

The social justice implications of climate change in the UK

Deadline: Friday 31st July 2009 2.00pm

Timescale: up to 18 months

Budget: up to £230k for a number of projects, no individual project to be over £100k

Contacts: For research queries: Katharine Knox, Policy and Research Manager. For administrative queries: Dave Potter, Head of Support Service.

Summary

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

Our focus is to ensure that people or places facing poverty and disadvantage do not face disproportionately negative impacts from climate change, or from policy or practice responses to it.

This call for proposals aims to build up the evidence base on both the social impacts and social justice implications of climate change in the UK.

In looking at social impacts, we are interested in both the direct and indirect impacts of climate change on people and communities, considering both negative and positive consequences. This includes looking at changing weather patterns and extreme events, such as flooding and heatwaves, as well as the wider implications of climate change for society, for example, in terms of pressure on food or energy supplies.

Our focus on social justice means we are interested in fairness and equity in society. In particular we wish to consider the relationships between individual poverty or vulnerability and where people might live or work and the risks or vulnerabilities climate change poses.

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

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 people or places facing disadvantage is still at an early stage.

We wish to explore:

- which people and which places in the UK are vulnerable to the effects of climate change and the relationship between vulnerability and different aspects of disadvantage
- the social impacts to date or expected in the future from climate events in the UK on disadvantaged people and places
- the wider social justice questions we need to consider in responding to climate change in a fair and equitable way to take account of people or places facing poverty or disadvantage.

Recent research reports have begun to highlight the relationship between poverty and climate change in a UK context (see for example, the recent report published by the New Economics Foundation, *Tackling Climate Change Change, Reducing Poverty*)¹. There has also been some wider exploration of the social impacts of climate change (see CAG consultants 2009 report for the Scotland and Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research)². However there is still a long way to go to bring together climate change and social justice concerns and to fully explore the possible policy and practice implications and develop adequate responses in a UK context.

Aims of this research

The aim of this research is to improve the evidence base on the impacts and implications of climate change for people and places facing poverty and disadvantage in the UK.

Our objective is to use this work to support the development of effective strategic responses to climate change that take account

¹ Victoria Johnson, Andrew Simms and Clare Cochrane with the Roundtable on Climate Change and Poverty (2009). *Tackling Climate Change, Reducing Poverty*. New Economics Foundation.

² CAG consultants, (2009). *Differential social impacts of climate change in the UK*. Scotland & Northern Ireland Forum for Environmental Research.

of the issues for people or places facing poverty or disadvantage across and within different parts of the UK.

We wish to fund a number of complementary projects to examine this issue.

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.

In all cases, we are interested in building on the existing evidence base to develop new insights, developing approaches that combine social and environmental expertise and ensuring that the outputs will provide a solid foundation for strategic responses to the issues among policymakers and practitioners. Applicants should consider the opportunities for influencing these key audiences in their proposals.

Researchers may wish to build on existing evidence and forthcoming information including the UKCIP scenarios which are due for publication in the Summer of 2009.

Research questions

The key questions that researchers may wish to explore are as follows:

1. Which people and places are most vulnerable to climate change in the UK? How does vulnerability relate to different dimensions of disadvantage or deprivation relating to identity or place (eg people's age, gender, ethnicity, health status, geographic location, housing tenure)? What new forms of social disadvantage may result from climate change?
2. What can we learn from past experiences of climate events or other extreme change scenarios about their impact on disadvantaged people and places in the UK and how we need to respond?
3. What future scenarios do we face in terms of the likely impact of climate change on different groups in the UK and the interrelationship between exposure to risk and other forms of socio-economic disadvantage? How might this affect people's needs in the future?
4. How do disadvantaged people in areas at risk view climate change and its relevance for their own lives compared with

other everyday life concerns? How does exposure to risk and experience of climate events impact on people's perceptions and behaviours? What are the implications for strategic responses to climate change?

We do not anticipate that a single project will be able to address all these questions but expect that researchers may wish to consider one or more of the above questions in their submissions. We also welcome development of these ideas to follow other key lines of enquiry which will support development of the evidence base on the actual and potential social impacts and implications of climate change for people in poverty and disadvantage in the UK.

Approach and methods

The methods are not prescribed for this project. We anticipate that a range of approaches may need consideration.

Possible avenues include research that: maps out vulnerability to climate change across the UK for different people/places; examines the impacts of previous climate related events or similar scenarios of extreme change for disadvantaged people or places; or projects the relationship between anticipated climate changes and particular aspects of social disadvantage to develop future scenarios.

The following points are intended to offer additional guidance.

1. Proposals should demonstrate clearly how their methodology will answer the research questions they have set out to answer. We recognise that there may be a need for a range of approaches to examine the key issues. Both retrospective empirical research and future modelling may be appropriate for this call. Involvement of people with direct experience should be considered if and where relevant and spatial mapping projects may also be appropriate. Whichever approach is chosen, applicants should be clear about the benefits and limitations of their methodological approach and bear in mind our interest in both people and places facing disadvantage. Future modelling will need to offer clear timeframes for analysis and a rationale for these.
2. Proposals should focus on gathering new evidence and should build on existing evidence where this is available rather than duplicate existing work. We are interested in

building on other related research on climate change or social justice which could be developed to address questions in this call.

3. We are keen to explore the relationship between climate change and a range of aspects of disadvantage. These may for example relate to income, age, gender, ethnicity, location and housing tenure. We anticipate that climate change may create new relationships between different dimensions here which we wish to explore. In light of the limited budget for exploring any one dimension in isolation, we will expect proposals to explain their rationale for their chosen approach. Equality and diversity issues should be considered in all applications.
4. A partnership approach may be appropriate for this call and we welcome joint proposals which include organisations with expertise on climate change and on poverty and social justice. Applicants may also wish to consider collaborative interdisciplinary research to develop mixed method approaches to address the research questions posed.
5. We are keen to take a UK-wide perspective and particularly welcome projects which reflect this. This may include case study work in one (or more) of Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland as well as England. We do recognise however, that a multi-site approach will not always be appropriate. We will also be interested in other locational dimensions, for example, to consider rural and urban differences if appropriate or the relationship between risk and housing tenure.
6. We expect that we will see a range of approaches in the different proposals we receive and we will choose the best mix of projects which we feel will fulfil our overall aims and add something new to the evidence base.
7. We are likely to commission further work focusing on policy and practice responses to climate change in 2010 to explore how far mitigation and adaptation can take account of poverty and disadvantage concerns. We are keen for the research funded in this call to identify implications for policymakers and practitioners to help lay the basis for this second stage of work. [For further details on our work programme on climate change and poverty please see our related web page.](#)

Further information

We are keen to build a cohesive evidence base on climate change and poverty rather than a series of 'one-off' projects and will be commissioning further work under this programme in 2010 and 2011.

We will ask the successful research teams to attend programme days with other teams to support learning across the projects commissioned. We will also expect successful teams to liaise direct with each other if and where appropriate to minimise any overlap and support mutual learning.

JRF no longer automatically sets up Project Advisory Groups for every project we fund and advisory arrangements will be discussed with the successful contractors when the decisions on who to fund have been made. However, we anticipate running a Programme Advisory Network for the Climate Change and Poverty Programme to advise on the shape of the overall programme and discuss emerging issues through the course of the work. There are also likely to be one to one meetings with the Programme Manager to discuss project progress and milestones. Applicants should therefore assume attendance at several meetings over the course of a year.

Budget

A budget of up to £230k has been allocated for this work. We expect this to support funding of a number of projects. Funding is expected to cover both research and associated project expenses (including VAT if applicable). We do not expect any individual project to exceed £100k in value.

Timescale

Projects will be expected to begin in the Autumn/Winter of 2009 and to be conducted over a period of no longer than 18 months. Timescales will necessarily need to reflect the scope of each individual project.

Expected outputs

The standard expected outputs are an accessible 15-20,000 word report and a 2,000 word summary (the *Findings*). Applicants may also wish to propose additional or alternative approaches to support effective dissemination.

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

The successful applicant will also be asked to provide presentations of their work to inform meetings on the Climate Change and Poverty Programme.

Contractors should also budget and allow time for this within their bids.

Submitting a proposal

Applicants are advised to read the [How to apply for funding](#) section of our website before submitting a proposal. The [Application 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:

Dave Potter

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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 Friday 31st July 2009**. Unfortunately, late submissions cannot be accepted.

Proposers should expect to hear whether their proposal has been successful by **Monday 21st September 2009**.

Successful applicants are likely to be invited to attend a Programme Advisory Network meeting in the Autumn.

How the funding decision will be made

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 where appropriate;
- an appropriate and well explained approach to the 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 what is written down 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.

Key contacts

For queries about the research, including the methods, please contact:

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For queries about the application process, deadlines etc., please contact:

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