



# ***Strengthening funding policy & practice to address climate change:***

## ***Challenges & Opportunities***

***West Midlands Funders Network  
19 May 2022***



# Integrate?

2

## COMMIT RESOURCES

We will commit resources to accelerate work that addresses the causes and impacts of climate change. (If our governing document or other factors make it difficult to directly fund such work, we will find other ways to contribute, or consider how such barriers might be overcome).

3

## INTEGRATE

Within all our existing programmes, priorities and processes, we will seek opportunities to contribute to a fair and lasting transition to a post carbon society, and to support adaptation to climate change impacts.

4

## STEWARD OUR INVESTMENTS FOR A POST-CARBON FUTURE

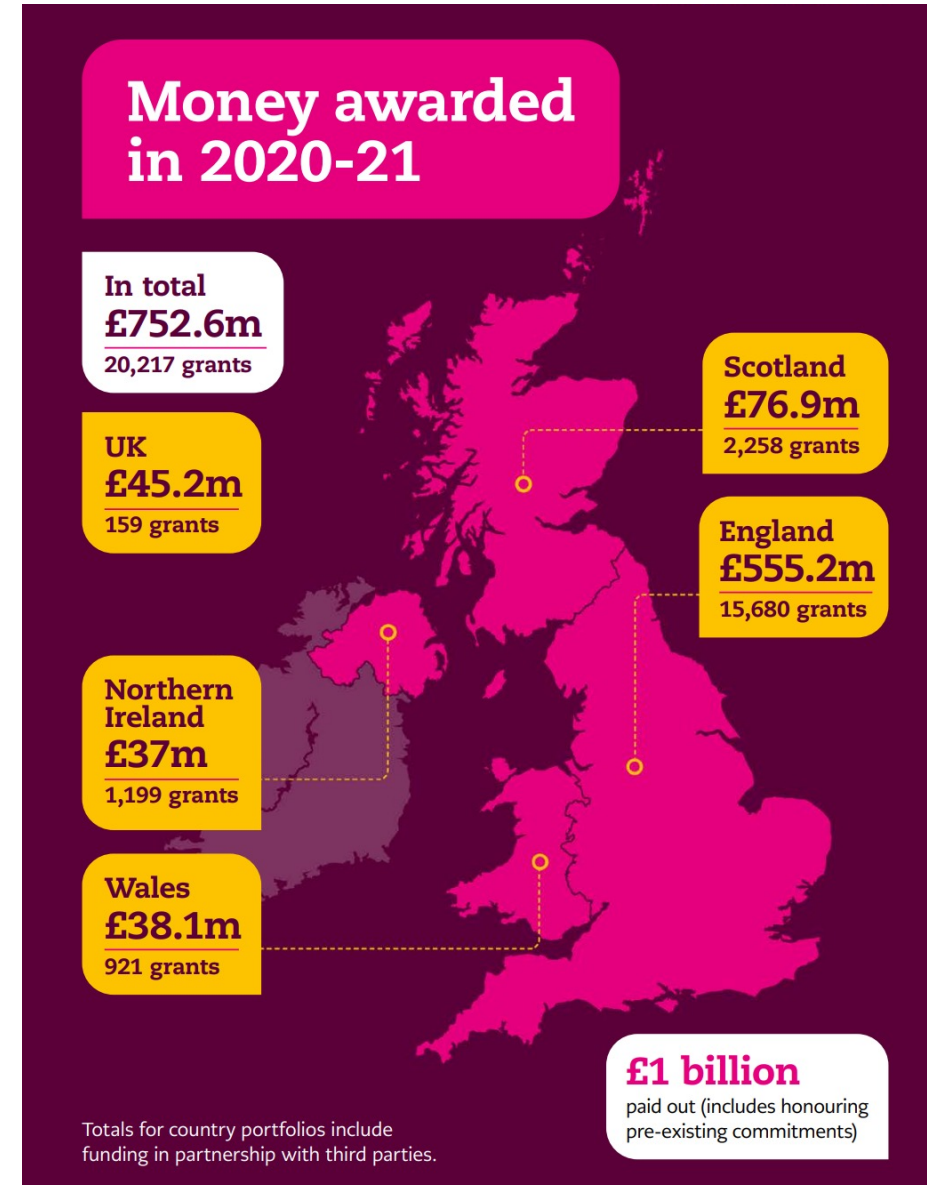
We will recognise climate change as a high-level risk to our investments, and therefore to our mission. We will proactively address the risks and opportunities of a transition to a post carbon economy in our investment strategy and its implementation, recognising that our decisions can contribute to this transition being achieved.

- Introduction to TNLCF
- Our Environment Strategy
- Supporting the sector
- Funding Food & Climate Action
- Looking Forward

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# The National Lottery Community Fund

- ✓ We are the largest funder of community activity in the UK
- ✓ We are one of twelve distributors of money raised by National Lottery players - we distribute 40% of good causes revenue
- ✓ Started in 2004, £9 billion to good causes
- ✓ Each year:
  - ✓ £500m+
  - ✓ 12,000+ grants
  - ✓ >80% of grants less than £10k
- ✓ In 2020/21, on average we awarded £2m every day to projects that matter to people and communities



# TNLCF and the Environment

Since 2016, we have awarded  
**£397 million**  
through more than 6,000 grants  
which involve environmental action,  
including action on waste and  
consumption, energy, transport,  
food and the natural environment.



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# Our Environment Strategy

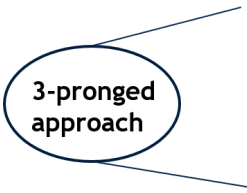
3 elements

1. Continue to **improve ourselves** - we have already made steps in the right direction but this will see us further manage the Fund's environmental impact
  - Measure, Engage, Communicate (Planet Mark)
  - Climate Action Network (Green Champions)
  - Net Zero by 2030
2. Continue to **support charities, community groups and the sector** to manage and improve their environmental impact - working with applicants and grant-holders
  - Wales Climate Action Top-Ups
  - Climate Action Boost
  - Northern Ireland developing similar plans
3. Commit an additional £100m over the next 10 years, dedicated to **supporting communities** to take the lead on impactful climate change action, the **Climate Action Fund**
  - 55 projects supported; £30m committed
  - Supporting the wider movement



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# 2. Supporting the sector



1. Continue to improve ourselves
2. Support the sector to reduce its impact
3. Commit £100m through Climate Action Fund

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [tncommunityfund.org](https://tncommunityfund.org). The page features a pink header with the text 'Funding during COVID-19' and a main image of three people walking on a path in a rural landscape. Below the image is a pink banner with the text 'Reduce your environmental footprint'. The page content includes a breadcrumb trail: 'Funding > Funding Guidance > Reduce your environmental footprint'. The main text reads: 'The Climate Emergency is everybody's business, which is why The National Lottery Community Fund is acting to support communities in the UK who want to minimise their own impact on the environment.' Below this is a video player for a video titled 'Climate Change Newtown' with a play button and a 'Watch later' button. The video player has a subtitle: 'managing our own carbon footprint etc. ybodaeth am ariannu yn eich ardal Cylch Meithrin'. At the bottom of the page, it says: 'In autumn 2019, we launched the [Climate Action Fund](#), a £100 million programme, set over 10 years, that will support communities in the UK to take local action on climate change.'

• Climate Action Top-ups (Pilot)

- Looking at our grant-making practice
  - Inspire
  - Require

Web based information (Envtl Guidance page)

Training

- Helping groups to help their customers
  - Dref Werdd Film

- Partnership approach
  - Regular discussion with other funders
  - Principle of Generous Leadership
  - Learning out Loud



# Resources – on the Climate Action Hub

**Community climate action projects**  
A list community-led climate action projects across the UK.

**The role of behaviour change in mobilising community action on climate change**  
Behaviour change has an important role to play in finding solutions to the climate crisis.

**Natural environment**  
Research indicates that about a third of the greenhouse gas reductions needed by 2030 can be provided by the restoration of natural habitats.

**Food**  
Food, it could be argued, is the single most important issue impacting climate change and our planet's health generally.

**Waste and Consumption**  
Modern society has become reliant on speed and convenience in all aspects of consumption.

**Media Trust toolkit**  
To help support National Lottery funded community-led climate action projects with communicating and sharing the work they are doing, we commissioned Media Trust to create a media and communications toolkit.

**Middlesbrough: The right environment**  
In March 2021, Knowledge and Learning Manager Temoor Iqbal spoke to a number of grantholders in Middlesbrough, where the town aims

**Community transport driving positive change**  
Throughout the UK, community-led projects are finding ways to encourage sustainable transport, from safer walking routes, affordable cycling, to

**Leading the way in community energy**  
During the last decade, there has been an increase in smaller, decentralised, renewable, community-owned energy sources, which has opened the door to

Knowledge and Learning



**Community action for the environment**

Small enough to care, big enough to make a difference



2020

Authors: Zoë Anderson, Julia Parnaby, Jo Woodall



A toolkit for city regions and local authorities

**Climate Action Co-Benefits Toolkit**


Chapter 6  
Citizen and Community Engagement

Authors: Matt Ahluwalia, Emma Jones, Cara Jenkinson, Simon Brammer

Tackling climate change and changing communities



**Power of the collective**

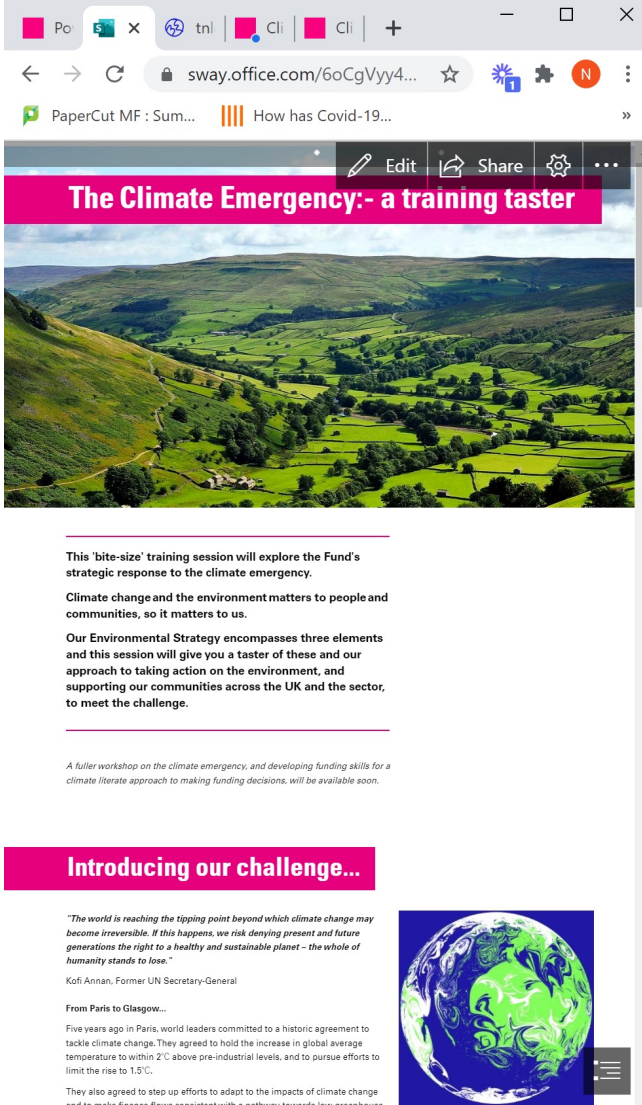


The National Lottery Community Fund, supported by Ashden



# Building Climate Awareness

- Training
  - Climate Emergency Taster
  - Climate Awareness Module
  - Climate for Funders – workshops
  - Carbon Literacy
- Climate Hub
  - Environment Strategy
  - Green Champions
  - Yammer pages
- Roadshows
  - Every team, every office
- Working with the Comms team
  - Internal
  - External



The screenshot shows a Sway presentation slide with a pink header and a green landscape image. The text on the slide includes:

**The Climate Emergency:- a training taster**

This 'bite-size' training session will explore the Fund's strategic response to the climate emergency.

Climate change and the environment matters to people and communities, so it matters to us.

Our Environmental Strategy encompasses three elements and this session will give you a taster of these and our approach to taking action on the environment, and supporting our communities across the UK and the sector, to meet the challenge.

*A fuller workshop on the climate emergency, and developing funding skills for a climate literate approach to making funding decisions, will be available soon.*

**Introducing our challenge...**


*"The world is reaching the tipping point beyond which climate change may become irreversible. If this happens, we risk denying present and future generations the right to a healthy and sustainable planet – the whole of humanity stands to lose."*

Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary-General

**From Paris to Glasgow...**

Five years ago in Paris, world leaders committed to a historic agreement to tackle climate change. They agreed to hold the increase in global average temperature to within 2°C above pre-industrial levels, and to pursue efforts to limit the rise to 1.5°C.

They also agreed to step up efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change and to make finance flows consistent with a pathway towards low greenhouse



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# Just Food & Climate Transition, Tower Hamlets

- Aim: to build a sustainable food system that delivers environmental benefits and improve social conditions for Tower Hamlets residents.
- The project will create a community-led blueprint for grassroots food and environmental work that can be shared with other boroughs and cities.
- Aim to build a movement that will push for significant investment in public health, food and sustainability in Tower Hamlets beyond grant period.
- Three community hubs and ten community labs will be at the heart of the project.



# Farm Net Zero, Cornwall

- Aim: to create opportunities for farmers in Cornwall and beyond to learn about practical and economically beneficial changes they can make to farming practice in order to help the broader farming community move towards net zero sustainably.
- Addressing the contributions agriculture makes to the UK's overall carbon footprint through scaling up a blend of local demonstrator farms targeting soil health, peer to peer learning on effective action, and opportunities to share knowledge and strengthen support networks of farmers and their surrounding communities.
- Wider community aims include citizen science projects to engage local people in replicating ways to improve soil health at the micro level.



# Compost Culture, Birmingham

- **Aim:** This project will work with growing projects in Birmingham, helping them to produce and use more compost.
- Funding will enable them to create workshops at community venues and train volunteers to pass on knowledge and skills to others.
- In the longer term the group plans to work across the city to reduce food waste, increase compost use and improve the production and consumption of local food.
- The project will be delivered in neighbourhoods close to the centre of Birmingham with community compost champions and arts events helping to engage diverse communities including those that have not participated in climate action before.

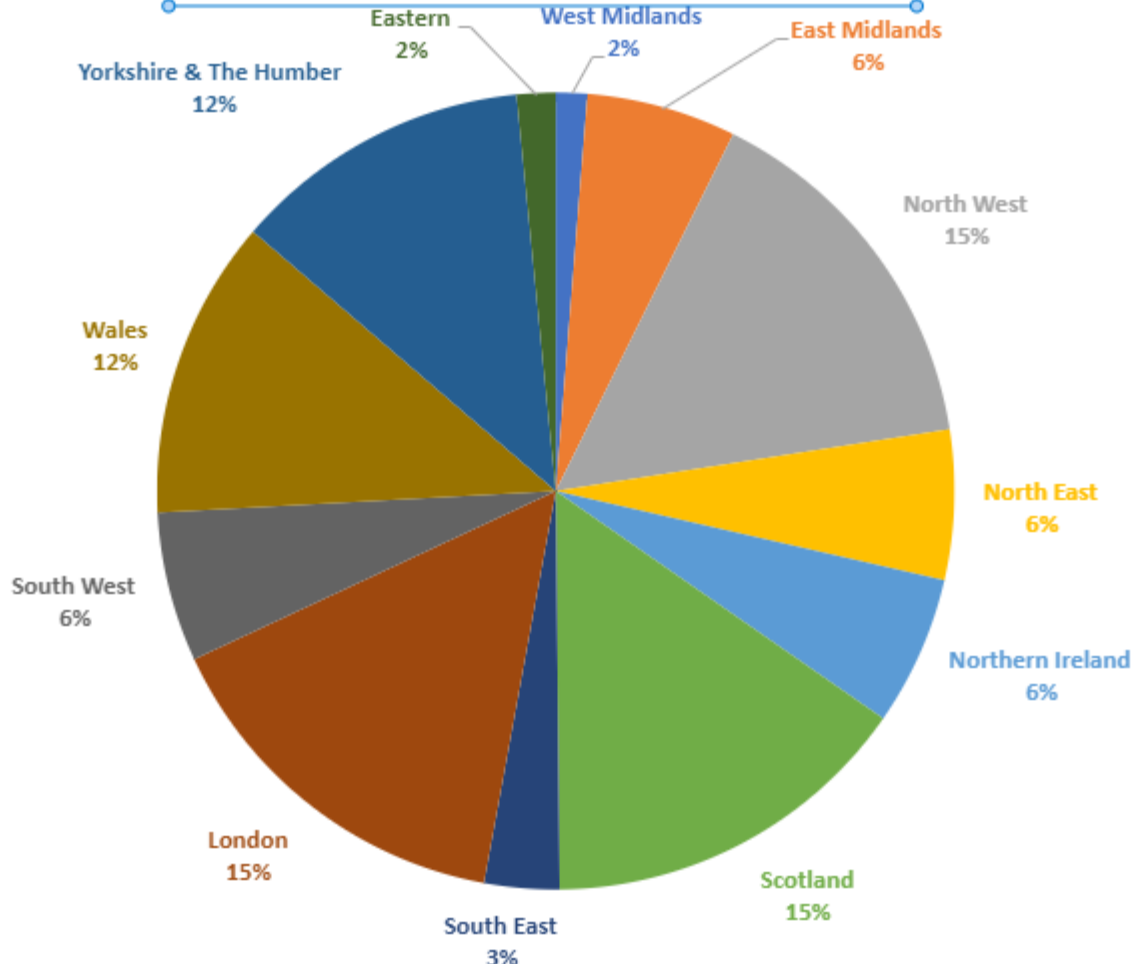




# Trends

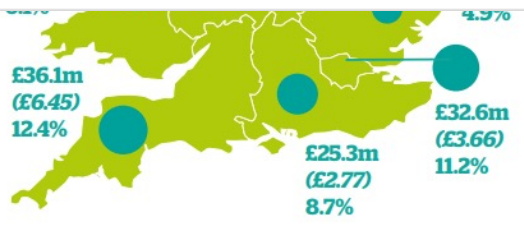
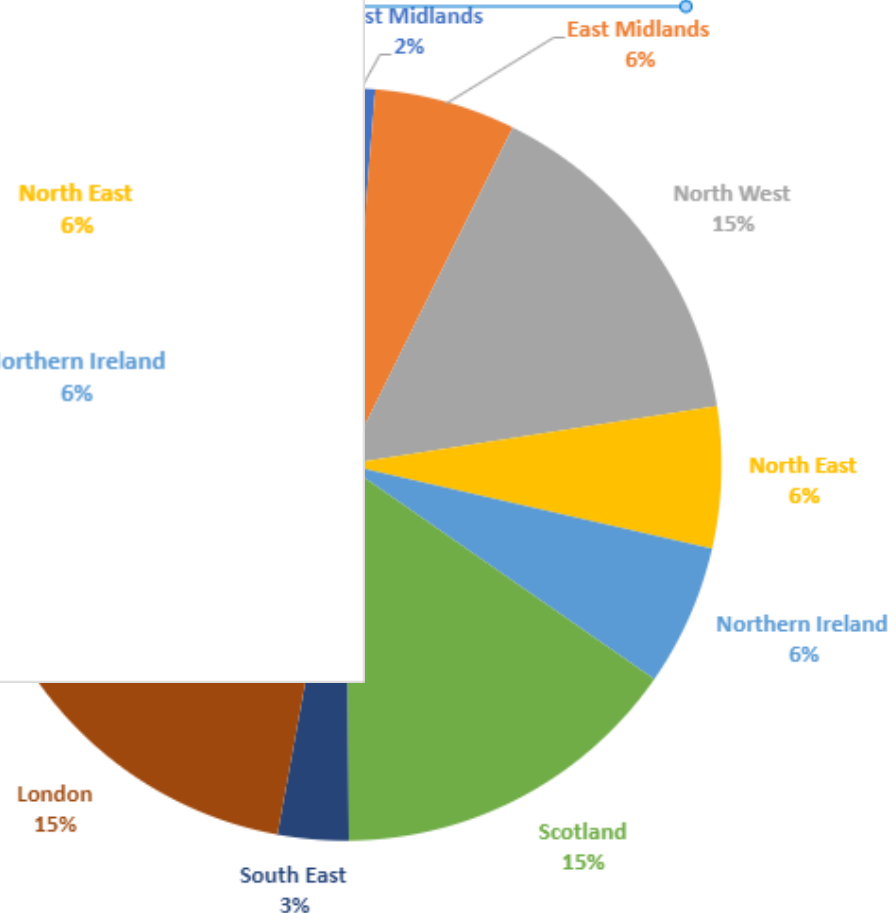
- Impact of Covid!
- Scaling up education of communities, food distribution and repurposing
- Studies to understand what is in their communities in terms of food waste
- Composting at home, or hubs/sites
- Behaviour change - education projects
- General rise in communities becoming aware of disused spaces and coming together to make something useful from the space
- Scaling of 'pay as you feel' cafes and community fridges. Also food banks.

# FUNDING TOTALS (CAF & TFOP) BY REGION



# Midlands

## & TFOP) BY REGION



Map 4: Distribution of lottery funding across UK regions over the three years 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 (labels in italics indicate funding amount per capita)



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# Looking forward

- What might it mean to become a Climate Positive funder?
- How can we support fair/just adaptation to climate impacts
- Working on our Key Tensions...
- For funders in the West Midlands...
  - what's the system-change type stuff we should be looking at next?
  - how might we be doing more around the narratives, and wider public engagement?
  - should we seek to 'dance with the devil'?
  - how to challenge local authorities to step up?

# Thank you

**[nick.gardner@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk](mailto:nick.gardner@tnlcommunityfund.org.uk)**

 **@cannyfrog**

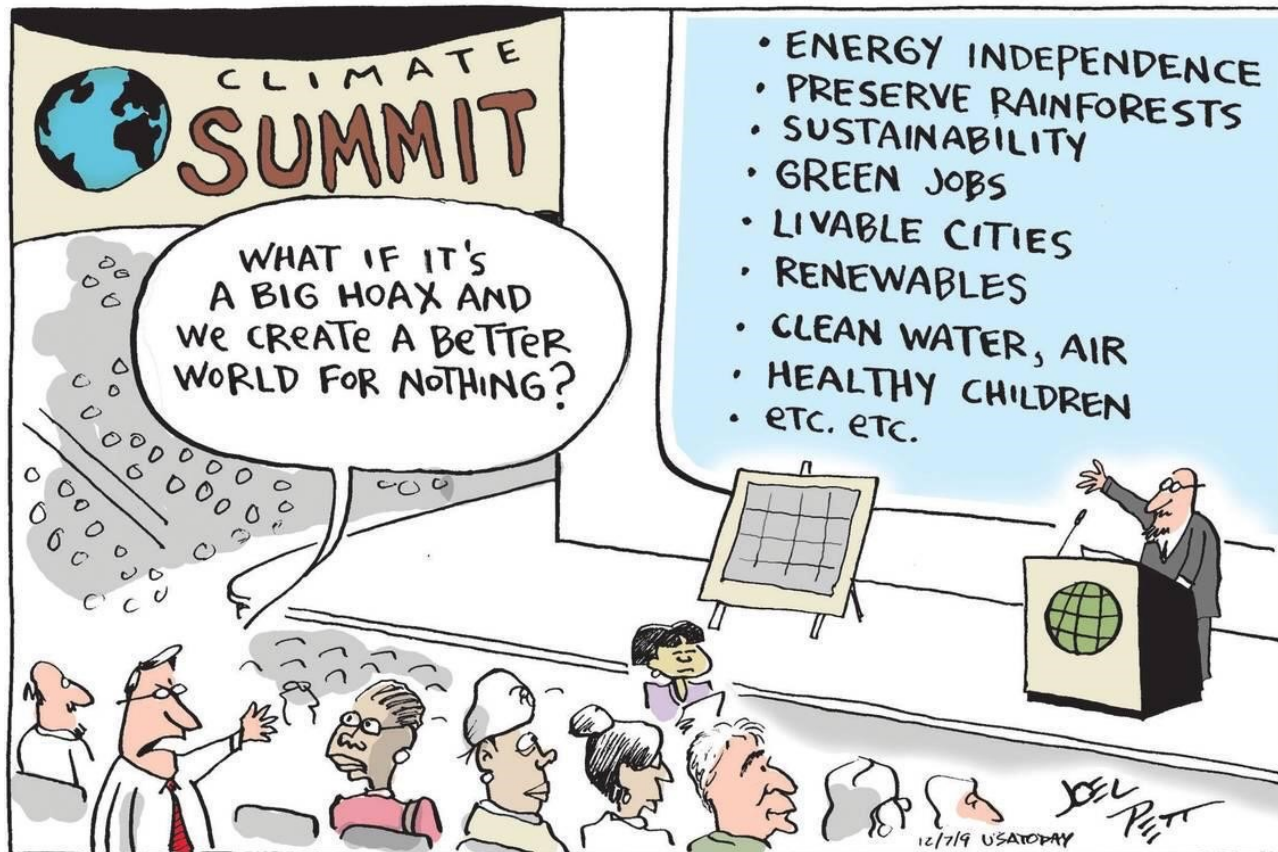
[linktr.ee/nickgards](https://linktr.ee/nickgards)

[www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/key-initiatives/climate-action-hub](https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/key-initiatives/climate-action-hub)

# Questions

# WHY ENGAGE CITIZENS IN CO-BENEFITS?

1. Large-scale behaviour change is vital
2. People need to feel that this relates to them
3. Build public support for policy development



# LESSONS FROM LOCKDOWN

## For us as a funder:

- Shift in short-term priorities
- What might Covid-19 mean for us as a funder looking forward - a more requirements-based approach
- Changing emphasis and priorities amongst other funders

## Strategic environmental opportunities:

- Air quality / Return of Nature
- Travel patterns
- Changing diets
- Energy consumption
- Behaviour change and consumerism
- Public acceptability of the 'new normal'
- Wider policy and political shift
- Challenges of the narrative

## Climate Action Fund projects

- Adaptation
- What our funding won't cover



# 1. Improving Ourselves

3-pronged approach

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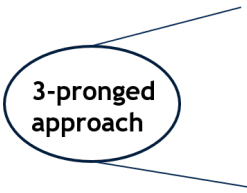
- **Understand our Impact (External Support)**
  - Measurement
  - Targets
  - Action plan
- **Accommodation (Heating and Lighting)**
  - Physical changes
  - Behavioural changes
  - Suppliers
- **Transport**
  - Air
  - Road
- **Waste**
  - Reduce Consumption (Paper)
  - Reuse (old IT)
  - Recycle
- **Engagement and behaviour change**
  - Green Champions
  - Gamification/ Competition



## 2. Supporting Grantholders

- **What has worked for us:-**
  - Buy in from the top (Chair / Trustees / CEO)
  - Measure it:- you can tell the difference it makes
  - Make plans and set targets
  - Behaviour change is as important, if not more important
  - Friendly competition is fun and works well to engage people
  - Recognise & communicate co-benefits
- **Lessons from Climate Top Ups:-**
  - Communities needed little encouragement to get involved
  - Expert advice is important (we partnered with Sustainable Communities Wales & Renew Wales)
  - Funding is important (to encourage this activity to be prioritised)
  - Broader co-benefits (costs reduced, people engaged)
  - £10k may not have been enough; needed a longer timeframe to plan, for most impact
- **Some suggested next steps for Grantholders & applicants:-**
  - Produce an environmental strategy
  - Declare a climate emergency
  - Set a pathway to net zero

# 3. The Climate Action Fund



1. Continue to improve ourselves
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- A ten-year £100 million fund which aims to support communities across the UK to reduce their carbon footprint
- Place-based, community-led partnerships
- Support community led movements that can demonstrate what is possible when people take the lead in tackling climate change
- Round 1 - 23 projects funded; £20m
- Social Media: >20,000 impressions for the announcement tweet ; 17 regional radio and TV interviews, 14 national envtl trade outlets & charity sector titles, 30 pieces of coverage in top regional papers and online titles. Combined reach >5 million (and counting)



<http://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/funding/programmes/climate-action-fund>

CAF Round 1 funded projects



# Key themes and defining characteristics

## Themes (Round 1):

**Energy:** (23 projects; 64%), **Food:** (22 projects; 61%), **Waste & Consumption** (20 projects; 56%), **Natural Environment** (24 projects, 67%), **Transport**(19 projects; 53%)

## Defining characteristics:

- **People focus and climate justice:** gender, young people, refugees, asylum seekers, people with a disability, BAME, Welsh speaking
- **Organisations and systems:** citizens assemblies and juries, arts and culture, faith, private sector, social housing, skills and training
- **Type of place:** national park and AONB, post industrial, areas of affluence, inner city, market town, coastal, rural

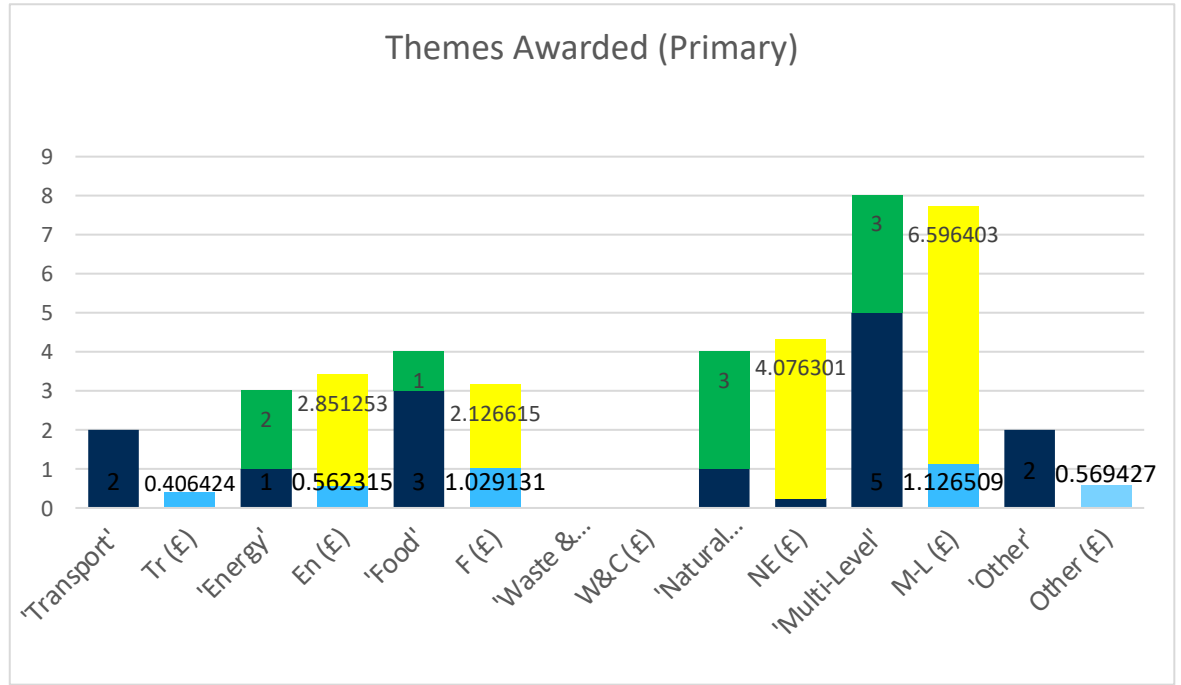
## Multi level:

A number of projects have taken a broader approach and are looking at projects that cover a multitude of themes. Some of these are also delivering across a larger geographical area

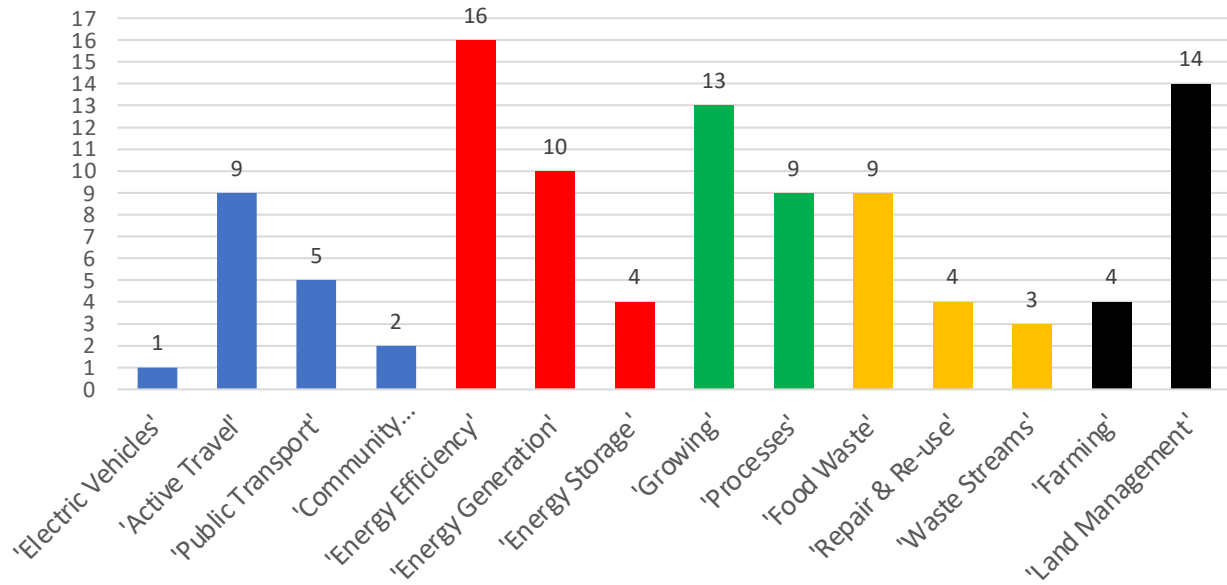
## Taxonomy:

Developing terminology and standard phrasing to enable better reporting

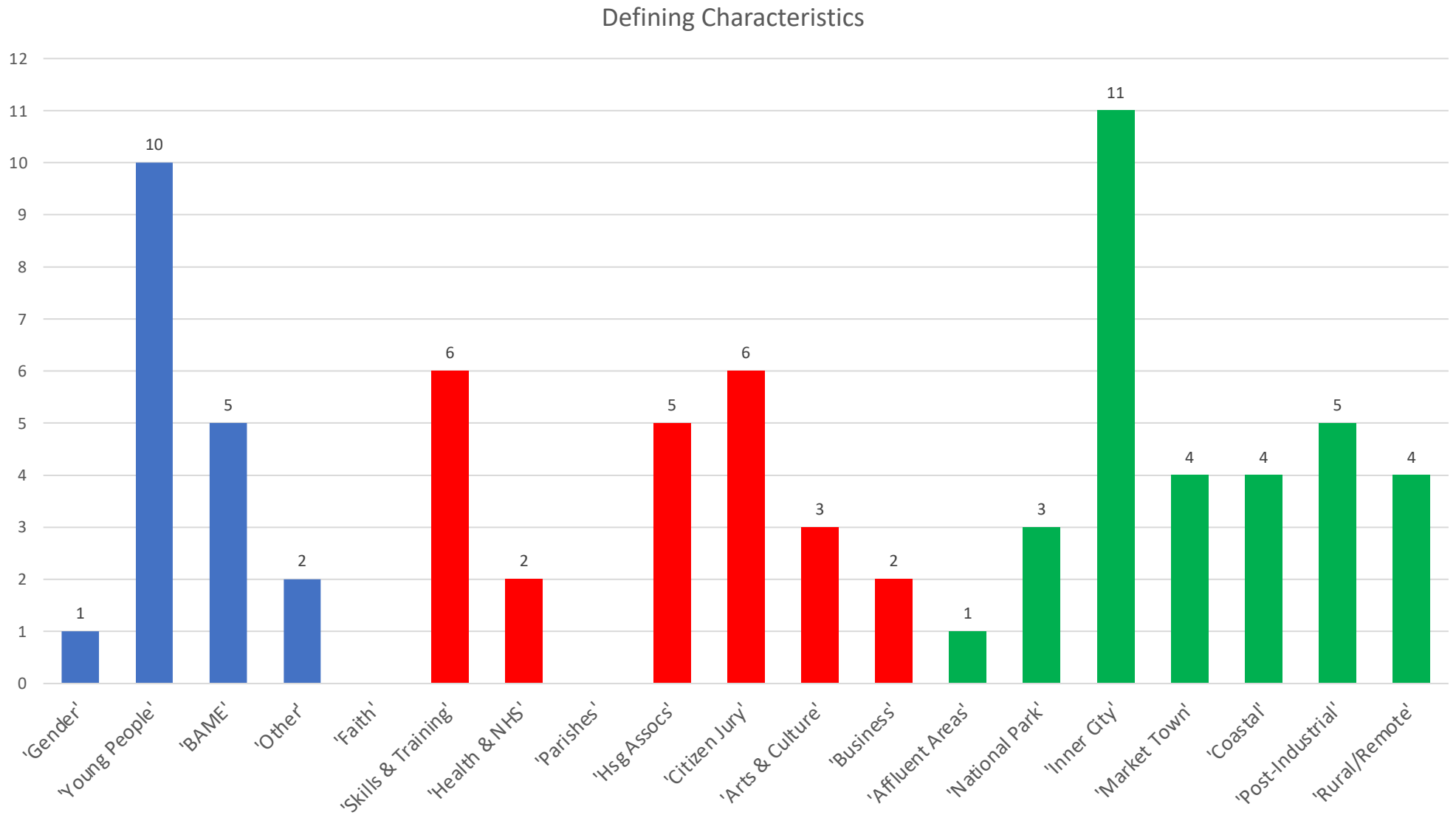
# Themes Awarded



Themes Awarded (All)

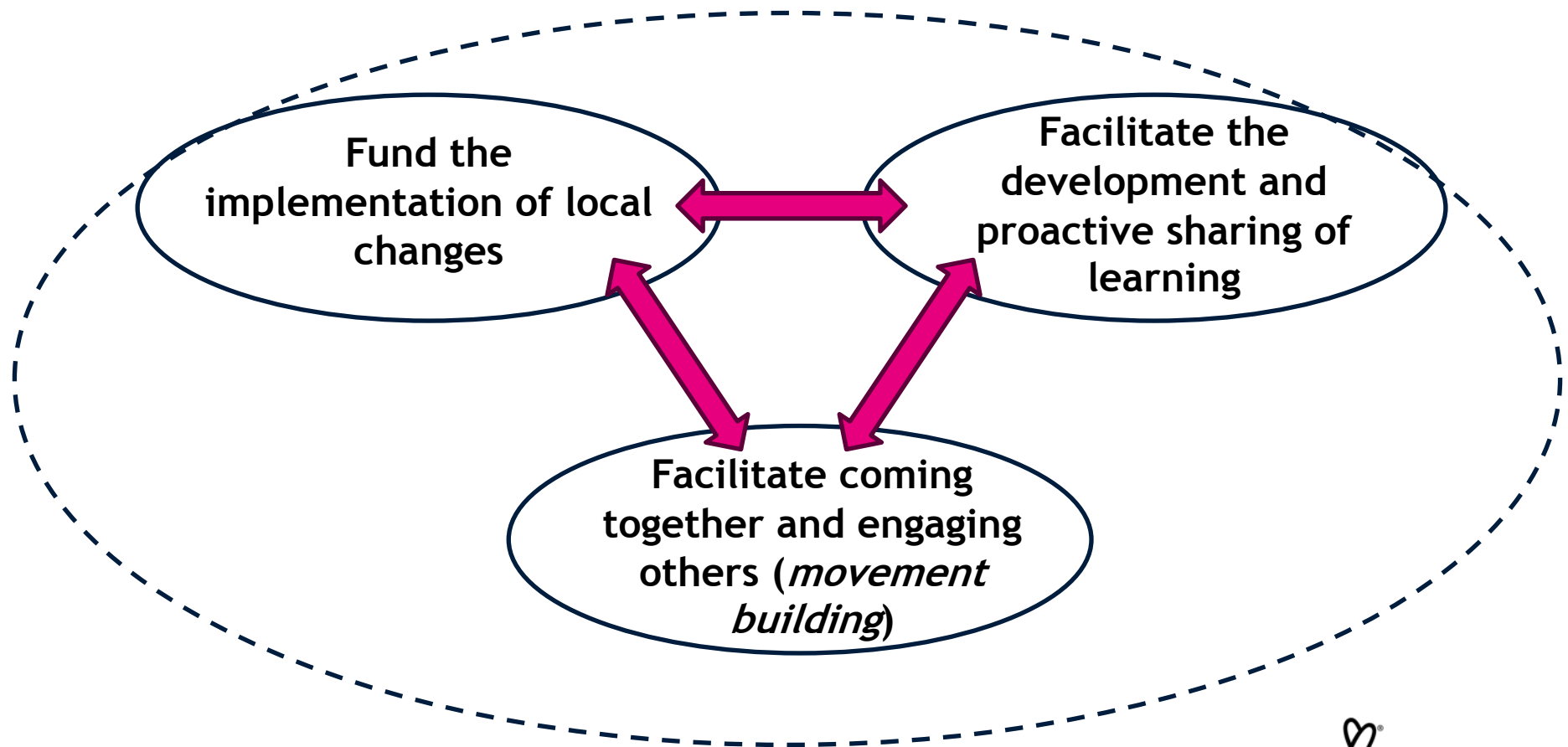


# Defining Characteristics



# More than a Grants programme

Embedding learning, sharing and movement building explicitly in our ambition and therefore in our support from the start



# Supporting the community-led movement

“Enabling & inspiring people in local communities across the UK to take positive climate action”

- Funding from The National Lottery Community Fund will support projects to work together, share learning and be catalysts for broader and transformative change.
- Three key areas: Support & Learning, Movement-Building, and Content Creation
- Appointed suppliers will be expected to work with one another as a collective
- Maximising impact and adding value
- Test and learn approach
- Our role is not to own the ‘movement’ but to support it by amplifying learning and maximising impact and influence.



# Focus Areas

## Area 1: Support & Learning

- Relationships / training and coaching, measurement and evaluation, facilitation of ongoing learning

## Area 2: Movement building

- Movement ecology and best practice, systems thinking, public engagement, narrative and culture practice, listening and sense making, strat comms

## Area 3: Content creation

- Work with us to explore what we want to achieve and therefore what content to create, collate and curate. Producing content which is informative and inspiring. Working with other strategic partners