

Funder Commitment on Climate Change Year 1 Report

The Funder Commitment on Climate Change recognises that the growing climate emergency has become a serious threat to the way funders achieve their charitable objectives and that they have a responsibility to ensure they are managing and distributing resources in a way that understands and responds to this threat.

The Samworth Foundation became a signatory to the Commitment in January 2020: <https://fundercommitmentclimatechange.org/>. The Foundation's Trustees agreed to pledge their commitment to consider how their investments, operations and funding programmes can contribute to a *"fair and lasting transition to a post-carbon society"*. This funder commitment is central to the Foundation's strategic approach, recognising that Climate Change is the biggest threat to humanity and the natural environment. This commitment aligns very closely with the Foundation's strategic values.

The five goals that make up the Funder Commitment on Climate Change are listed below and encourage our Trustees, Staff and Key Stakeholders to address the causes and impacts of climate change:

- 1. Educate and learn:** We will make opportunities for our trustees, staff and stakeholders to learn more about the key causes and solutions of climate change.
- 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.
- 5. Decarbonise our operations:** We will take ambitious action to minimise the carbon footprint of our own operations.

The sixth goal is to report on progress. Trustees have agreed to report annually on progress against the five goals. The Foundation will continue to develop our practice, to learn from others, and to share learning. A short summary of the activity that has been undertaken under each pillar of the Funder Commitment is below.

| Commitment | Progress |
|---|---|
| 1. Educate and learn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We have held a number of convening sessions involving our core grantee portfolio from both sectors to help facilitate relationships and share learning ▪ One member of staff is undertaking a MSc in Sustainable Development with Sussex University ▪ Trustees have attended EFN and ACF conferences in 2020 that had climate change as the theme ▪ We regularly invite environmental guest speakers to Trustee Board meetings ▪ Staff attend national and international webinars on climate change, land management and biodiversity |
| 2. Commit resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Foundation has created a dedicated a fund with a specific green lens focus ▪ We have increased our environment core funding ▪ We provided Emergency funding during the pandemic to support our core grant portfolio from both sectors: Sexual Exploitation and Environment |
| 3. Integrate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As part of our Transformation and Innovation Fund, we are encouraging our non-environmental portfolio to actively engage in this agenda, and we are providing resources for them to be able to do so. |
| 4. Steward our investments for a post carbon future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Foundation has recruited a new Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) who will report on ESG's of our investment portfolio ▪ The IFA will review our investment strategy |
| 5. Decarbonise our operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Foundation is working towards being paper free ▪ The staff team are working from home with less travel to meetings ▪ The staff team are reconsidering options for face to face meetings and events in the future |