



# FUNDER COMMITMENT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

YEAR 4 REPORT  
2024



# CONTENTS

<b>Overview</b>	1
<b>Introduction</b>	3
<b>Progress under each pillar of the Commitment</b>	
Educate and Learn	6
Commit resources	10
Integrate	14
Steward our investments for a post carbon future	18
Decarbonise our operations	22
<b>Further Resources</b>	25
<b>Appendix A</b> – Signatories in longstanding and more recent categories	26
<b>Appendix B</b> – Survey methodology	29
<b>Appendix C</b>	34

# OVERVIEW

- As of December 2023, there were **108** signatories to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change (FCCC)
- Of these, **102** were eligible to report on progress this year<sup>1</sup>
- Six foundations that signed the FCCC after June 2023 also responded to the survey
- We received **92** responses – **85%** of those eligible to report.

This year we have also separated progress ratings for each pillar based on how long a signatory has been signed up to the commitment.

- Long-standing signatories are classed as those who signed the FCCC in 2019 and 2020 (50 signatories)
- More recent signatories are those who signed from 2021 until December 2023 (57 signatories).

**41 responses** this year were from longstanding signatories (who signed the FCCC in 2019 and 2020) and **51 responses** were from more recent signatories (who signed after 2021).

## Successes

Reflecting on what they were most pleased with over the past year, signatories mentioned:

- Commitment to action by staff
- Work to reduce organisational emissions
- Actions around investment policies and strategies
- Establishing new grant programmes or extending existing programmes
- The grantees they support.

---

<sup>1</sup> A foundation signing the FCCC after June of each year does not have to report on their progress in the next survey (circulated in January/February), to allow them a year to make progress.

## Challenges

Reflecting on what they found the most challenging in making progress, signatories mentioned:

- Capacity – both staff and financial
- Maintaining momentum for action
- Competing priorities (for themselves and grantees) around the cost of living crisis.<sup>2</sup>

This report showcases a range of practical examples that foundations can take to support action on climate, sustainability and nature, and aims to show the breadth of foundation missions within the FCCC community.

The full details of activities and actions across the FCCC pillars can be [viewed online here](#). This data provides many practical examples of foundation activities across all pillars.

Access the raw data here

---

<sup>2</sup> There was feedback that grantees faced “more immediate/visible challenges,” and that it was “hard for non-environment organisations to think about climate action”. However, other signatories have specifically linked work around climate change and the cost of living crisis, covered later in this report.

# INTRODUCTION

This report is the fourth in an annual series which details the progress, activities and action of foundation signatories to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change (FCCC). This public statement of intent commits signatories to report annually on progress and actions taken under each pillar of the FCCC.

The results of this year's self-assessment survey shows that signatories continue to report progress, with the proportion of signatories stating they have 'made some progress' or are 'at an advanced stage' remaining at similar levels to last year. This is particularly positive given the increase in responding signatories, from 78 for the 2023 report, to 92 for this report.

This year we have also separated progress ratings for each pillar based on how long a signatory has been signed up to the commitment. We can see that 100% of long-standing signatories (who signed in 2019 and 2020) are taking some type of action on committing resources. While some are just getting started, over half report having made progress and a significant proportion are at an advanced stage. It is evident that more recent signatories (who signed after 2021) are making progress quickly in the pillar of stewarding investments for a post carbon future, with almost half reporting that they are making some progress.

Signatories continue to be engaged with the FCCC through event attendance, collaboration with others and responding to the annual progress report. While the number of new signatories was lower in 2023 than in previous years, the 27 additional signatories so far in 2024 shows that trusts and foundations continue to be aware of the part they can play in tackling the causes and effects of the climate and nature emergency.

Signatories commit to taking action and making progress on six pillars of the FCCC, which are:

## 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.

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).

## 2. Commit resources

## 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.

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.

## 4. Steward our investments for a post-carbon future

## 5. Decarbonise our operations

We will take ambitious action to minimise the carbon footprint of our own operations.

We will report annually on our progress against the five goals listed above. We will continue to develop our practice, to learn from others, and to share our learning.

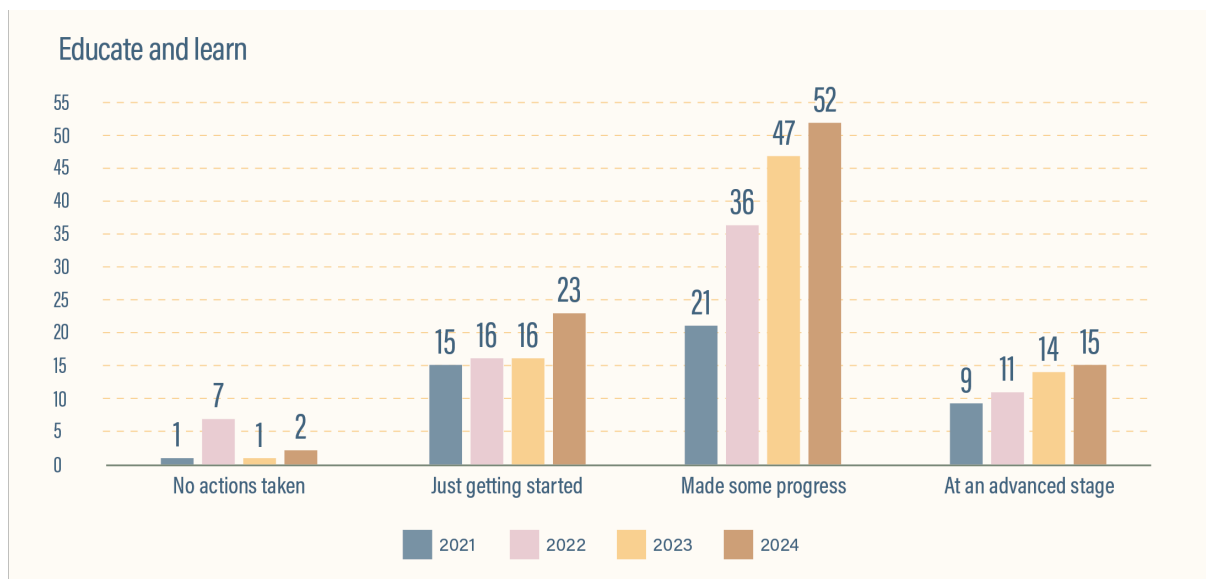
## 6. Report on progress

This report brings together signatories' responses to ACF's annual progress survey, as hosts of the FCCC. More information about the longstanding and more recent signatory categories can be found in Appendix A, and Appendix B contains the survey methodology.

# PROGRESS UNDER EACH PILLAR OF THE COMMITMENT

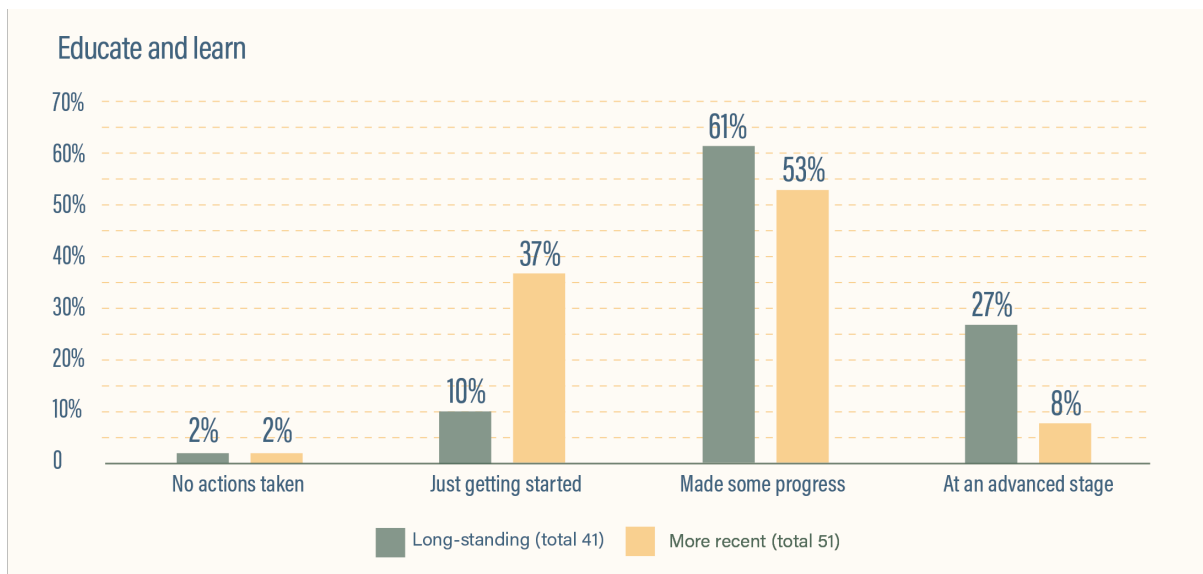
## EDUCATE AND LEARN

*We will make opportunities for our trustees, staff and stakeholders to learn more about the key causes and solutions of climate change.*



Reported progress continues to increase year on year for the educate and learn pillar. This year, 90 out of 92 responding signatories reported taking some type of action on this pillar. 67 signatories (73%) reported making some progress or being at an advanced stage on this pillar.





However, when this year’s results are broken down by long-standing signatories and more recent signatories, this pillar has the widest gap between the two groups reporting being ‘at an advanced stage.’ Only eight per cent of more recent signatories see themselves as ‘at an advanced stage,’ in comparison to 27% of longstanding signatories.

The following key themes emerged from signatory responses regarding their progress in this area.

## Networks and learning

FCCC signatories continue to engage with existing networks around environmental and climate philanthropy. The Environmental Funders Network (EFN) was mentioned in 12 responses, with signatories attending online and in person events and actively participating in EFN’s Climate Funders Group, the new Environmental Impact Investment Group and a Philanthropy Lab collective run by EFN and Bio-Leadership. The events hosted by ACF for FCCC signatories were also referenced. Activities run through the UK Community Foundations (UKCF) network were mentioned by a number of Community Foundations, with UKCF itself stating that the climate emergency is an integral part of their new strategy. Signatories also mentioned working with Impatience Earth.

## Internal work

A theme emerging from this year’s responses is the establishment of internal staff groups at signatory organisations to drive action and share resources, examples and information.<sup>3</sup> Trustees also continue to take action on this pillar, both through their own knowledge and experience or through sessions at board meetings, away days and taking part in training sessions.

<sup>3</sup> Some groups referenced include a ‘Staff Climate Group’, ‘Green Team’, ‘Climate Action Steering Group (CASG)’, and ‘Climate Action Working Group’ in their responses

## Learning from grantees

In keeping with last year's progress survey, trusts and foundations continue to share learning between grantees, and learn from grantees. This learning includes bringing grantees together both virtually and in-person, offering training around carbon literacy, and visiting projects and partner organisations to learn more about the work 'on the ground.' This has also led to a deeper understanding for some funders about the environmental challenges facing grassroots charities, and the barriers (real and perceived) to acting on climate change.

## Examples of activity

We offer access to and encourage the use of a learning platform called Sustainability Unlocked (like Netflix for understanding climate and nature topics) and encourage those involved with our Foundation to explore this resource.

**The Dixon Foundation**

We set up an internal sustainability working group with a rep from each team that meets regularly to review our action plan and share learning and resources on climate change and sustainability.

**Cripplegate Foundation**

City Bridge Foundation (CBF) has taken steps to foster a culture of learning and understanding regarding climate action...CBF has established a staff-led Climate Action Steering Group (CASG) to drive greater climate and environmental responsibility across its functions and operations.

**City Bridge Foundation**

We are currently working with a climate change consultant to develop a roadmap for action areas and priorities

**MK Community Foundation**

We organised an away-day for trustees, including sessions on managing investments for climate change and land-based solutions to mitigate climate change.

**The Pebble Trust**

Supporting Local Action on Climate Change has been established as one of our seven commitments in our new strategy and one of four priority areas for grant-making.

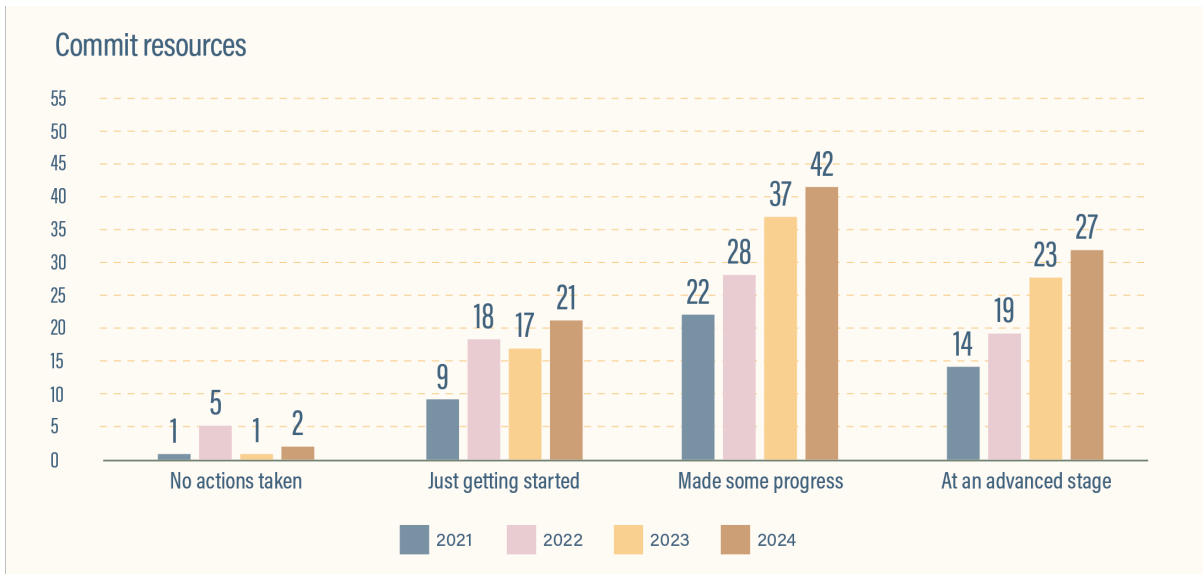
**Sussex Community Foundation**

New staff and trustees watch Aim-Hi Earth's nature and climate training as part of their inductions, and the staff team conducted sessions to discuss and reflect on the training together in July 2023... The training has also been made available to all grant-holders, via links to the resources which are included in all offer letters for new grant-holders.

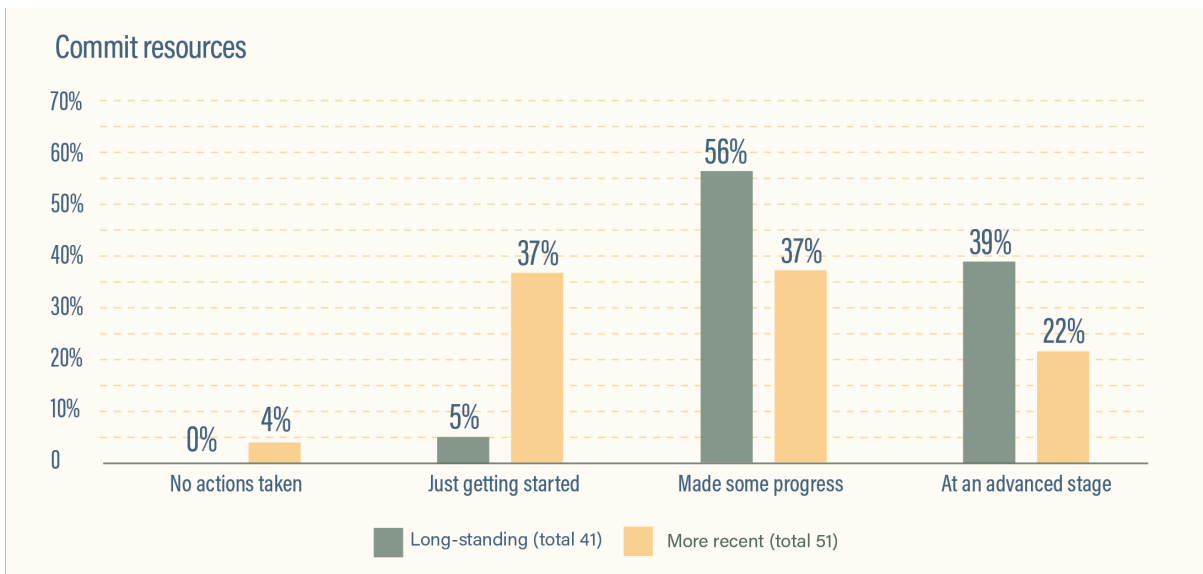
**John Ellerman Foundation**

## 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).*



The pillar on committing resources had the most signatories reporting being ‘at an advanced stage’ – 27 signatories. This pillar also had the most overall progress with 69 respondents (75%) reporting making some progress or being at an advanced stage.



When this year’s results are broken down by long-standing signatories and more recent signatories, it shows that 100% of long-standing signatories are taking some type of action

on committing resources. This pillar also received the highest number of more recent signatories reporting being at an advanced stage of progress.

The following key themes emerged from signatory responses regarding their progress in this area.

## Funding areas

While signatories were asked a separate question about the areas their foundation funded in, a number of signatories gave further detail in their responses under this pillar. Activity around food and farming, agroecology and agricultural systems that enhance nature and address climate change were specifically mentioned, as well as funding for young people through programmes around climate activism and climate justice.

While most signatories predominantly fund in the UK, a number mention supporting projects in the Global South, such as JAC Trust, Global Greengrants UK and Samworth Foundation.

Some signatories offer additional funding to grantees to support sustainable or environmental actions. Some funding was specifically for projects which were not initially environmentally focused (Oglesby Charitable Trust's [Green Grants](#) programme) while others offered support for organisational capacity building, upskilling and auditing to environmental fund partners (Co-op Foundation) or eco-audits to funded organisations (City Bridge Foundation).

## Increased spend

While the progress reporting does not require signatories to state the amount of funding which contributes to activity to tackle the climate and nature crisis, this year eight signatories reported an increase in grants, funding amounts or new funds during 2023, or the financial year covering 2023.

- Climate action was **Power to Change's** biggest spend area across the organisation in 2023
- **Global Greengrants Fund UK**, with support from funding partners, made the highest number of annual grants in the organisation's history: 453; totalling over \$3.3m
- **Quartet Community Foundation** retained their increase in climate-related grant-making, with 7.4% of total grant-making spend in this area
- **Foundation Scotland** surpassed £1 million awarded in green grants – supporting over 40 community endeavours pursuing environmental sustainability in 2023
- **Leeds Community Foundation** opened a new partnership grants programme with Climate Action Leeds and made nine microgrants (up to £1,500 per grant) and nine small grants (up to £5,000 per grant) to enable local grassroots action on climate change

- From June 2023 **Veolia Environmental Trust** fully implemented new funding criteria ensuring that every funded project is taking some action toward reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and tackling climate change
- **City Bridge Foundation's** Board have committed to establishing a new designated fund for climate action, totalling £15 million, for projects aimed at enabling the charity to achieve or surpass its climate action objectives
- **The National Lottery Community Fund** committed to extend the funding through their flagship environmental fund – the Climate Action Fund – this financial year

## Committing non-financial resources

The FCCC pillar states that there are other ways to contribute resources, alongside directly funding work. Some signatories have committed staff time to activities, such as **Inspiring Scotland's** support for the development of the [Growing Climate Confidence tool](#). Other organisations aim to provide expertise and connections rather than grants.

## Examples of activity

Our main aim is to be the funder that helps grassroots community groups get started on their carbon-reduction journey, providing a friendly, non-judgmental starting point for climate action.

**Veolia Environmental Trust**

Two members of the BBC Children in Need team embarked upon "80/20" placements within the Group BBC Sustainability Team...These staff were able to spend 20% of their weeks working with the BBC team to gain learning and understanding as well as get expert support to drive forward work.

**BBC Children in Need**

The trust made a commitment that up to half of its funding would go towards climate initiatives. Now, all new grants in the "humanitarian" sector will be climate-focussed.

**Brian Mercer Trust**

We have put considerable resource into developing the Nature Action Hub, our volunteering platform for environmental experts, connecting them with community nature recovery projects. We have increased investment into the platform by building partnerships with environmental consultancies.

**Southwood Foundation**

We will fund organisations to take action on environmental responsibility as part of their 'core costs', and have written this into the applicant guidance materials, however there is no programmatic allocation towards this.

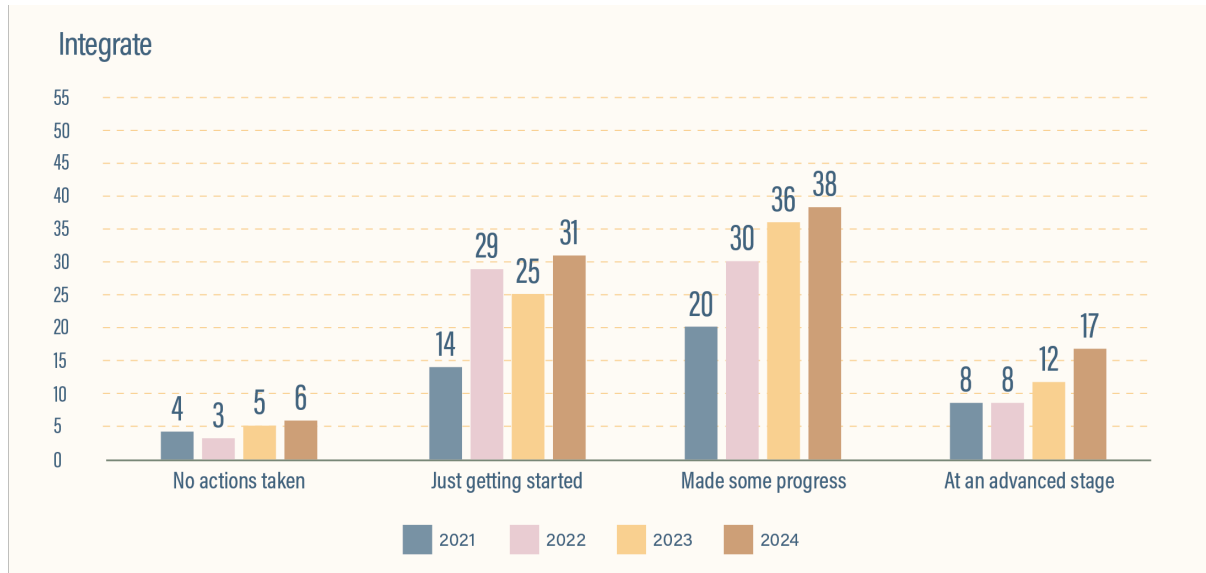
**Youth Music**

We have launched an energy efficiency programme supporting charities and social enterprises with blended finance (mix of grant and repayable) to make their buildings more energy efficient.

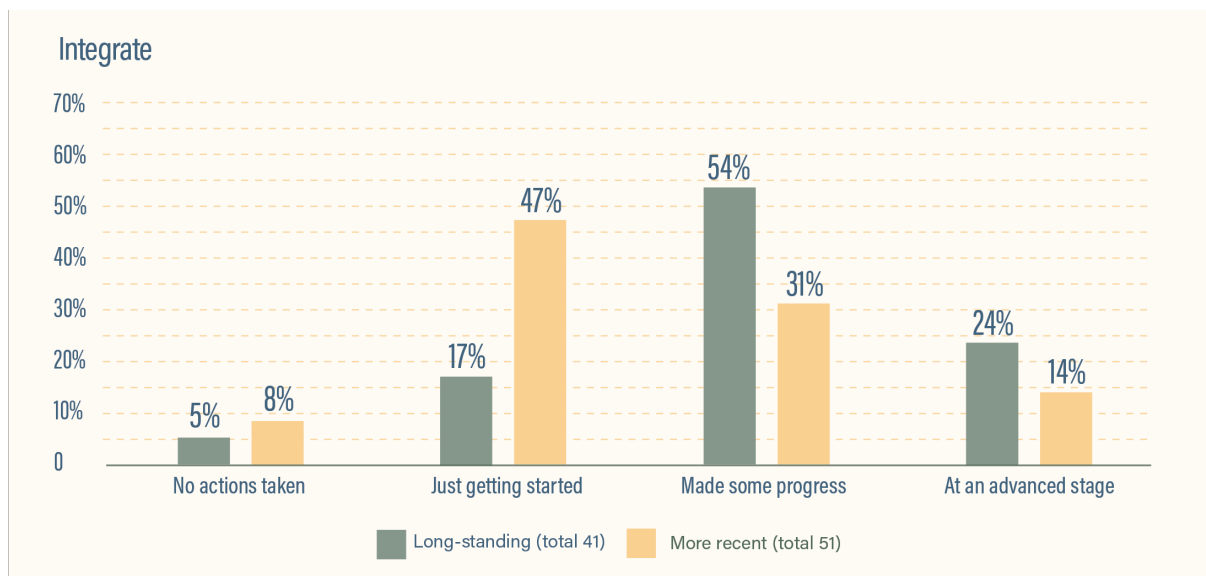
**Access – the Foundation for Social Investment**

## 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.*



The percentage of signatories reporting they are at an advanced stage has risen this year, with 18% of this year’s respondents reporting being at an advanced stage, compared to 15% of respondents to the last year’s survey.



When this year’s results are broken down by long-standing signatories and more recent signatories, reported progress is slower for more recent signatories on the ‘integrate’ pillar, with almost half (47%) saying they are ‘just getting started.’

The following key themes emerged from signatory responses regarding their progress in this area.



## Linking missions with climate

Signatories continued to identify intersections between their mission and climate, sustainability and nature. A number of responses under the 'committing resources' pillar also described areas where climate intersected with other areas of work for the foundation. Funders have also continued to link work around climate change and sustainability to the cost of living crisis, for example funding retrofitting buildings to reduce energy consumption, projects focused on tackling food insecurity and work aligned to strategic aims to reduce poverty.

Through their mainstream environmental grants programme, **Oglesby Charitable Trust** have begun funding conversations with several organisations around new work, some of which is intersectional and cuts across inequalities in environmental living conditions, access to food, and employment.

**BBC Children in Need** are funding The Felix Project over three years, on a project focused on tackling food insecurity. A by-product of this project is preventing greenhouse gas emissions caused by surplus food going to waste. The project has redistributed 60 tonnes of surplus food, preventing 154 tonnes of greenhouse gases (embedded in the production of the food) from being emitted without a purpose.

**Robertson Trust** have committed to support work that aligns with their Climate Commitment and strategic aims to reduce poverty and trauma in Scotland.

## Integrating climate considerations into funding applications

Last year's FCCC progress survey found that some signatories had started to include questions about the climate implications of funded activities, or were asking applicants to share their environmental policies. This subject was discussed in several FCCC Knowledge Exchange events over 2023, where staff from signatory foundations come together to share information and challenges, ask questions and learn from others. A funder's guiding principle of 'inspire, not require' grantees to consider the environment or sustainability in their activities was shared and resonated with the group.

Responses to this year's progress survey reported an increased focus on integrating climate considerations into funding.

More signatories reported including questions in their application forms about sustainability or including climate considerations in due diligence for grant decisions. Some foundations encourage applicants to describe how environmental considerations have been factored into their project design, while others have included additional criteria around sustainability to their application process.

Rather than including questions in application forms, some signatory foundations have amended guidance to state that they are able to fund environmental projects, or have made links between their funding area and climate more explicit in their grant application and assessment processes.

Foundations remain aware of adding to requirements for applicants, with the Co-op Foundation stating: "we remain cautious and considerate about our asks matching the size and capacity of the organisation."

## A 'golden thread' in a strategic plan

Maintaining a theme from previous years, signatories have continued to integrate climate into their overall strategic plans. The environment and climate have been described as 'a key strand,' a 'golden thread' and a 'cross-cutting theme' in organisational strategies. Some signatories also mention separate climate plans or strategies for the operational side of their work.

## Examples of activity

Funding for organisations that work at the intersection of our thematic focus and the climate emergency is increasingly common.

We have launched a new priority - Nature for Health - which will fund projects for people with mental health problems to access natural spaces. Learning from these projects will be incorporated into our advocacy and influencing work with policy makers.

**People's Health Trust**

We routinely ask the following question at application stage, to gain insight and spark discussion about climate action: "To what extent is your organisation considering its impact on the environment? Please describe any current or planned activity, and any obstacles you may face."

**The Oglesby Charitable Trust**

We have amended existing grants programmes and guidelines and website to make it clearer that our focus on the education of children and young people also includes environmental projects and education.

**St Giles & St George**

We are increasingly considering how our work tackling poverty and inequality can integrate climate and sustainability aims, for example considering how underrepresented groups can benefit from nature and the environment.

**Badur Foundation**

Increasingly incorporating the impact of climate change in our due diligence and influencing recipients e.g. when asked by a grantee if we would contribute to the cost of new boilers at their local hospice, we offered to help with longer term solutions instead, such as improved insulation.

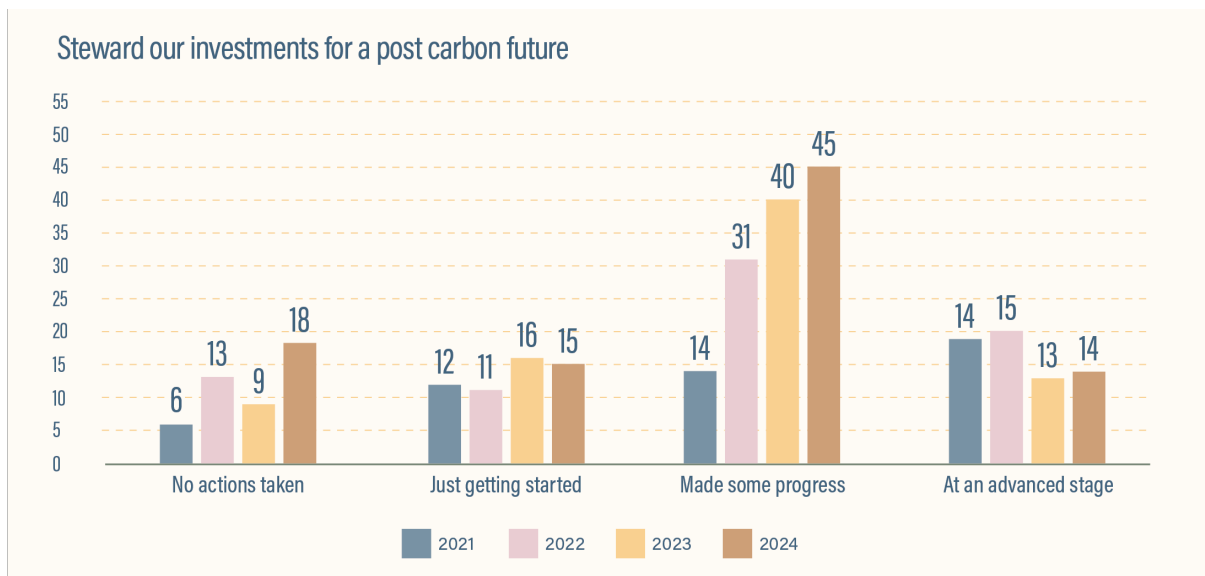
**Castansa Trust**

Sustainability is included within our published Outcomes Framework and we ask grantees to tell us how their work contributes to this outcome. All funded organisations are expected to demonstrate a commitment to environmental, economic and social sustainability.

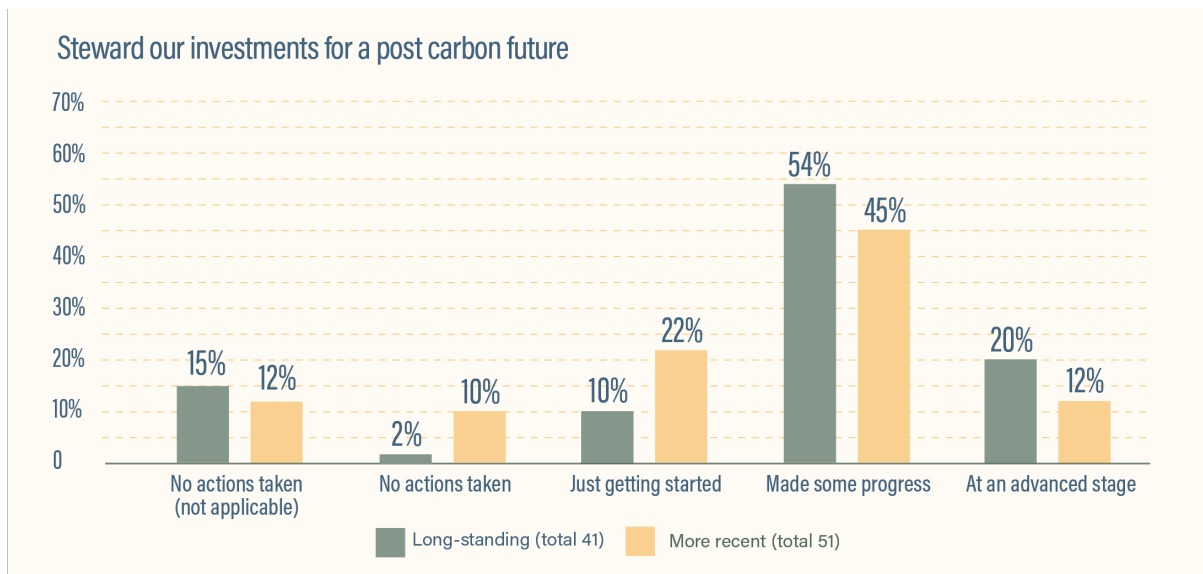
**London Marathon Foundation**

## 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.*



Out of the 18 signatories who reported 'no action taken' on this pillar this year, 12 of them state that the pillar is not applicable to them as they do not hold investments, leaving six signatories who could take action but have not. This shows that progress has increased from last year, with fewer signatories reporting 'no actions taken' or 'just getting started' this year in comparison to last year.



More recent signatories (who signed after 2021) appear to be making progress quickly on this pillar, with almost half reporting that they are making some progress. Almost all long-standing signatories are also taking action on this pillar, with only two per cent reporting no actions taken.

The following key themes emerged from signatory responses regarding their progress in this area.

## Investment strategies with net zero targets

In August 2023, Cazenove Capital, in association with ACF, published a report exploring charities’ climate commitments and investments. The report, [Climate Confident: Charity investments and net zero](#), features case studies from four FCCC signatories: Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Guy’s & St Thomas’ Foundation and Treebeard Trust. These foundations have set net zero targets for their investment portfolios, and their approaches, progress, future plans and advice to others are detailed in the report.

In this year’s progress survey, four signatories<sup>4</sup> specifically mention that their investment policies include a net zero target. The four targets are for the investment portfolio to be net zero by 2040, and an additional signatory<sup>5</sup> states: “our Investment Managers are signatories of the Net Zero Asset Management initiative which is committed to supporting the goal of net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner.”

## Impact investments

A number of signatories mentioned making impact investments in the climate space, which seek to produce social and environmental benefits as well as a financial return. ACF

<sup>4</sup> Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, JAC Trust, Leeds Community Foundation, City Bridge Foundation.

<sup>5</sup> Forces in Mind Trust

supported the establishment of the Environmental Funders Network’s Environmental Impact Investing Group, which a number of signatories have joined.

## Other actions reported under this pillar

12 signatory foundations who responded to this year’s progress survey do not hold investments, making this pillar inapplicable. However, there were increased mentions of actions classed under this pillar that were not related to investments in comparison to previous years. Six signatories mentioned that they had changed bank providers due to environmental considerations, and two signatories specifically mentioned pensions – one had undertaken a review of providers and the other makes staff aware of greener pension options that are available.

## Examples of activity

Alongside our main portfolio of investments, we continue to grow our social investment fund and our newly launched impact investment fund, both managed by our own internal team. A key focus for our impact investment allocation is on solutions that directly address climate change.

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

We are actively participating in the Charities Responsible Investment Network... We have also provided a core costs multi-year grant to ShareAction to support their work to harness the power of the investment system and change it for the better.

**John Ellerman Foundation**

In 2023 we went through a robust procurement process for the provision of investment management services... We specifically asked [providers] how they would help BBC Children in Need develop and monitor an appropriate approach to climate justice and sustainability with the objective being to align our investment policy more closely with our charitable objectives.

**BBC Children in Need**

In 2023, we carried out an investment manager tender process which included specific questions about their approach to environmental issues. We circulated details of the Funder Commitment on Climate Change and ACF’s Stronger Foundations Project report on investments as part of the tender pack.

**Cloudesley**

We have developed our investment policy to put stewardship of the environment at the front and centre of our investment approach. In early 2024 we moved our investment portfolio into a sustainable pooled product for charities and we look forward to being able to see the carbon impact of our portfolio.

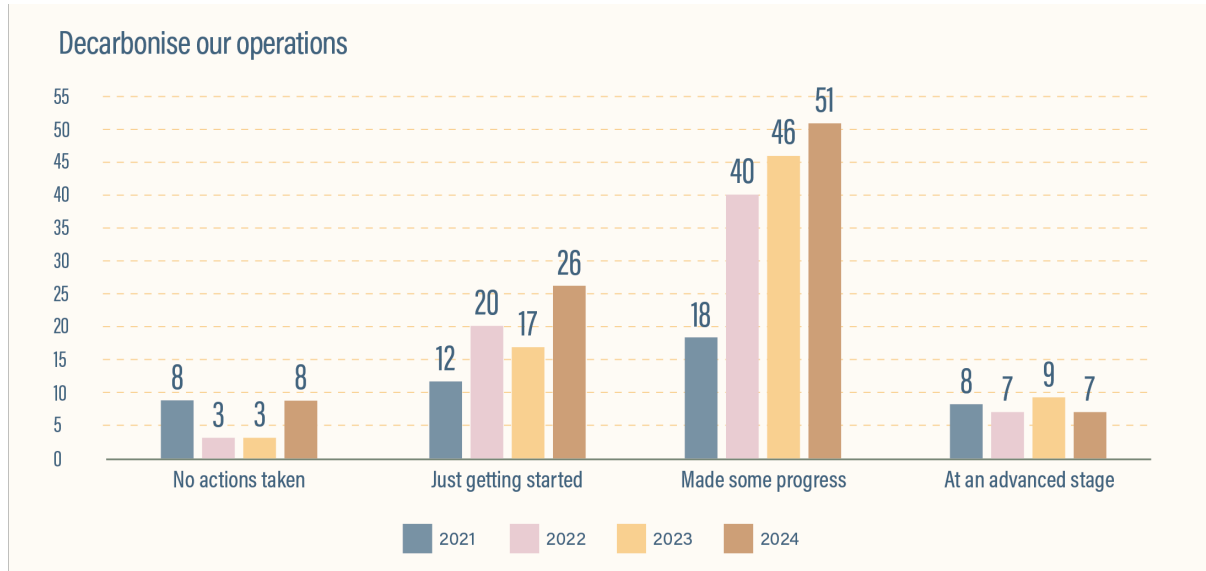
**The AIM Foundation**

We systematically review climate change and social impact in our manager review (each fund manager is reviewed at least once a year).

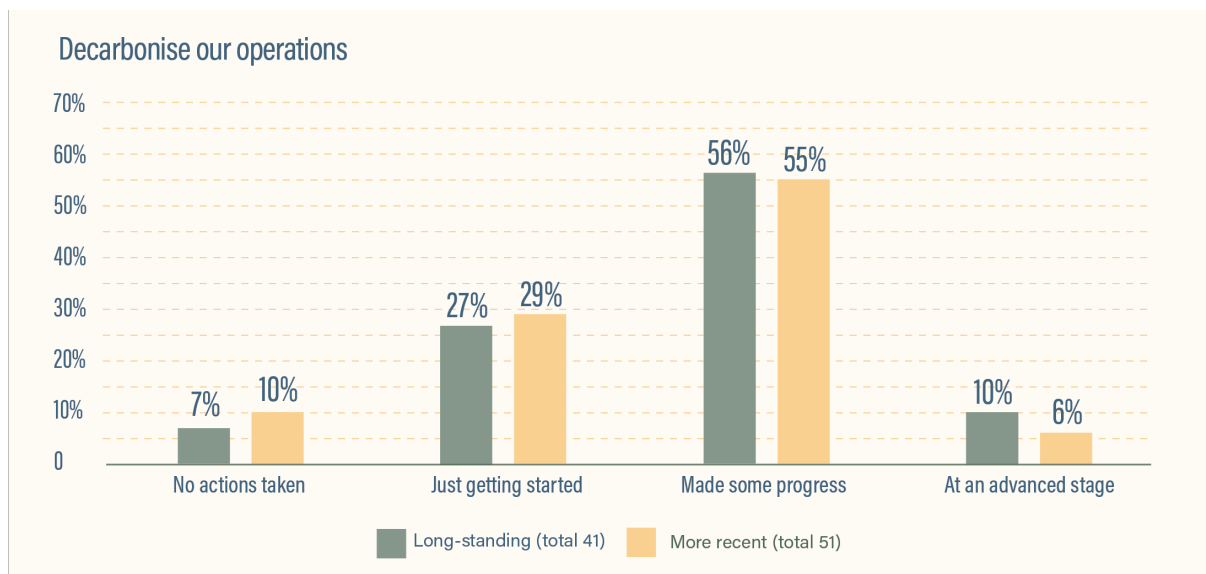
**UnLtd - The Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs**

## DECARBONISE OUR OPERATIONS

*We will take ambitious action to minimise the carbon footprint of our own operations.*



This pillar had the most signatories reporting ‘no actions taken’<sup>6</sup> – eight signatories in total, an increase of five signatories on the previous year. This pillar also had the fewest number of signatories reported being ‘at an advanced stage’ – seven signatories, and two signatories fewer than the previous year.



When this year’s results are broken down by long-standing signatories and more recent signatories, length of time as a signatory makes a limited impact on self-assessment of

<sup>6</sup> When those who answered ‘no action taken’ on the investment pillar due to it not being applicable to their organisation.



progress on the decarbonising operations pillar. A similar number of both groups of signatories report 'just getting started' or 'made some progress'.

The following key themes emerged from signatory responses regarding their progress in this area.

## **Operations**

As in previous years, signatories often mentioned maximising hybrid or remote working and holding meetings online when reporting on this pillar. Some signatories stated that due to their small teams, and or having no office space, meant that they had a small carbon footprint.

Where signatories had a larger staff team, they reported encouraging the use of public and active transport, including through cycle to work schemes. However, it was mentioned that some projects, particularly environmental projects, are only accessible by car.

## **Environmental and carbon audits**

Signatories continue to assess the carbon intensity of their operations, with three signatories mentioning an environmental audit, and five mentioning they had measured the carbon footprint of their organisation. One signatory (Carnegie UK) continues to capture the same data captured in their original eco audit annually to track progress over time.

## **The impact of digital**

This year, three signatories specifically mentioned digital actions under progress on this pillar. People's Health Trust report that their website is hosted on 100% renewable energy servers, Friends Provident Foundation report that they are reviewing their electronic carbon footprint, especially of emails and websites, and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation ran a Digital Cleanup Day campaign to highlight how to reduce the energy intensity of daily use of digital platforms.

## **Procurement and suppliers**

Signatories are also taking actions around procurement and suppliers. Some are reviewing their suppliers or policies, looking to identify organisations that are also playing their part in addressing climate change or who align with the organisation's mission. Going further, City Bridge Foundation has sustainability commitments written into tender requirements and the selection process is oriented towards climate impact.

## Examples of activity

We continue to promote the cycle-to-work scheme which is available to all members of staff. Furthermore, we have recently updated our expenses policy to encourage travel by bike, as well as other modes of public transport.

**Forces in Mind Trust**

We are zero waste-to-landfill, and we have quarterly organisational meetings that include all staff to share and learn about how we are increasing our sustainability. We question the carbon footprint of events we are invited to before attending.

**Dixon Foundation**

Policy introduced of no internal flights and a 'Think Train' approach.

**Barrow Cadbury Trust**

We've created a new employee taskforce that will be looking at our operations and where we can integrate emissions reductions into our operations. Additionally, we made sure to take climate into consideration in our new office during our search, which has resulted in us having moved to a new office with a significantly lower carbon footprint

**Comic Relief**

In 2022/23, we signed up to the Mayor of London's Business Climate Challenge, which included a comprehensive energy review of our office building. We are now working through the recommendations.

**Paul Hamlyn Foundation**

We have begun reviewing our service providers to identify values aligned organisations that are committed to playing their part in addressing climate change. We have also been proactive in ensuring that we buy eco-friendly or second-hand products as much as possible across the entirety of our work.

**Blgrave Trust**

# FURTHER RESOURCES

Over the past year, a number of resources have been published which could be of use to FCCC signatories as well as trusts and foundations who are interested in how they can take action on climate change.

Cazenove Capital, in association with ACF, published [Climate Confident: Charity investments and net zero](#), a report exploring charities' climate commitments and investments. It outlines the actionable steps charities can take to get started, and features four case studies. These are from Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland, Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Guy's & St Thomas' Foundation and Treebeard Trust – all FCCC signatories.

Philea, the Philanthropy Europe Association, have also published [Feeling the Heat](#), a report on how foundations can make climate-aligned investments. It features three case studies, including one from Barrow Cadbury Trust, a FCCC signatory.

The European Community Foundation Initiative have published [Walking the Climate Talk: Stories of community foundation climate action journeys from around Europe](#), a selection of case studies from across Europe including Kent Community Foundation, a FCCC signatory.

# APPENDIX A – SIGNATORIES IN LONGSTANDING AND MORE RECENT CATEGORIES

## Longstanding signatories (2019 – December 2020)

50 signatories

Access - The Foundation for Social Investment  
Arcadia Fund  
Barchester Healthcare Foundation  
Barrow Cadbury Trust  
Blagrove Trust  
Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation UK Branch  
Cloudesley  
Cole Charitable Trust  
Comic Relief  
Community Foundation for Northern Ireland  
Corra Foundation  
David Brownlow Charitable Foundation  
Esmée Fairbairn Foundation  
Foundation Scotland  
Frederick Mulder Foundation  
Friends Provident Foundation  
Global Greengrants Fund UK  
Gower Street  
Guy's and St Thomas' Foundation  
Hagan Family Foundation  
Heathrow Community Trust  
JAC Trust  
John Ellerman Foundation  
Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust  
Lankelly Chase  
Local Trust  
MCS Charitable Foundation  
Network for Social Change Charitable Trust  
Oglesby Charitable Trust  
OVO Foundation  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation  
Pebble Trust  
Polden-Puckham Charitable Foundation  
Power To Change  
Quartet Community Foundation  
Samworth Foundation  
Sir Walter St John's Educational Charity

Solberga Foundation  
Sussex Community Foundation  
The Aurora Trust  
The Badur Foundation  
The Kreitman Foundation  
The Mark Leonard Trust  
The Southwood Foundation  
Thirty Percy Foundation  
Treebeard Trust  
Wates Family Enterprise Trust  
Wates Foundation  
Wolfson Foundation  
World Habitat

## **More recent signatories (January 2021 - December 2023)**

57 signatories

10% for the Ocean  
A Team Foundation  
AIM Foundation  
Albert Hunt Trust  
Andrews Charitable Trust  
Arkboun Foundation  
Barnwood Trust  
Bath and West Community Energy Fund (BWCE Fund)  
BBC Children in Need  
Bedfordshire & Luton Community Foundation  
Bishop Radford Trust  
Brian Mercer Trust  
British and Foreign School Society  
Carnegie UK Trust  
Castansa Trust  
City Bridge Foundation  
Community Foundation Tyne & Wear and Northumberland  
Co-op Foundation  
Cripplegate Foundation  
DWF Foundation  
Energy Saving Trust Foundation  
Essex Community Foundation  
Forces in Mind Trust  
Foundation for Future London  
GrantScape  
Greenwood Place  
Grocers' Charity  
Impact Funding Partners

Inspiring Scotland  
Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW)  
Foundation  
Inverclyde Community Fund  
Jerwood Foundation  
Joffe Charitable Trust CIO  
Kent Community Foundation  
Leeds Community Foundation  
Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation  
Lloyds Bank Foundation for England and Wales  
London Marathon Foundation  
Maitri Trust  
Milton Keynes Community Foundation  
National Lottery Community Fund  
NHS Lothian Charity  
Nottinghamshire Community Foundation  
People's Health Trust  
Road Safety Trust  
Robertson Trust  
South Yorkshire's Community Foundation  
St Giles & St George  
The Dixon Foundation  
The JJ Charitable Trust  
The Paristamen Charity  
The Saintbury Trust  
UK Community Foundations  
UnLtd (The Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs)  
Veolia Environmental Trust  
Wembley National Stadium Trust  
Youth Music

## APPENDIX B – SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The FCCC self-assessment survey of progress was circulated to all signatories in January 2024, and was open until March 2024, using Smart Survey.

**92** responses were provided from signatories during this period - **85%** of those eligible to report.

At the time of the survey opening, there were **108** signatories to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change. Of these, **102** were eligible to report on progress this year<sup>7</sup>. **Six** foundations which signed the FCCC after June 2023 also responded to the survey.

This year's survey captured the progress of 11 additional signatories in comparison to 2023's report.<sup>8</sup>

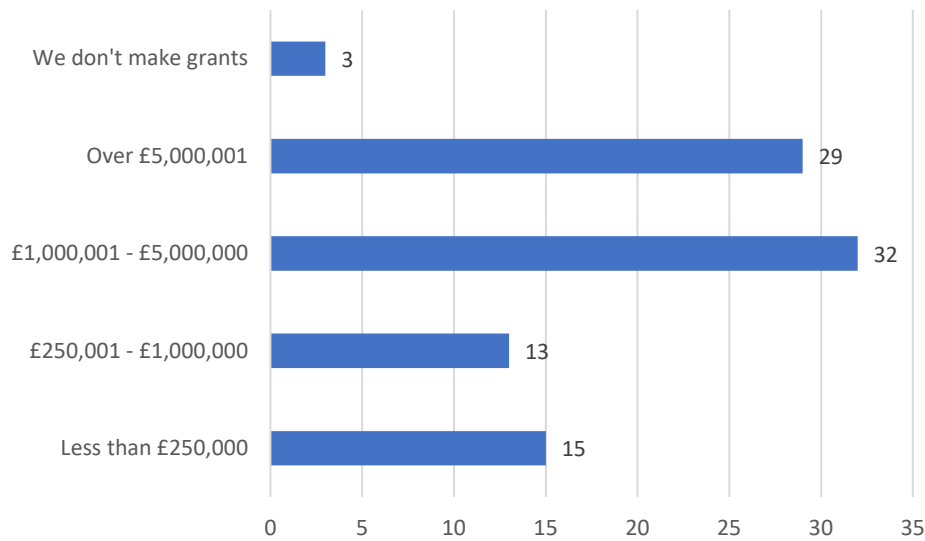
As well as their progress on the pillars of the FCCC, data was collected on the size, type and funding area of the survey respondents.

---

<sup>7</sup> A foundation signing the FCCC after June of each year does not have to report on their progress in the next survey (circulated in January/February), to allow them a year to make progress.

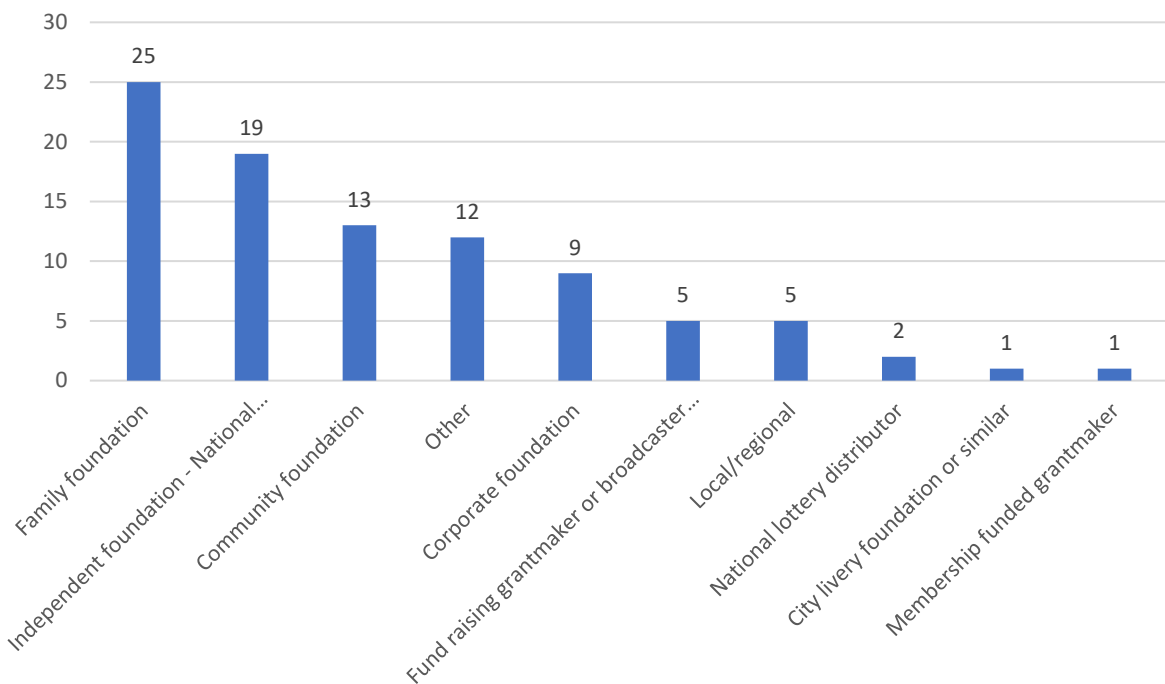
<sup>8</sup> These signatories are Andrews Charitable Trust, the Joffe Charitable Trust CIO, Energy Saving Trust Foundation, People's Health Trust, The Paristamen Charity, Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation, Leeds Community Foundation, London Marathon Foundation, Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales, NHS Lothian Charity and the National Lottery Community Fund.

## SIZE OF RESPONDING SIGNATORIES (of annual grant-making)



This year's responses come from a higher percentage of smaller grant-makers; 16% of respondents in 2023 have an annual grant-making size of less than £250,000, in comparison with 11% (eight) respondents in 2023.

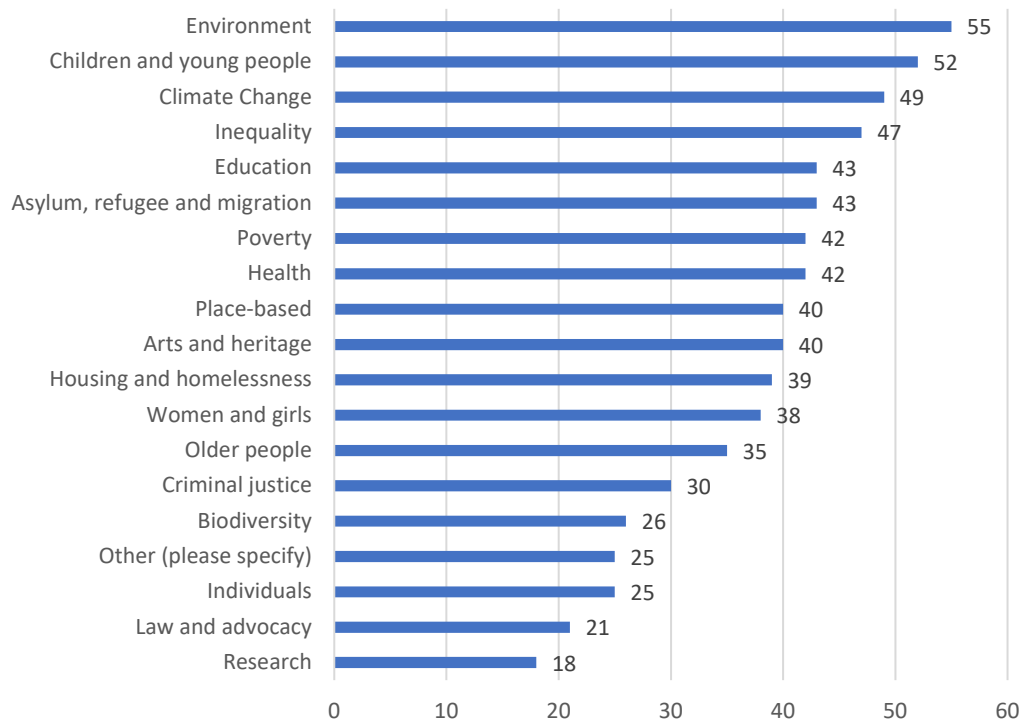
## TYPE OF RESPONDING SIGNATORY FOUNDATION





Those who responded 'other' includes a grant-making CIO, Independent Fund Manager, Voluntary organisation where grant-making is not primary focus and a Community Benefit Society.

## FUNDING AREAS OF RESPONDING SIGNATORIES



The responses to this question demonstrate the wide range of funding areas supported by FCCC signatories. Respondents were able to select more than one funding area. The range of 'other' funding categories mentioned includes faith, human rights and peacebuilding, open access to information and social action.

## OVERVIEW OF SIGNATORIES WHO SIGNED IN 2023

		The Paristamen Charity	Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation	Energy Saving Trust Foundation	Educational Opportunity Foundation	People's Health Trust	Leeds Community Foundation	London Marathon Foundation	Lloyds Bank Foundation for England & Wales	NHS Lothian Charity	The National Lottery Community Fund
Size by annual grant-making		Less than £250k	£250k - £1m		£1m - £5m		Over £5m				
Funding area											
Planet	Biodiversity		✓							✓	✓
	Climate change	✓		✓			✓				✓
	Environment		✓			✓	✓				✓
People	Asylum, refugee and migration	✓				✓	✓		✓		✓
	Children and young people	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓			✓
	Health	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Individuals		✓				✓				✓
	Older people	✓	✓			✓	✓				✓
	Poverty	✓	✓			✓			✓		✓
	Women and girls		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
Place	Housing and homelessness	✓				✓	✓		✓		✓
	Place-based		✓			✓	✓		✓		✓
Other	Arts and heritage		✓			✓	✓			✓	✓
	Criminal justice	✓							✓		
	Digital inclusion										
	Education		✓		✓		✓				✓
	Inequality	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Law and advocacy	✓									
	Research					✓					✓
	Religion	✓									
Wellbeing						✓					

## ABOUT THE SURVEY

The responses on signatories' self-assessment of progress on each pillar have been collated as bar charts and presented alongside the results for the previous two years. The number of responses received has increased year on year, reflecting the increase in signatories over the time FCCC has been established.

Examples which have been selected to demonstrate action under each pillar are intended to show the wide range of activity taken by signatories, with a focus on reflecting the diversity of size, type and mission of signatories. We hope they are interesting, useful and inspiring to other funders.

Some quotes have been taken from a longer survey response, which can be read in the raw data spreadsheet.

While all the information is provided by signatories themselves, these survey answers should not be relied upon as a full statement of foundation funding guidelines or organisational policies, and interested readers should refer to foundation websites for current information. FCCC relies on self-reporting, and ACF has not independently verified the actions that foundations have reported. Where signatories have provided links to websites, statements and annual reports for more detailed information, these links have been included in the raw data spreadsheet.

# APPENDIX C

## SPECIFIC REPORTS PUBLISHED ABOUT SIGNATORIES' PROGRESS AGAINST THE FCCC PILLARS

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation:**

<https://esmeefairbairn.org.uk/latestnews/fundercommitmentonclimatechange2023update/>

**John Ellerman Foundation:** <https://jef-ellerman.files.svdcn.com/production/Year-Four-FCoCC-Update.pdf?dm=1710944035>

## MORE INFORMATION ON SIGNATORIES' ACTIONS AROUND THE ENVIRONMENT OR CLIMATE CHANGE

**Arcadia:** <https://www.arcadiafund.org.uk/articles/towards-a-greener-arcadia>

**Carnegie UK:**

<https://carnegieuktrust.org.uk/blogposts/reachingnetzerowhatdoesthismeanfordemocracyntheuk/>

**City Bridge Foundation/ City of London Corporation Joint Climate Action Strategy Progress Report 2023:**

<https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/environmentalhealth/climateaction/ourclimateactionprogress>

**Cloudesley:** <https://www.cloudesley.org.uk/aboutus/values/climateaction/>

**Cripplegate Foundation:**

<https://cripplegate.org/aboutus/ourpolicies/fundercommitmentonclimatechange/>

**Foundation Scotland:** <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/our-impact/our-commitment-to-climate-change>

**Quartet Community Foundation:** <https://quartetcf.org.uk/aboutus/climate/>

**World Habitat:**

<https://worldhabitat.org/aboutworldhabitat/whatwedo/ourcommitmenttosustainability/planetmarkcertification/>

The report was written by Rachel Heydecker, ACF's policy and practice manager, with thanks to Francesca de Munnich, Catherine Seymour, Carol Mack and Jo Hunt for their input and feedback.

ACF's work on the Funder Commitment on Climate Change from July 2022 to the present has been supported by John Ellerman Foundation. For any enquiries, please email [climate@acf.org.uk](mailto:climate@acf.org.uk).

The full text of the Funder Commitment, current list of signatories, and form to sign up to the Commitment can all be found at [fundercommitmentclimatechange.org](https://fundercommitmentclimatechange.org).

***Published June 2024 by the Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF).***

**[www.acf.org.uk](http://www.acf.org.uk)**

**Contact us: [acf@acf.org.uk](mailto:acf@acf.org.uk)**



*Association of Charitable Foundations is  
a company limited by guarantee,  
registered in England and Wales.  
Registered Company No. 5190466.  
Registered Office: 28 Commercial Street,  
London, E1 6LS.  
Registered Charity Number: 1105412*