



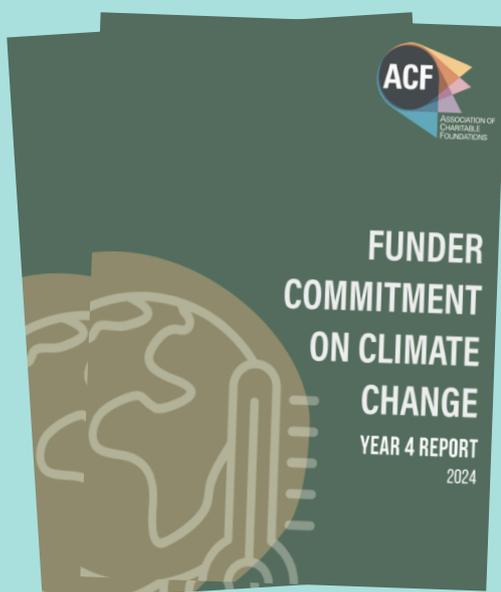
**Funder Commitment on**  
**CLIMATE CHANGE**

**2024**

### **The Funder Commitment on Climate Change (FCCC) launched in November 2019 as a high level framework to support funders tackling the causes and impacts of climate change.**

Since then, over 130 UK charitable foundations of all sizes and working on a wide range of charitable missions have made the commitment.

By signing on to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change, we have committed to six pillars, including need to report to ACF annually on our progress. This report shows the response that we sent to ACF to report on our progress against the Commitment areas in 2023.



Every year, ACF collates the responses from all of the individual signatories and produces an annual, collective progress report.

**You can see all of those [here](#).**

### COMMITMENT

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

**In January 2024, our Board took part in Carbon Literacy Awareness Training and we have continued to provide the course on Carbon Literacy Awareness to new staff who have joined during the year. This ensures that all staff have a consistent level of understanding about why our climate commitment is so important to our work as funder.**

We have been engaging with other organisations, including Edrington, to learn from what they've been doing. For example, in the summer, Sarah Graham (Sustainability Executive) at Edrington (of which we are the majority shareholder) presented to our Climate Commitment group on what they have been doing around biodiversity and climate change awareness. This has been informing our own development work to create a more tangible action plan to go alongside our climate commitment.

### COMMITMENT

“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).”

**In March 2024, we gave SCVO an award of £50K over two years towards the costs of the Growing Climate Confidence Project. The aim of this project is to support third sector organisations in Scotland to progress on the journey to net zero by creating space for peer learning and by sharing resources for external support and funding.**

We have continued as members of the Environmental Funders Network.

## COMMITMENT



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

**In September 2024, we opened our new Transport Grants. These provide funding of between £5K-£20K per year for up to three years. We have embedded our climate commitment throughout the award guidance and will prioritise higher levels of funding (between £10K and £20K) for requests which align with our funding themes and also adopt sustainable transport options, e.g. using electric vehicles, shared transport or active travel.**

71% of the Transport Grants we have made so far have an environmental benefit. Examples of awards we've made include funding for the costs of an electric delivery van for a furniture re-use charity supporting people on low incomes in new tenancies, and a community group purchasing a minibus to support its own activities but also for shared usage with a range of other local groups, reducing the need for them to have their own vehicles.

### COMMITMENT

“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.”

### **In March 2024, our Board approved our ambition to achieve Net Zero for our listed portfolio by 2040.**

This decision had been informed by a briefing paper and detailed discussions within our investment committee. Our Investment Policy has been updated to reflect this and published on our website. This ambitious commitment has been the catalyst for accelerating continued work to influence the approach to Net Zero by our fund managers. We have assessed the percentage of our top 100 stocks across the portfolio who have a commitment to Net Zero and Science based targets with the aim of increasing. We have an increased holding of funds which contribute positively to a decarbonised economy in infrastructure and renewables. We have undertaken active engagement with Sarasin in relation to a holding with Equinor, which ultimately has led to a disinvestment with no remaining exposure to fossil fuels within our portfolio.

Our overall intensity continues to fall with a reduction of 53% since December 2021. However, our absolute footprint has increased due to significant new cash investment into our portfolio.



### COMMITMENT

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 have started to make improvements to our buildings to reduce their energy consumption. For example, in Robertson House (a listed building in Glasgow), we have started to switch our flush ceiling lights to LEDs. Whereas the previous lights would use approximately 1,760Kwh over the course of a year, the new lights could half that usage to 880Kwh per year.**

1,760Kwh is 364kg CO<sub>2</sub>e (2024 conversion rate is 0.20705), so in one office unit we could save up to 182kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per year. To date, we have swapped 16 lights on the ground floor for a new tenant.

We have also introduced a policy that catering for our internal meetings is either vegetarian or vegan. At the Barracks Conference Centre, the default catering option for all events is half-vegetarian and all of the disposable cutlery and crockery at our buildings are plant-based.

## OVERALL REFLECTIONS

### What specific achievement in your foundation's climate work over the past year are you most pleased with and why?

We believe that our biggest direct impact we can make towards our climate commitment is through our investments. Over the last 12 months we are most pleased with setting a target of 2040 to decarbonise our pooled investment portfolio which is acting as a catalyst for engagement activities.

Through our grant making, we are also excited about the potential for impact through our new Transport Grants. We have already made awards for greener transport options and where organisations have not applied for that, they have provided a rationale explaining why it is not appropriate for them at the moment. This shows that organisations are considering the environmental impact of their own practices and adapting where possible. Over time, we will be able to build up an evidence base about what the challenges area and consider additional ways to support change.



## OVERALL REFLECTIONS

### What has been the most significant challenge your foundation faced in advancing its climate work over the past year and why?

Limited internal capacity has probably been our biggest challenge as this has made it difficult to advance actions as quickly as we would have liked. We have seen a large increase in the number of applications we have received through Our Funds and this, alongside other factors, has meant that staff capacity is spread thinly across multiple areas of work, including our climate commitment.

However, over the year we have also been developing our next three-year business plan which will run from April 2025 to March 2028. As part of this, we have brought in an external facilitator who supported us to start developing a robust action plan and reporting structure for our climate work. We hope that this will help to give our climate group more focus so that we can continue to improve our impact.

