



Environmental Funders Network

**ANNUAL REPORT 2022**



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## Our mission and vision

**We aim to increase the levels of philanthropic support for environmental causes and to improve its overall effectiveness.**

**Our vision is of a world where people and planet thrive.**



Environmental Funders Network

## Our pillars of work

**We have three pillars to our strategy, aligned with our mission:**

**1**

Improving the effectiveness of environmental funding



**2**

Expanding environmental philanthropy



**3**

Supporting those that do environmental work to be more effective





## External context for our work in 2022

●  
Interest in environmental philanthropy continued to rise, with more new donors entering the space and some established funders scaling up their environmental giving.

●  
Complementary new organisations and initiatives emerged, focused on increasing funds for environmental causes.

●  
Climate and nature continued to be of public concern in the UK, with extreme summer temperatures making the crisis real for many.

●  
Climate activism continued to make headlines.

●  
But non-environmental concerns - the cost of living crisis, war in Ukraine, political turmoil in the UK and the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic - combined to create a challenging context for environmental work.



## Justice, equity, diversity and inclusion

**EFN is committed to the principles of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion, recognising their inherent value and necessity, including for effective environmental work. Acknowledging that there are many facets to diversity, we focused in 2022 on anti-racism, looking at how our organisation operates internally and in our outward-facing work. Supported by [‘You Change It’](#) anti-racism allyship training, our board and staff team agreed follow-up actions to take this work forwards.**

Our principal actions in 2022 were to:

- Develop a plan to ensure that EFN supports and gives a platform to groups that are led by, and work with, a diversity of people (e.g. through our events, blog and Rapid Response Fund), with a particular focus on people from racialised communities.
- Develop practices and policies to foster an inclusive culture at EFN, including a policy on microaggressions and practices learnt from the EFN Retreat’s Building for Belonging workshop led by Collaborative Future.
- Significantly change our hiring practices, adopting measures to reduce bias.
- Submit internal racial diversity data to the first iteration of the [RACE Report](#), and encourage organisations in our networks to participate.
- Review the guidance and recommendations in the [Route map towards greater ethnic diversity in the environment sector](#) to identify additional priority actions for own work and to support the wider sector.

This work will be ongoing and we look forward to reporting back to the network in future years on our progress in embodying the values of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion.







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**BY THE NUMBERS**



## 2022 by the numbers: **Supporting funders**

*“ When you started at EFN, environmental funding was a pond – now it’s a lake; let’s turn it into an ocean! ”*

*“ I can’t thank you enough for shepherding the community in the tireless and compassionate way you do. ”*

*“ Thanks again for the best newsletter in the sector, always a great read. ”*

- **481** funders attended **43** EFN events
- including staff and trustees from over **200** trusts and foundations
- and over **70** individual donors
- EFN’s newsletter supported over **850** funders with resources and invitations to meetings and events to inform their giving





*“EFN is doing some great work which is much appreciated – I feel well networked and supported! I can’t wait to see what’s planned for next year.”*

*“This is the best & most useful email I’ve had for ages.”*

*“A brief note to say well done on the fundraiser collaboration event last week. It’s really encouraging to see such clear and targeted aims and progress. Looking forward to seeing and helping this come to life!”*

*“The Big Give appeal went brilliantly and we comfortably exceeded our target.”*

- **240** fundraisers on our new ‘Green Fundraisers Forum’ on Slack
- **630** representatives of environmental groups supported by our newsletters with resources and events for the sector – up by over 200 this year
- Over **100** funders and environmental group leaders attended our **What the Green Groups Said Symposium** to discuss effectiveness
- Over **150** fundraisers attended our meetings convening fundraisers from across the sector
- Almost **£2.8 million** raised for environmental initiatives through our partnerships with the Big Give and The Funding Network



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## 2022 by the numbers: **Member Supporters**

“EFN membership provides members of the executive team and Ellerman trustees with valuable insights and updates, as well incomparable networking opportunities. A small team like ours simply couldn't achieve what we do in the environmental space without you! ”

“EFN continues to be enormously beneficial to us with education, collaboration, resourcing and community. ”

“We're happy to keep contributing to this powerful network. ”

- **99** trusts and individuals made membership contributions to EFN totalling **£280,000**

“You are always such a font of knowledge and provide an ideal opportunity for quality networking. ”

“The EFN is a great resource for the environmental funding community. As an infrastructure organisation it feels very important to support it so that the sector as a whole can be more cohesive and effective! ”







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**WORK PILLAR I:**

**Improving the effectiveness  
of environmental philanthropy**



## Improving Effectiveness: **Funder Events**

*Really useful provocation to help recognise our biases and gaps. Also a very useful framing for how one might practice systemic funding. 🐾*

*I thought that your Culture and Climate event was excellent. Thank you so much for the incredible work you do. 🐾*

*Thank you for organising such a warm, welcoming and inspiring space. I know these things are hard work to bring to life and EFN did it with calmness and fun. 🐾*

We hosted **43** convenings for funders, providing information and a forum for discussion on a host of issues – from sessions on nature conservation policy in the UK to a workshop on models of how social change happens.





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## Improving Effectiveness: EFN Retreat

*‘ Thank you for organising such a wonderful and thought-provoking retreat. I feel so much more connected to my sector as a result. ’*

*‘ This was my first in-person retreat and I had such a wonderful time and really feel like I have connected on a deeper and more meaningful level with others working in this space - thank you! ’*

*‘ The event was very welcoming and to me it struck the right balance between sharing knowledge (work/learning) and other activities (socialising/experiencing) and that’s a credit to all of the staff. ’*

Our events included the happy return of our annual two-day, in-person retreat for funders.



*‘ The EFN retreat is totally invaluable in making connections with other funders in the space. ’*

*‘ I have always found the EFN Retreat to be the best event of the year. This year’s was no exception! ’*



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## Improving Effectiveness: **Philanthropy Lab**

*‘We are big advocates for more collaboration within the sector and are very grateful for everything EFN does to further this. ’*

We announced this new initiative in 2022, with seven foundations and individual donors signing up to be its initial catalyst participants, starting in early 2023. The Lab will foster a new way of working that supports more collaborative and systemic approaches to philanthropy. This first iteration will focus on ‘creating economies in service to life.’





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## Improving Effectiveness: **Climate Funders Group**

“ The Climate Funders Group has had a major influence on our general funding strategy and also specific grants that come from session content. ”

“ We’ve teamed up with two other funders, met at the Climate Funders Group, to initiate a UK programme on methane. ”

We continued to convene our Climate Funders Group, co-ordinated with Tessa Durham of Gower Street and Greg Hilditch of Global Greengrants Fund UK, helping funders embrace effective climate philanthropy in the UK and internationally.



## 16 Improving Effectiveness: **Environmental Finance & Learning**

*‘ I like the idea of being assisted to find a pipeline, to assess investment proposals, and, importantly, to build a network to source such opportunities going forwards. ’*



We are pleased to partner with the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation to deliver the learning programme for this fund. Fifteen participating funders provided £670,000 to be deployed by the foundation as environmental investments. That was matched three times over by the foundation, resulting in £2.7m to be invested over three years.

The learning programme, which is taking place over the same three years, is familiarising participants with the process of making environmental investments, supporting them to make informed decisions about how to invest directly, thus helping to build the environmental investment market.



## Improving Effectiveness: Research & Publications

*‘Your data and evidence-based research has been really helpful in persuading trustees to focus on environment ... you have provided us with evidence for a stronger argument to do so.’*

*‘The ‘Where the Green Grants Went Scotland’ report has been instrumental in the development of our foundation, particularly with the Marine & Aquatic sub-group. I am really glad that we could help support this insightful research.’*

What do environmental initiatives need to be more effective?  
How can funders best support them?

In May we published the third edition in our **What the Green Groups Said** research series, which surveyed over 100 environmental organisations to answer these questions; our symposium in September brought together NGOs and funders to discuss the key findings.

Our other research series – **Where the Green Grants Went** – continues to be used regularly by funders and NGOs to inform and refine their strategies; we presented an in-depth analysis of Scotland-specific grants data to Scottish funders/NGOs in September.







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**WORK PILLAR II:**

**Expanding Environmental Philanthropy**



In 2022, this programme continued to focus on inspiring new environmental donors to act and to feel a sense of agency, but now that there is much more awareness about the climate and nature crisis, our work has tipped more towards supporting donors to act. We do this by working in partnership with others, advising new donors, and helping funders to recognise the intersections between their aims and the environment.

*“EFN’s support as we develop our environmental funding has been invaluable so far. 🌱”*

Raising awareness

Engaging

Inspiring

Partnerships

Advising/supporting

Intersections  
between issues





We are delighted to work with an array of partners, supporting their networks of funders to start giving or give more to environmental causes.



The Beacon Collaborative





## EEP: Partnerships (cont.)

*‘ Thanks again for getting the Green Match Fund going - we raised approximately five times what our spring appeal would otherwise. ’*

*‘ We’re thrilled with the result, both financially and it’s been a great touchpoint to build relationships with our partners and major donors. It makes a real difference to a small charity like ours. ’*

**Through joint events with The Funding Network, we helped:**

- raise over **£100k** for five small environmental charities in 2022
- raise more than **£300k** for small charities over five years, which they used to bring in a further **£1.2 million** to support their work

**In partnerships with the Big Give, we have:**

- raised nearly **£2.8 million** for **146** environmental charities in 2022 (an increase from £1.8 million in 2021)

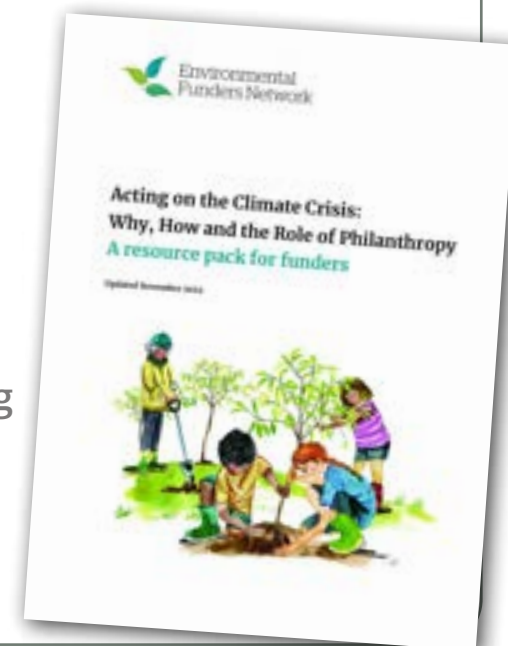


*‘ Thank you! The conversation filled me up with things to research and I am very grateful for your time. ’*

*‘ You have helped us tremendously in securing new donors to support, connecting us with experts and speakers, and providing a platform for the service that we offer to funders. ’*



- Bespoke advice: we have frequent calls and meetings with prospective donors to environmental causes, to make recommendations and connections.
- We regularly connect new environmental donors to other organisations that offer in depth training, resources and advice, such as Active Philanthropy, Impatience Earth and Climate Leadership Initiative.
- We produce resources to support new donors, such as our ‘Acting on the Climate Crisis’ guide, updated in 2022.





## EFP: Advising and supporting

We help funders to explore the intersections between their aims and the environment, and support them to start giving to environmental causes.

In 2022, we published a [‘Healthy Planet, Healthy People’](#) philanthropy briefing with NPC as part of our series exploring the links between the environment and human health.

We also started to explore how funders can support the arts, culture and entertainment sectors to inspire action on the climate and nature crisis, and reimagine the world we want to live in – this programme will be developed in 2023.

*“Your [health and environment resources] are brilliant – thank you so much! I’ve cribbed from the briefing and also watched the video. We have our initial strategy priorities meeting next week – fingers crossed we can weave the environment in. The stats are so compelling. ”*

(HEALTH FUNDER)



*“ Thanks again for that amazing opportunity to speak to so many funders and get the word out about these topics, **HUGELY** appreciated! Please extend our thanks to the whole team who was involved. You were all great! ”*

(NETWORK COORDINATOR OF SCOTLAND-WIDE eNGO)

*“ It’s heartening to connect our voices and hope the environmental messages can be amplified. We are delighted to be involved in the network. ”*

(EFN’S NEWEST SCOTTISH MEMBER FUNDER)

Our work in Scotland reflects our broader goals, aiming to network and galvanise funders in Scotland to support environmental causes. In 2022, we hosted three events for Scottish funders, gave talks and presentations on environmental giving at a wide range of meetings and provided extensive advice to funders and environmental groups bilaterally.

Ten Scottish-based foundations have now signed on to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change - remarkable given how few Scottish-based foundations were funding environmental work when we launched our Scotland programme.

With our encouragement, Scottish eNGOs applied to the Big Give’s Green Match in large numbers and over 10 per cent of the featured organisations were based in Scotland; 15 Scottish eNGOs raised over £200,000 for their work.







Environmental Funders Network

**WORK PILLAR III:**  
**Supporting the Sector**

## Supporting the Sector



This strand of our work focuses on supporting the environment sector to become more effective, in particular in terms of its fundraising, communications and connectivity.

Our Green Fundraisers Forum and fundraisers' mailing list now have over 600 subscribers. The forum enables people working within a wide range environmental groups to get to know each other, fostering a culture of collaboration and providing opportunities for learning, discussion, and relationship building.





## Supporting the Sector: Collaboration workshops

In addition to sharing new funding opportunities and helpful resources with the group, we also run convenings for fundraisers throughout the year to discuss emerging themes and to hear from experts and people working on the ground.

In May we ran two sector collaboration workshops, attended by over 40 representatives from environmental groups (mainly senior fundraisers) who are working across various thematic issues. The goal of these workshops was to establish a set of sector-wide strategic projects to bring more resources into the sector, and which EFN could support and facilitate.



## 28 Supporting the Sector: **Collaboration workshops (cont.)**

We are now working to develop three ideas that emerged from those convenings:

- 1 engaging wealth advisors around environmental philanthropy
- 2 a sector-wide media appeal to create a sea change in environmental funding
- 3 developing a 'map' of the sector that would be useful to both funders and environmental groups



**These activities will be the flagship projects within each of our three focus areas in our Supporting the Sector work.**



## Supporting the Sector: **Convening**

In September, we ran a symposium to discuss the findings of our **What the Green Groups Said** report. We had a mixed audience of over 100 environmental funders and environmental group leaders, bringing together a broad range of perspectives to debate the key challenges and opportunities facing the sector.

*Just a quick note to say how much I enjoyed the symposium your team put on yesterday. It was my first real exposure to EFN as a community and I was so impressed and enthused by how engaged and honest the conversation felt. 🌱*

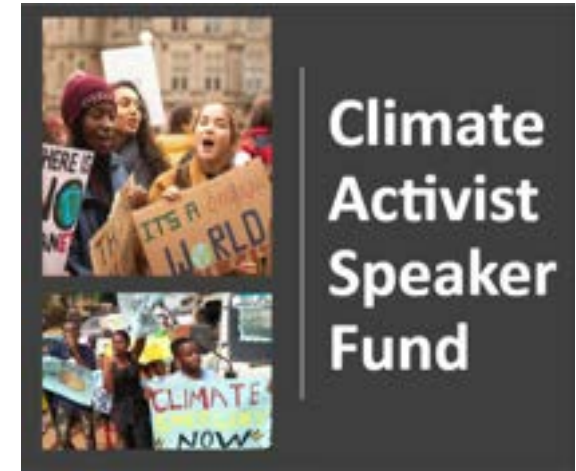


## 30 Supporting the Sector: **Young climate and nature activists**

“ Having someone say, ‘We care about what you have to say and we will pay you to say it here’ – it’s very empowering. ”

“ It’s important for activists to receive training and support around speaking opportunities as so often they are just thrust onto platforms with no support or experience – this isn’t good practice. ”

We launched the **Climate Activist Speaker Fund** to help funders keen to support the critical work of young climate and nature activists (who themselves lack access to funding) but who need to distribute funds to registered organisations rather than unincorporated groups or individuals.



The fund will test a new way of supporting young activists by compensating them for delivering their messages far and wide, aiming to magnify the impact activists and funders can have.

The fund was conceptualised by and for activists as a simple way for them to access unrestricted philanthropic funding while also receiving long-term benefits such as training, peer networks, well-being support and greater audience reach.



Funders participating in EFN's [Rapid Response Fund](#) provided 12 initiatives with £187,046 in rapidly disbursed funding over the course of the year, helping them seize opportunities or respond to crises. Amongst other initiatives, the funders were able to support:

- The Messaging this Moment project led by The Culture Initiative, which provided messaging advice across sectors on how to communicate about climate change and the cost of living crisis without pitting them against each other.
- A campaign by International Lawyers Project which stopped the Kenyan Parliament from passing an amendment that would have removed legislative protections for Kenya's forests.
- A citizen science initiative to test levels of radioactivity in sediment dumped into the Severn Estuary during construction of new nuclear reactors at Hinkley Point.



## Our team



‘ Huge thanks to you and everyone at EFN, what a fabulous group of humans you are and the network is. I feel very humbled to be a part of it. ’

FRONT ROW, L-R: **Aliyah Green** (*Communications Coordinator*), **Julie Christie** (*EFN Scotland Coordinator*), **Jane Cabutti** (*Growing Philanthropy Director*), **Emma Clyde** (*Office Manager*)

BACK ROW, L-R: **Patricia Cremona** (*Programme and Research Coordinator*), **Natasha Ratter** (*Environment Sector Programme Lead*), **Florence Miller** (*Director*), **Helen Mian** (*Finance and Governance Manager*)





**Board of Trustees**

**Catherine Bryan**, *Chair (Trustee, Synchronicity Earth, and Chair, Shoal Initiative)*

**Sian Ferguson** *(Trust Executive of the Aurora Trust, JJ Charitable Trust and Mark Leonard Trust)*

**Liz Gadd** *(Principal Consultant with New Philanthropy Capital and Trustee, Pesticide Action Network)*

**Hugh Mehta** *(Head of Philanthropy and Partnerships, Climate at the Children's Investment Fund Foundation)*

**Fiona Napier** *(independent consultant and Africa Nature Lead, the Climate Champions team)*

**Champa Patel** *(Senior Director, Governments and Policy, The Climate Group)*

**Eva Rehse** *(Director of Strategy and Global Collaboration at Global Greengrants Fund)*



With great thanks to our trustees who stepped down in 2022, for their many years providing invaluable advice and guidance to EFN:

**Hugh Raven** *(EFN chair until September 2022)* & **Harriet Williams**



**Expanding Environmental Philanthropy  
Advisory Board**

**James Arbib** *(Trustee, Tellus Mater foundation)*

**Cindy Forde** *(Founder, Planetari)*

**Ben Goldsmith** *(Trustee, JMG Foundation)*

**Anna Guyer** *(Founder, Greenhouse Communications)*

**Rachel Harrington**  
*(Executive Director, Coutts Family Office & Coutts Institute)*

**Edward Mallinckrodt**  
*(Trustee, Mallinckrodt Foundation)*

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**Hugh Raven**  
*(Chair, Highlands & Islands Environment Foundation)*

**Jessica Sweidan** *(Co-founder, Synchronicity Earth)*

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*(Charity Governance Specialist, abrdn)*

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**Mary-Ann Smyth** *(Philanthropist)*

**Hugh Raven**  
*(Chair, Highlands & Islands Environment Foundation)*

**Celia Tennant** *(Chief Executive, Inspiring Scotland)*





## Grant contributors

**10% for the Ocean**

**Barrow Cadbury Trust**

**Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation**

**Craignish Trust**

**Dunlossit & Islay Community Trust**

**Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**

**Garfield Weston Foundation**

**Global Greengrants Fund**

**Impatience Earth**

**John Ellerman Foundation**

**Mark Leonard Trust**

**The National Lottery Community Fund**

**Synchronicity Earth**

**Waterloo Foundation**

**Wates Family Enterprise Trust**

**William Grant Foundation**

*and others who wish to remain anonymous*

## In-kind supporters and partners

**Active Philanthropy**

**Association of Charitable Foundations**

**Beacon Collaborative**

**Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation**

**Climate Leadership Initiative**

**Fishmongers' Company's Charitable Trust**

**Funder Commitment on Climate Change**

**Kokoro**

**London Funders**

**New Philanthropy Capital**

**Scotland Funders Forum**

**Synergos Global Philanthropists Circle**

**Scottish Grantmakers**

**The Philanthropy Workshop**

**We Act (International Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change)**

**West Midlands Funders Network**



## We are grateful to our supporters in 2022

### Membership contributors

A Team Foundation	EQ Foundation	James Thornton	On the Edge Conservation
AIM Foundation	Ernest Cook Trust	Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	Pebble Trust
Anthony Rae Foundation	Esmée Fairbairn Foundation	Kestrelman Trust	People's Postcode Lottery
Bacon Foundation	European Climate Foundation	Kevin and Donna Cox	Pickwell Foundation
Badur Foundation	Evolution Education Trust	Kreitman Foundation	Polden-Puckham
Be the Earth Foundation	Farming the Future	Kusuma Trust	Charitable Foundation
Big Give	Fishmongers' Company's	Laudes Foundation	Power to Change
Brian Mercer Trust	Charitable Trust	Levine Family Foundation	Robert Sansom
Carman Family Foundation	Foundation for	Lund Trust, a charitable trust of	Rothschild Foundation
Castansa Trust	Integrated Transport	Lisbet Rausing and	Samworth Foundation
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Changing Ideas	Gallifrey Foundation	Margaret Hayman	Schroder Foundation
Children's Investment Fund	Global Greengrants Fund	Charitable Trust	Serve All Trust
Foundation	Golden Bottle Trust	Maria Spink	Solberga Foundation
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Co-operative Community	Hagan Family Foundation	Melissa Murdoch	The V & G Fund
Investment Foundation	Heather Currey	Michael O'Mara Books	Tinsley Charitable Trust
Corton Hill Trust	Human Capability Foundation	Montpelier Foundation	Treebeard Trust
Craighish Trust	Ian Lazarus	National Geographic Society	UBS Optimus Foundation
Cycling Scotland	J Leon & Co	National Lottery	Waterloo Foundation
David Holberton	JA Clark Charitable Trust	Community Fund	We have the POWER
Edward Hoare Impact Fund	JAM Today	Network for Social Change	Whitley Fund for Nature
Ennismore Foundation	James Gibson Charitable Trust	Nick Perks	William Grant Foundation

*And others who wish to remain anonymous*





## Celebrating our 20th year


**Thanks to those who joined us to celebrate our 20th year, and to the Fishmongers' Company for hosting us so generously!**



*‘ It’s quite an achievement, 20 years of building such a powerful and important network. ’*







“ [EFN] is an invaluable resource in the area of environmental giving. Friendly, approachable, well-informed and connected, asks the right questions, radical and forward-thinking. ”

“ From its early days EFN has always been the go-to place for funders interested in environmental justice. It has made a huge contribution to building a community of funders and enhanced the knowledge and understanding of the field. ”

“ Easily the best issue-based philanthropy network in the UK, and the most effective national network of environmental funders in Europe. ”