

Agenda

Grant Skills Day

Monday 21st October 2019

Venue: Amnesty International Netherlands, Keizersgracht 177, 1016 DR Amsterdam

Funding with a Climate Lens –

How to Climate-Proof Your Foundation and Strategies

Why is this topic important to funders?

Climate change is the largest and most pervasive threat to both the environment and human societies. Yet, too often we talk about climate change and human rights as if they were two separate issues, when, as is now widely acknowledged, they are inextricably linked.

In recent years, the wider philanthropic space has begun to examine its impact on the climate and the environment more broadly, including through participation in the [DivestInvest](#) movement. Climate-proofing our foundations is an important contribution to the fight against climate change. How we can adapt our investments and policies to reduce climate risk and mitigate emissions will become an ever more important question.

At the same time, applying a climate-lens to our strategies as human rights and social justice funders will further our missions, and allow us to continue funding our priorities in a radically changing environment, while ensuring that the solutions to climate change are rooted and protect human rights.

What can funders expect to get out of the event?

This Grant Skills Day will focus on practical ways human rights and social justice funders can begin to incorporate climate change both into their strategies and foundations' operations, to climate-proof their work. The day will be part master-class and part workshops facilitated by leading thinkers and grant-makers with experience of supporting climate work. During the day funders will explore how climate change intersects with their existing work and will:

- Learn about the manifold manifestations and connections of climate change as a human rights issue
- Gain a deeper appreciation of the role of funders and how they can take climate change into consideration by:
 - Assessing how their programme aims and grantees are likely to be affected by climate change
 - Considering support to organisations working in climate-fragile geographies

- Reviewing foundation policies on issues such as investments and travel
- Becoming an advocate for climate solutions

Ariadne is a peer-to-peer network and this event has been designed by a planning committee, with representatives from ***the Environmental Funders Network, Ford Foundation, FRIDA Young Feminist Fund, Global Greengrants Fund, IKEA Foundation, Oak Foundation, and the Ashden, Mark Leonard, and JJ Charitable Trusts.*** All funders are welcome to register and attend.

Outline of the Day

9:30 – 10:15: Coffee and registration

10:15 – 10:30: Introduction

Julie Broome, Ariadne Director, will give an overview of the day and breakdown of the sessions.

10:30 – 12:30: Masterclass with Tessa Khan, Climate Litigation Network and Majandra Rodriguez

Acha, FRIDA Fund

This session will offer an overview of how climate change intersects with human rights. How will climate change impact the ability of people to access their rights? How will groups such as women, minorities, and children be affected? Why is this an issue that should concern donors supporting social change and human rights? How has the human rights community responded (or not responded) to the problem of climate change?

12:30 – 13:45: Networking Lunch

Facilitated sessions: 90 minutes each. *N.B. The sessions will run concurrently so please choose and sign up for the one that most appeals to you. During these interactive sessions, participants are encouraged to share their experiences with each other.*

13:45 – 15:15: Session series 1: Leveraging Financial Resources to Support Climate

1.a. Funding with a climate lens – how to integrate climate change into your strategies

This session will consider how funders can think about the climate crisis with regard to their existing programmatic aims and grantees. How will your work be affected? How is your work already being affected by climate change (though it may not be an explicit focus) in specific geographies and/or particular communities you support? What are some opportunities and barriers to integrate a climate lens into your grantmaking work?

A breakout session to explore case studies of human rights donors / philanthropic organisations across various sectors who are working to better integrate a climate lens into their work - and a space to share questions, challenges and ideas on how to identify opportunities to start and/or further this work in your own grantmaking.

This session will be moderated by Anne Henshaw, Oak Foundation, with interventions from Kristina Johansson, Solberga Foundation; Elizabeth McKeon, IKEA Foundation; and Children's Investment Fund Foundation (TBC).

1.b. Profiting from climate collapse?

As charity investors, shouldn't we be accountable for how we raise our funds as well as how we spend them? It would seem indefensible to put our short-term financial welfare before everything else. However, it's still normal practice for us to invest in the companies that are devastating our climate - a practice we know is damaging our beneficiaries and destroying our world as well as the longer-term value of our endowments.

In this seminar we'll explore how our biggest financial assets – our endowments – might be a tool to achieve rather than undermine the Paris Agreement. There are a range of opportunities and options available to investors including examples of how we can work collaboratively to shift social norms on investing and what we can do within our own foundations. You will take away some different ideas, some tools, some useful new contacts and hopefully, some inspiration!

This session will be moderated by Sian Ferguson, Ashden, Mark Leonard, and JJ Charitable Trusts.

15:15 – 15:45: Coffee Break

15:45 – 17:15: Session series 2: Using Non-Financial Resources to Support Climate

2.a. How to communicate climate change inside your foundation and to the wider human rights sector

This session will share approaches on how to start communicating about climate change in your foundation and the wider sector. How can funders connect their existing work to the climate crisis, and what are the communications tools and approaches that can help promote these connections internally and externally? What are the narratives that work, and the case studies we need? And what are opportunities and strategies for peer-to-peer influencing on climate change among human rights funders?

This session will be moderated by Eva Rehse, Global Greengrants Fund, with interventions from European Climate Foundation and Climate Outreach (TBC).

2.b. Climate-proofing your foundation – how to become 1.5C compliant

This session will invite foundations to consider the impact of their own operations as well as the impact of their grantees' operations and will cover questions such as:

- Does your foundation operate in a 1.5 degree compliant manner? This includes, for example, endowment management, fossil fuel risk disclosure for retirement funds, choices around hospitality, travel policy and the built environment.
- In countries where you fund, are your projects climate mindful?
- What can you do to inspire, insist or assist your grantees to operate in a 1.5 degree compliant manner (e.g., PRIs for retrofits, due diligence thresholds, challenge grants for innovations in practice)?

This session will be led by Elizabeth McKeon, IKEA Foundation.

17:15 – 17:30: Wrap up

Thank you to IKEA Foundation for their support to this event.