

PCAN Fund Round 1 Winners

Peter Bryant (Shared Future) and Lucy Stone (Agulhas Climate Hub): Climate Assemblies and Juries: the how and why.

This project will produce a number of online guides and information to help guide local authorities (and other local structures/organisations) through the process of conducting Citizens' Assemblies and other such local deliberative processes on the climate emergency. Over half the local authorities in the UK have now formally declared a climate emergency and many are considering Citizens' Assemblies as a route to guiding local action and community involvement in their response. Given the lack of guidelines on how to conduct these deliberative processes, a clear need exists for easily accessible evaluations and information on best practice, insight and support to ensure they are conducted well.

Citizens' Assemblies and Juries have the potential to be transformative for local politics, engaging people and communities beyond those directly involved and ultimately strengthening the policy-making process. It is important such deliberative processes achieve their full potential and to that end this project will produce resources to help, namely:

- a) A series of introductory online guides designed for local authorities and similar bodies tackling: "Why a Citizens Assembly style process at a local level?"; "How to structure your process"; and "Local deliberation and the climate emergency: avoiding the pitfalls";
- b) The evaluation of three local processes (led by the Agulhas Climate Hub), one at a city level (Leeds), one at county level (probably Surrey) and a further site (yet to be confirmed);
- c) A guide which draws on the learning from these three local processes. The resources will be tailored according to the needs of a range of audiences including local politicians, local government officers and those from the voluntary and community sector who are interested in designing, organising or commissioning such processes. They are designed to assist those actors and organisations by: (i) Helping to better understand the role of citizen deliberation as an innovative tool for

policy making ; (ii) Exploring deliberation in three different geographies; (iii) Providing the starting point for councils to share best practice and learnings on citizen deliberation in climate policy making.

Award: £10,000

Edinburgh World Heritage Trust: Climate change risk and vulnerability assessment of Edinburgh World Heritage Site

Climate change is a major threat to World Heritage Sites (WHS) across the world and its impacts will seriously compromise their integrity and future generations' ability to benefit from them. This project will understand and define the challenges to Edinburgh's WHS posed by climate change by engaging widely with its stakeholders affected by climate change impacts to inform appropriate mitigation/adaption solutions relevant to its international values.

An extensive bottom-up approach will be tested to identify the impacts of climate change on Edinburgh's WHS from the point of view of its stakeholders, using various methodologies including the trial, for the first time, of the Climate Vulnerability Index (CVI) on a 'urban' WHS.

The expected outcomes include a robust dataset of stakeholders' feedback that will inform an outline of local climate change actions, a replicable and integrated approach to climate change risk and vulnerability assessment, learnings dissemination and new research opportunities.

Award: £29,000

Karl Harder (Abundance Investment): Building local green investment markets using Community Municipal Bonds.

Innovative Social Financing Product, Community Municipal Bonds (CMB) offer the potential to radically transform the way that Local Authorities (LAs) are financed. The model provides a route for LAs to efficiently raise capital from resident investors at rates which undercut an authority's standard borrowing rate. Importantly they also offer the local authority the opportunity to connect with resident investors through

their money by creating a new platform for engaging and communicating with citizens.

The model lends itself to the creation of a powerful new mechanism to address climate change - Climate Emergency Bonds. The idea of LA climate emergency bonds builds on the success of War Bonds issued by the UK Government during both the twentieth century's world wars. War Bonds enabled the government to borrow money from citizen investors at below market rates to help fund the war effort. The motivation to invest was three-fold, "protect your way of life", "do your bit" and earn a financial return.

The same drivers can be seen to exist with climate change investing and could be harnessed to drive the creation of a local climate emergency bond markets. If this can be created, it will help reduce the cost of capital for LAs and increase community engagement with the decarbonisation agenda.

Two councils have agreed in principle to pilot a Community Municipal Bond and it is likely that by the end of the year there will be at least three more partners. In addition, a leading institutional investor has agreed to provide underwriting on any bond issue, this means they will buy any bond not purchased by citizen investors.

The result is that we can provide certainty to pilot authorities regarding the discount they will receive on their current borrowing rates as well as the volume and timing of capital we can deliver. In turn with Legal & General in the mix we can focus on building the retail investor market for the bonds assured that we will deliver value from day one for local authorities.

Award: £11,000

Clare McKeown (Belfast City Council): Building Capacity knowledge and skills in the transition to low carbon economy in order to ensure a just transition

This joint proposal from Belfast City Council (BCC) and Trademark Belfast (TB) builds on the PCAN objectives for Belfast to raise awareness of the climate crisis

and to engage and educate the wider public, private and community sectors on climate action. The project will have a sharp focus on green financing and investment, green business development and stimulating new green growth. It will also have a focus on incentivising collective action and behaviour change to accelerate the transition to the low carbon economy.

The project will have an engagement programme and social dialogue process that will focus on popularising the concept of a Just Transition among local government, the private sector, political parties, policy-makers and trade unions in Belfast. It is envisaged that this will help to encourage practical steps, collectively, towards the realisation of a Just Transition to a low carbon economy. By working together, it will ensure that the conversation amongst the public and private sectors, workers and communities keeps pace or aligns with that occurring at a policy level, and vice versa.

Award: £28,000

Rebecca Willis (Lancaster University): Supporting local officers and politicians in three UK cities to implement rapid climate action

The UK has committed to ambitious carbon targets, with cross-party consensus. But how are these targets, and the strategy required to meet them, understood by officials and politicians at local level? How does rapid climate action 'feel' to them, in the context of their working lives? There is very little research into the lived experience and motivation of decision-makers, yet a rapid transition to zero carbon requires their support and active engagement.

The project will work with decision-makers and academic researchers in three cities within the PCAN network, Edinburgh, Belfast and Leeds, to explore these questions in a spirit of collaborative enquiry. Interviews with decisionmakers in each city will allow both sides – interviewer and interviewee – to reflect on their own expertise, and the constraints and opportunities they face.

Through workshops in each city, based on anonymised interview feedback, participants will interrogate the implicit norms and assumptions that govern their

work, and collaborate to develop new working practices to enable the shift to zero-carbon. Thus the project will contribute to decarbonisation efforts within each city. It will also have wider relevance, to other local areas and to other research agendas, including local economic development and regeneration, and climate policy.

Lastly, through using online collaboration software for interviews, workshops and dissemination, the project will itself be a demonstrator of a low-carbon approach to research.

Award: £27,400