**Funder Commitment on Climate Change**

**Year 4 Report**

The Samworth Foundation became a signatory to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change in January 2020. 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 Commitment provides funders with a framework for considering how their investments, operations and funding can both help tackle the causes and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Our progress towards these goals is outlined below.

| Commitment | Progress, 2023 |
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| 1. Educate and learn
 | * Staff and trustees visited and met with grantholders and other organisations working to combat climate change and protect and restore our natural world, this has included visits to an organic farm, a farm incorporating agroforestry, and a nature reserve.
* Staff and trustees attended webinars, conferences, and other learning events on climate change, land management and biodiversity, including the Oxford Real Farming Conference, Groundswell, and the Environmental Funders Network (EFN) Retreat.
* We continued our membership of the EFN, enabling us to access online webinars, reports, and in-person learning events.
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| 1. Commit resources
 | 50% of the Foundation’s annual core funding is given to organisations working to restore biodiversity and tackle climate change. This year, we reviewed our environment funding programme, and the Foundation’s new focus will be on ‘Building better agricultural systems that enhance nature and address climate change’. Examples of new awards this year include: grants to Conservative Environment Network, Labour Climate and Environment Forum, Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF), and Wildlife and Countryside Link.Recognising that climate change impacts on those who contribute to the issue the least, some of our funding is directed to work in the Global South, for example we support Ripple Effect’s work in Ethiopia that aims to mitigate the impacts of climate change by supporting agroecological farming techniques and works to empower communities to be financially secure. |
| 1. Integrate
 | * In 2021, we launched a Transformation and Innovation Fund to help grantholders to build back after the Covid pandemic. Grantholders were encouraged to apply a ‘green lens’ to their projects. This Fund is now closed to new applications, but this year we have continued to receive final reports about the outcome of the work supported by these awards, and they illustrate the positive environmental impacts of the funding, e,g. reduced national and international travel, the development of spaces for nature, and work to educate clients on climate change.
* We continue to explore the links between our environment programme and work in the anti-slavery space (50% of our portfolio is directed at work to end modern slavery and exploitation). Our multi-year grant to Ripple Effect for work that supports sustainable farming and works to empower communities, straddles both of our core grant programmes. By helping communities to be both financially and food secure, the work will reduce the risk of climate migration, therefore reducing the risk of people being exploited.
* Staff attended learning events to better understand the impact of climate change on the clients of non-climate NGOs.
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| 1. Steward our investments for a post carbon future
 | * We continue to receive quarterly Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) information from our independent financial advisors regarding our investments. This year we also met with one of our main fund managers to discuss their actions around ESG factors.
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| 1. Decarbonise our operations
 | * The staff team continues to use a hybrid working model, reducing the need to travel to and from the office.
* When in-person meetings are necessary, wherever possible, staff and trustees use public transport.
* A large number of meetings organised by the Foundation and attended by staff and Trustees take place virtually.
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