

Just adaptation responses to climate change in the UK

Deadline: Tuesday 28 September 2010 at 2.00pm

Timescale: up to 18 months

Budget: **£50 - £70k (including VAT) - one project only**

Contacts:

For research queries: Katharine Knox, Programme Manager,
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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.

The aim of this call is to fund a project which will help to inform local adaptation responses to climate change in the UK. The project is intended to support local practitioners to take account of social justice issues and to develop decision making tools to assist in the key trade-offs that may need to be made in prioritising objectives.

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

Please note that the deadline for receipt of proposals 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, our understanding of the social justice implications of this, including the implications for people or places facing disadvantage, is still at an early stage. Adaptation planning and action is also a relatively new concern for local agencies.

The UK Climate Change Risk Assessment which is now underway will provide important understanding on the key risks we face from climate impacts in the UK context. To respond to some of the climate effects we cannot avoid, some level of adaptation will be needed – the extent of this may relate to the degree and effectiveness of mitigation policies.

Adaptation is often considered to be more amenable to local policy interventions than national interventions, as the nature of climate impacts and the context in which this applies will vary significantly from place to place.

The JRF is therefore keen to explore ways in which to support adaptation responses at a local level by local government and other service providers who deal with particularly vulnerable people, including those facing poverty or disadvantage, as well as other groups who may face increased risks of negative social impacts from climate change.

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 therefore interested in supporting responses that seek to ameliorate negative effects and offer more positive outcomes for these groups.

This work forms part of the second phase of funding for our climate change and social justice programme. Our first phase of work focused particularly on developing our evidence base on the social impacts and social justice implications of climate change. Outputs from these projects are not yet available but several of these projects are looking at the nature of climate impacts and the people and places that may be affected 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>. The findings from most of these projects will be published in 2011 and are expected to be relevant for this project.

Aims of this research

The aim of this research is to support the development of effective adaptation responses to climate change that are socially just and take account of the needs of particularly vulnerable groups, including but not restricted to, people or places facing poverty or disadvantage. The work should have a UK focus in line with JRF's remit.

We wish to fund a single project to examine this issue. The aims of this project are:

- to explore existing approaches to local adaptation and how these take account of social justice issues
- to support the future development of just local strategic responses by developing tools to assist in strategic decision making about approaches and interventions.

We anticipate that there may be a range of approaches to this work and do not wish to be prescriptive about how applicants address this. However the research should seek to address some, if not all of the questions below and is likely to require some case study work in localities.

Research questions

The key questions are:

1. What issues need to be addressed in local climate change adaptation responses if they are to take a socially just approach?

2. How are emerging local climate adaptation strategies and responses developing to take account of the risks and concerns of vulnerable groups, including but not restricted to, people or places facing poverty and disadvantage?
3. What lessons can we learn from the differing approaches of local agencies and service providers about how to develop effective and just local strategic responses?

The questions are intended to offer a guide as to the broad aims of the work and potential lines of enquiry. We also welcome development of these ideas to follow other lines of enquiry.

Approach and methods

The methods are not prescribed for this project. We anticipate that a range of approaches may be possible. However we are keen for this project in itself to provide support for practice learning and therefore an action research approach involving local case studies may be beneficial.

As a whole we anticipate that the project would involve a phase of enquiry with local agencies and a phase of work to develop tools to assist practitioners in climate change adaptation. These tools should support practitioners in key agencies to make strategic decisions that take account of social justice concerns both in priorities for adaptation strategies and funding choices for interventions.

We are looking for proposals that take a broad approach that is grounded in local experience and will support local policy and practice development and provide lessons for national policymakers.

The following points are intended to offer additional guidance.

1. Proposals should build on existing evidence on climate impacts expected across the UK and differing risks for people/places that might be associated with these impacts, as well as existing work on social justice. The project should also take account of existing JRF work funded under this programme, much of which will be reporting in 2011 and will then be available for use.

2. We recognise that social vulnerability to climate impacts relates to a range of issues. In particular we are interested in how different aspects of social disadvantage might need to be addressed which may, for example, relate to income, age, gender, ethnicity, housing tenure and locational factors such as existing infrastructure, facilities and services. Equality and diversity issues should be considered in applications.
3. We welcome bids which involve people with relevant experience and develop participative approaches where appropriate.
4. We expect that some case study work in localities will be needed for this project. We welcome consideration of different contexts across the UK and applicants may wish to consider case studies in more than one nation. We do recognise however, that there will be limitations to the range of areas that can be covered within the scope of this project. Applicants will also need to consider the range of agencies and interest groups that they wish to engage in this work.
5. A partnership approach may be appropriate for this call and we welcome joint proposals which include organisations with expertise on climate change and on social policy. Applicants may wish to consider collaborative interdisciplinary bids using mixed methods to address the questions posed.
6. Applicants are encouraged to develop their ideas to support effective dissemination in their bids and to consider specific opportunities for influencing policy and practice from this work.

Further information

We are keen to build a cohesive evidence base on climate change and social justice rather than a series of 'one-off' projects and are commissioning other work under this programme this year and in 2011.

We will therefore ask the successful research team to attend meetings with other teams and a JRF programme advisory network to support learning across the wider programme.

Teams should budget for attending a **minimum of three meetings** of this sort as well as normal JRF project management support.

Applicants may be expected to do presentations and media work to support dissemination of their work and will be provided with support where any skills development is needed.

Budget, timescale and outputs

A budget of **£50 - 70k** has been allocated for this project. Funding is expected to cover both research and associated project expenses such as travel (including VAT if applicable).

Projects will be expected to begin in 2011 and to be conducted over a period of no longer than 18 months. Timescales will necessarily need to reflect the scope of the project.

The standard expected outputs are an accessible **15 - 20,000 word report** and a **2,000 word summary** (the *Findings*).

Applicants will also need to produce an **interim report** of findings for JRF at an appropriate stage during the project. Details can be discussed further with the JRF's programme manager after funding but this should be scheduled into bids.

Approach and criteria for funding decisions

Following review by JRF staff and advisers, a proposal will be recommended to JRF Trustees for funding. The following key criteria will be taken into account when considering proposals:

- the relevance of the proposal to the research brief and focus in line with priorities in this call for proposals;
- demonstration of good knowledge of the area, including both research literature and the policy and practice context;
- whether the work will build on existing work to offer new insights;
- value for money;
- the appropriateness of the methods proposed to address the aims and research questions posed for the project;
- the capacity and ability of the staff and organisation(s) to carry out the work and complete on time;

- consideration of the policy and practice implications of the project;
- a realistic and appropriate approach to dissemination of the project's findings;
- a good understanding of the relevant equality and diversity issues associated with the project and an appropriate approach to involving people with direct experience if/where appropriate;
- an appropriate and well explained approach to any ethical issues raised by the project.

Where partnership bids are proposed, we will also be looking for clarity on the roles and responsibilities of each party and clear arrangements for coordination and project management.

Judgments about proposals are made on the basis of the information provided and proposals are most often rejected because insufficient information has been provided about key aspects of the research methods, there is a lack of clarity about what is planned or there is a mismatch between aims and methods. Applicants are advised to be clear about their proposed approach and to ensure that they respond fully to the criteria.

It is possible that a shortlist of applicants may be invited to interview to support decision making on the successful bid.

Submitting a proposal

Applicants are advised to read the [How to apply for funding](#) section of our website before submitting a proposal. The **Application form and guidelines** contain the necessary forms for completing a proposal.

Four unbound hard copies of all documents are required. Please also email a Word version of the complete proposal, summary and budget forms to:

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Timetable for submitting proposals

The deadline for receipt of email and hard copies of full proposals is **2.00 pm on Tuesday 28 September 2010**. Unfortunately, late submissions cannot be accepted.

Applicants should expect to hear whether their proposal has been successful by **Friday 5 November 2010**.

Key contacts

For queries about the research, please contact:

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