

Funder Commitment on Climate Change Year 2 Report

The Funder Commitment on Climate Change recognises that the impact of climate change is wide ranging, and a serious threat to funders achieving their charitable objectives. Funders therefore have a responsibility to ensure they are managing and distributing resources in a way that understands and responds to this emergency.

The Samworth Foundation became a signatory to the [Commitment](#) in January 2020. Trustees agreed 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 closely with the Foundation’s strategic values.

The Funder Commitment on Climate Change goals:

- 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 its 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 during 2021 is below.

| Commitment | Progress, 2021 |
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| 1. Educate and learn | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ We continued to hold convening sessions involving our core grant holders from both grant portfolios (environment and sexual exploitation) to facilitate relationships and share learning. ▪ We regularly invite environmental guest speakers to Trustee Board meetings. ▪ Staff and Trustees attended webinars, conferences, and other learning events on climate change, land management and biodiversity. |
| 2. Commit resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 50% of the Foundation's annual core funding is given to organisations working to champion environmental recovery and/or combat climate change and its effects. The work we fund under this programme includes improving biodiversity, engaging people with the climate movement, and sustainable land use. |
| 3. Integrate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ As part of our Transformation and Innovation Fund, we encouraged our non-environmental grant holders to actively engage in this agenda, and provided funding to enable them to do so. Examples of work funded include improving biodiversity and environmental education at an organisation supporting people with learning disabilities, working with survivors of sexual and gender-based violence to develop sustainable livelihoods by embracing green technologies, and supporting changes to working styles (more digital, less travel, use of local agents, etc.) of organisations across both portfolios. |
| 4. Steward our investments for a post carbon future | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Foundation's Independent Financial Advisor (IFA) reports on the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) of our investment portfolio. |
| 5. Decarbonise our operations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Foundation is working towards being paper free. ▪ Following the end of Covid lockdown measures, the staff team adopted a hybrid working model, reducing the need to travel to and from the office. ▪ During the Covid pandemic, staff and Trustee travel naturally reduced as meetings were moved online. As lockdown measures were eased, most meetings continued to be held virtually. |