



West  
Midlands  
Funders  
Network

WMFN Annual Conference  
18th - 19th May 2022, Online

# *Sustainability Funding & Climate Change*

## Event Programme

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## We face a climate emergency.

Funders in the West Midlands – whether environmental specialists or not - can take action now to help local communities ensure a sustainable future.

There are important links between sustainable development and social justice in our communities. Combining social and environmental concerns is critical to tackling the root causes of ill health, poverty and disadvantage. And when combined, this approach will support greater and more inclusive, economic and social change.

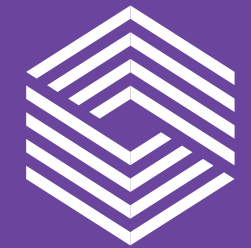
You don't need to have an environmental funding programme to contribute to the sustainability and climate action agenda.

If your funding addresses poverty, disadvantage or ill-health, then considering sustainability in your operations, funding policy and practice will support sustainable development and social change.

Whatever your organisations size, mission and priorities we can all play a part in addressing the causes and impact of climate change. Mitigating climate change, and the human suffering it will bring, is a major theme in philanthropy today.

Join our action-packed, two-day conference to explore sustainability, funding and climate change in more detail, and find out how funders in the West Midlands can respond now and in the future to support local communities.

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# Session Summaries

The conference is designed to take participants on a journey to integrating a sustainability agenda in funding policy and practice. We encourage you attend as many of the sessions as you can.

Day 1: Wednesday 18th May 2022

## Session 1:

10am - 12pm

Understanding the key terms, causes and impact of climate change and actions and interventions to tackling climate change at a local level

## Session 2:

2pm - 4pm

Insights into strategic and operational priorities to reduce the carbon footprint in the West Midlands

Day 2: Thursday 19th May 2022

## Session 3:

10am - 12.45pm

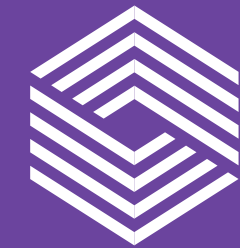
Considering the challenges and opportunities of strengthening funding policy and practice to tackle climate change

## Session 4:

2pm - 4pm

Explore, consider and share good practice in integrating a sustainability agenda in existing funding approaches

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Day 1: Wednesday 18th May 2022

## Session 1:

10am - 12pm

### Understanding the key terms, causes and impact of climate change and actions and interventions to tackling climate change at a local level

This will include a short introduction to Environmental Funders Network (EFN), understanding the causes of climate change and impact on sustainability; different terms and their meaning, and what are the key mitigation and adaptation approaches to tackling climate change.

#### Contributors:

Jane Cabutti, Growing Philanthropy Director  
Environmental Funders Network

## Session 2:

2pm - 4pm

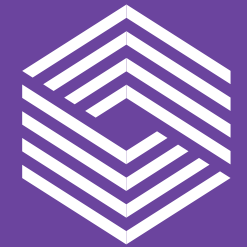
### Insights into strategic and operational priorities to reduce the carbon footprint in the West Midlands

Insights from WMCA in tackling climate change. Exploring its strategic agenda and priorities and the key mitigation and adaptation approaches. Solihull MBC will share their operational priorities, the support and resources to support civil society to participate and develop solutions to tackling climate change. Followed by a panel discussion.

#### Contributors:

Cheryl Hiles, Director of Energy Capital, WMCA  
Claire Spencer, Public Services and Inclusive Growth, WMCA  
Ann-Marie Attfield, Net Zero Project Manager, Solihull MBC  
Andrew Greenall, Sustainability Engagement Officer, Solihull MBC

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## Session 3:

10am - 12.45pm

### Considering the challenges and opportunities of strengthening funding policy and practice to address climate change \*

Exploring how small and large funders are using a sustainability lens to integrate tackling climate change in their strategies, operations, endowment investment approach, monitoring and reporting. With insights and examples of how funding and support is helping third sector organisations play their role in tackling climate change. Followed by a panel discussion.

[\\* This session is primarily for funders - We would encourage funders to attend session 3 and 4 to get the most out of the conference](#)

#### Contributors:

Cerian Brogan, Saintbury Trust  
Jont Cole, Cole Charitable Trust  
Will Walker, Power to Change  
Nick Gardner, NLCF  
Phil Beardmore, Energy Confidence  
Tom Black, Scotland Foundation

## Session 4:

2pm - 4pm

### Explore, consider and share good practice in integrating a sustainability agenda in existing funding approaches \*

Supporting funders to look practically at how they can strengthen and embed their approach to a sustainability agenda in their operations and grant making; whether it be increasing staff and trustee knowledge and understanding; incorporating a sustainability agenda in a funding strategy or existing programme; decarbonising funder operations or what to monitor and measure. Small breakout sessions will be facilitated and tools and guidance introduced to support funders regardless of size, capacity and capability and stage in this journey.

[\\* This session is primarily for funders - We would encourage funders to attend session 3 and 4 to get the most out of the conference](#)

#### Contributors:

Nick Perks, Charity and Philanthropy Consultant,  
founder of Funders Commitment to Climate Change

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