

## **A socially just transition to a low carbon economy and society**

**Deadline:** Tuesday 28 September 2010 at 2.00pm

**Timescale:** 6 months

**Budget:** £6 – 8k per project (including VAT)

### **Contacts:**

For research queries: Katharine Knox, Programme Manager,  
Policy and Research

For administrative queries: Phillipa Fairburn, Research  
Administrator, Policy and Research

### **Summary**

This call is part of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's Climate Change and Social Justice Programme. The aim of the programme is to support the development of socially just responses to climate change in the UK.

This call for proposals is seeking short papers (thinkpieces) which address the question: ***How can we achieve a socially just transition to a low carbon economy and society?***

We anticipate funding up to six papers covering different approaches to this topic from the more general to more specific.

We expect this call to be of interest to environmental, social and economic policy researchers and we welcome collaborative bids which combine expertise.

Please note that the deadline for receipt of outline proposals (using the expressions of interest form) is **Tuesday 28 September at 2.00pm**. Late applications will not be accepted.

## **Background**

While climate change has become increasingly accepted as a policy concern in the UK and other countries, our understanding of the implications of this for social justice, and specifically for people or places facing disadvantage, is still at an early stage.

In our first phase of work we funded six projects examining the social impacts and social justice implications of climate change in the UK. For details see our website page on this work area:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/work/workarea/climate-change-and-social-justice>

In considering social justice, the JRF is interested in different conceptions of this, including both distributional justice (considering the differing effects of climate change or policy or practice responses to it across different people, places or timescales) and procedural justice (considering questions of governance, voice and participation within decision making). Within this, social justice is often considered to relate to questions of equity or fairness, either relating to processes or outcomes for different people or places. The JRF has a particular interest in the experiences and concerns arising from climate change and responses to it for people or places which are vulnerable in some way, including those facing poverty or disadvantage. We are interested in supporting responses that seek to ameliorate negative effects and offer more positive outcomes.

In this call, we wish to explore how we can achieve the step changes that may be required in ways of living, economic, social and political approaches to support transitions to address the scale of the challenge presented by climate change in a socially just way.

## **Aims of this research**

The aim of this part of the programme is to provide a series of papers which will act as a stimulus to policymakers and practitioners seeking to understand what a socially just transition to a low carbon economy or society might look like and core interventions required to achieve this.

These papers are expected to take the form of thinkpieces which set out ideas, drawing on relevant evidence, with the aim of supporting the development of new thinking and approaches to address the issues. This could include some primary research, for example, through interviews or stakeholder engagement, or secondary analysis of existing datasets or literature. In all cases, the work should seek to offer new insights to the issues and support policy and practice responses.

We expect to fund several complementary projects to examine this question and may consider pulling the outputs together into a single report at a later stage.

### **Research questions**

The key question for this research is: How can we achieve a socially just transition to a low carbon economy and society?

We will expect social justice ideas to be central to any proposals. The focus should be on achieving transitions in the UK context, while mindful of the international context and consequences of climate change, recognising that potential levers for change may lie at international level.

Possible topics might relate to:

- The politics of decision making and responding to climate change in the context of 'localism'
- Developing a 'just' green economy
- Developing a culture of sustainable living
- Human rights and climate change
- Scenario based work on 'just' futures
- 'Just' routes to adaptation for example:
  - Managing and communicating risks and impacts
  - Options for addressing household insurance needs
- 'Just' routes to mitigation for example:
  - 'Just' routes to achieving emissions reductions
  - A review of key policy mechanisms from energy pricing to carbon taxes from a social justice perspective.
  - An examination of 'just' technologies.

We expect that applicants may wish to take a range of approaches to this question. We welcome development of these ideas to follow other key lines of enquiry which will address the overall question to help understand how transformational changes can be achieved. Note that we would be unlikely to fund papers that will overlap substantively with other projects we are already funding.

## **Meetings**

We are keen to build a cohesive evidence base on climate change and social justice and will be considering complementarity in the projects selected.

In addition to normal project management support from JRF, we are running a Programme Advisory Network for the Climate Change and Social Justice Programme with external experts to discuss the programme overall and emerging issues and findings. We may ask participants to attend one of these meetings to discuss their work. We may also ask successful applicants to attend a meeting with other teams to support learning across the thinkpieces and consider messages.

Applicants should therefore assume and budget for attendance at two meetings.

## **Budget**

A budget of **£6-8k** has been allocated for each thinkpiece - this is expected to cover both research and associated project expenses (including VAT if applicable). We expect to fund up to six thinkpieces with an overall budget of **£40k**.

## **Timescale and outputs**

Projects will be expected to begin in 2011 and to be conducted over a period of up to **6 months**. Timescales will necessarily need to reflect the scope of each individual project.

The expected outputs are an accessible **5-8,000 word report** including a short executive summary.

Applicants will need to produce a draft report for JRF for comment at an appropriate stage during the project prior to the deadline. This should be scheduled into bids.

### **Criteria for assessment**

The proposal will be reviewed by JRF staff using the following key criteria:

- Demonstrable understanding of climate change and social justice concepts and issues
- The topic is clearly outlined and will provide a solid basis for exploration with potential for offering new insights
- The work has potential to be of interest for policy and practice development
- The team has relevant expertise and experience.

### **Submitting an outline proposal**

Applicants are asked to submit:

1. An outline proposal using the attached template for expressions of interest (Word document)
2. Registration document (excel document)

Please email these to: [phillipa.fairburn@jrf.org.uk](mailto:phillipa.fairburn@jrf.org.uk)

You will receive an e-mail response acknowledging your email.

### **Timetable for submitting proposals**

The deadline for receipt of email outline proposals as above is **2.00pm on Tuesday 28 September 2010**. Unfortunately, late submissions cannot be accepted.

Proposers should expect to hear whether their proposal has been successful by close of play on **Friday 5 November 2010**.

A fuller proposal is not required for this call and successful applicants will be able to commence work in 2011.

The JRF programme manager will discuss any key issues with applicants, for example, any links between papers and issues around the scope of the work if there are any questions about crossovers or duplication between submissions.

**Key contacts**

*For queries about the research, please contact:*

Katharine Knox  
Programme Manager  
Policy and Research  
01904 615972  
[katharine.knox@jrf.org.uk](mailto:katharine.knox@jrf.org.uk)

*For queries about the application process, please contact:*

Phillipa Fairburn  
Research Administrator  
01904 615967  
[phillipa.fairburn@jrf.org.uk](mailto:phillipa.fairburn@jrf.org.uk)