support if they are to play this role. This report sets out lessons from this project about the nature of this support and issues to consider as this work is taken forward.

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