

Cripplegate Foundation

Funder Commitment on Climate Change:
Report on year 1 progress

July 2023



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Cripplegate Foundation has joined our Funder peers by signing up to the [Funder Commitment on Climate Change](#). The following action plan shows our progress in the first year of our commitment.

Islington Council has published their Net Zero Carbon strategy that sets out their “vision of a fair and green future for local people and their plan for a net zero carbon Islington by 2030”. It builds on work to make the borough a fairer place for everyone by helping with the cost of living and mitigating the inequalities exacerbated by climate change.

Islington is the most densely populated local authority in the UK and has the least green space per head of population of any local authority in the UK. Both factors have an impact on the mental and physical health and wellbeing of people living in Islington.

We will commit to review our progress against the stated goals at least annually. This is a draft framework where we are recording and reviewing progress.

1. EDUCATE AND LEARN

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

Cripplegate Foundation actions:

Action	Measure of success	Update
As a place-based funder, Islington Giving signed up as members of the Council’s ISEP (Islington Sustainable Energy Programme) group in summer 2021	Sustainability Working Group (WG) is informed of local green initiatives	Complete
Each member of Sustainability WG to review external resources: Islington Council’s Net Zero strategy, Heart of the City’s toolkit, other funder commitments	More informed working group discussions and future planning	Complete
Members of the WG to share relevant resources to the Slack channel which all staff members can access	Informed colleagues	Ongoing
WG rep to attend local Angel BID sustainability forum and any other forums available	Attendance	Ongoing and Islington Giving hosted the first Angel Responsible Business Network in June 2023
Meet and learn from other local foundations who have signed the commitment	Meetings with other funders	Complete
Explore training and audits to assess our own environmental performance	Audit complete and recommendations put in place	Audit took place in July 2023 and awaiting recommendations

Building-wide chats (involving four organisations) about sustainability – explore who our fellow sustainability office champions are		Arranged a monthly BYO lunch for everyone in the office as a social opportunity and to explore sustainability further.
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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).

Cripplegate Foundation actions:

Action	Measure of success	Update
Explore the role of sustainability champions on our board	Board members volunteer and reflect on our action plan	Not yet explored
Establish and maintain an internal Sustainability Working Group (WG)	Group established, meets, and implements plan	WG established with new members recruited in 2022 and the 2023 meeting series has now been arranged. Reps of this group join the ACF FCCC meetings / events
Undertake an Eco-Audit	Eco-audit takes place and recommendations are provided and included in this action plan	Explored with City Bridge but not eligible so undertook an ISEP audit in June 2023 instead and awaiting recommendations
Islington Giving funding raised and committed for the 'Going Greener Fund' in 2022	Funds awarded to local groups for reducing their environmental impact locally	Funding awarded to 6 local groups to improve their environmental impact in 2022
Review investments / investment manager fees	Portfolio is in line with investment policy and Paris agreement	Complete with ongoing review
The Foundation's ongoing Community Chest funding awarded for environmental & sustainability projects	Monitor and retain level of funding under this theme	Review required of all current grantees to see how many are environmental / sustainability-focused
Social impact investing explored by Cripplegate Foundation Governors	Social impact investing takes into account sustainability	Review required to understand which of the UN SDG's the board has selected for social impact investing
Funding raised and committed to support sustainable food services in Islington in partnership with the Islington Food Partnership	Funding awarded to sustainable local food services	Google funding received by Islington Giving has been awarded to fund strategic local projects for a thriving local food system. One of the aims is to make the food system more sustainable and accessible

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.

Cripplegate Foundation actions:

Action	Measure of success	Update
As above, Islington Giving piloted a 'Going Greener Fund' from which we have learned more about the priorities, challenges and barriers to voluntary groups' capacity to change their operations	Good quality applications received, funding awarded, eco-projects delivered	£30,000 was awarded to 6 local groups to improve their environmental impact. One project included an e-cargo bike to reduce emissions. All groups were brought together after the funding was awarded in 2022 to learn from each other
Arrange several separate focused discussions internally to consider if / how we can integrate all programmes, policies and processes	Meeting takes place and ideas shared and taken forward	Not yet started
Review what environment-focused orgs we fund and consider how we talk about / share the directly funded green orgs	Internal audit takes place, team has a better idea of proportion of grant funding allocated to local environmental projects / orgs	Programme Manager reviewing what 'green' groups we fund and the total proportion of funding for environmental projects
Explore collaboration with BIG Alliance on local green initiatives between businesses and local vol sector orgs	TBC	Climate change and volunteering is part of the 3-year partnership with Macquarie Foundation

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.

Cripplegate Foundation actions:

Action	Measure of success	Update
The Foundation intends to align the investment portfolio with the Paris Agreement on climate change	The investment portfolio aligns with the Paris Agreement	Ongoing
The Foundation has adopted a responsible investment policy to ensure that its investments align with its aims. The policy excludes:	A responsible investment policy is	Ongoing

'investments in any company that derives more than 10% of revenues from fossil fuel'	adopted and continually improved	
The Foundation will reduce the overall portfolio carbon emissions		Ongoing
The Foundation will encourage the energy transition, through active ownership and investing in solutions (e.g. renewable energy and infrastructure)	Proactive investment of the Foundation's endowment in energy transition	Ongoing
The screening policy excludes coal and tar sand	The policy excludes coal and tar sands	Investment Managers instructed
Discuss the Foundation's day to day banking provider in relation to sustainability performance	A review of our banking suppliers take place	Work in progress - ACTION – LR to take update and questions to SMT

5. DECARBONISE OUR OPERATIONS

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

Cripplegate Foundation actions:

Action	Measure of success	Update
Explore veg-only meeting catering for all Cripplegate Foundation meetings.	All meeting catering is veg-only	Agreed and ongoing. Also ensuring only local suppliers and, where possible, ethical Suppliers, such as Eden.
Recommend food waste bin in kitchen for all tenants		Unable to implement at this stage as no commercial food waste collection available. ACTION – encourage less food waste in the first instance.
Local supply and sourcing options – potentially create a policy around this	Policy in place and adhered to by all staff	As above.
Staff travel – Ensure all staff have adequate options for most sustainable commute i.e. bike locker, cycle to work scheme, shower, season ticket loans	Adequate options in place for sustainable travel for all staff	Shower in office. Bike locker. Cycle to work scheme now in place and being used by staff. No-one drives to the office – all walking, cycling or public transport. Patrick to get medal for cycling from Croydon!!
Become a paperless office – tbc depending on the high users / barriers		Not mandated, but most are mindful of printing. Governor Hub soon in place for board papers

Trial office closure one Friday per month where less than 4 people come in. Saves on lighting, heating and aircon in a large office space		Complete – office closures in place last Friday of every month and mostly being observed.
Review alternatives to disposable hand towels in bathroom		Work in progress

6. REPORT ON PROGRESS

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.

Cripplegate Foundation suggested actions:

Action	Measure of success	Update
Create a public-facing version and publish this plan publicly on Cripplegate.org	Plan published on policy page of CF site	Complete and now published on policies page of website
Report on progress in our annual report	Update / section included in annual reports from 2022	To be included in the 2022 annual report
FCCC annual report	Cripplegate progress included in ACF FCCC data on website	Complete for year 1, published by ACF in June 2023

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Registered Charity No: 207499
13 Elliott's Place, London N1 8HX
www.cripplegate.org