

Our commitment to climate

At Blaggrave we recognise the climate crisis as one of the defining justice issues of our time. Climate breakdown is not experienced equally: it deepens existing inequalities and creates a disproportionate misalignment for communities already facing deep-rooted inequalities, including young people, racially minoritised communities, working-class communities, disabled people, and those with the least access to decision-making, safety, and resources.

This document sets out Blaggrave Trust's commitments to **climate justice** – grounded in our strategy, our role as a funder, and our responsibility to use all our resources in service of an equitable and sustainable future. We see this as a live document that will continue to be shaped as we learn and work collaboratively in place.

Why climate justice?

Climate justice isn't abstract; it directly affects how people live, breathe, and experience their futures.

In communities located near major roads and industrial infrastructure, many children and young people grow up breathing polluted air. This leads to higher rates of asthma and long-term health conditions, affecting school attendance, wellbeing, and future opportunities. Climate breakdown worsens these conditions through rising temperatures and increasing air pollution. Climate justice means recognising that young people facing the greatest environmental misalignment often have the least opportunity to influence the public decision-making processes causing it.

We understand climate justice to be deeply interconnected with broader social, racial, and economic inequities. Communities already facing significant disparities – such as unequal housing or lower access to green spaces – are more likely to face climate injustice, e.g. through disproportionate environmental impacts. This is because the same institutional disparities that cause racial

inequities (e.g. housing) put these communities at the greatest risk of pollution or flooding).

Additionally, the communities least responsible for climate breakdown are those facing disproportionate impacts, ranging from environmental degradation and economic insecurity to displacement, poorer health outcomes, and diminished future opportunities.

What climate justice means for Blaggrave

For Blaggrave, climate justice is **not a standalone issue or programme area**. It is a lens through which we understand and respond to injustice, and a thread that runs through **all** of our work.

We see climate breakdown as deeply entangled with the social, economic, and racial inequities young people and communities already face. That means climate justice shapes how we think about power, place, participation, funding, and stewardship across the organisation.

For Blaggrave, climate justice means:

- **Addressing root causes, not just symptoms** – recognising that environmental degradation is tied to economic imbalances that also drive poverty, inequality, and exclusion
- **Prioritising those most affected** – centring young people and communities experiencing the sharpest impacts of both climate breakdown and systemic inequalities
- **Embedding climate justice across all our work** – integrating climate considerations into our funding, partnerships, asset stewardship, and organisational decisions, rather than treating it as a separate strand
- **Backing young people as leaders and changemakers** – supporting young people not only to respond to climate impacts, but to lead long-lasting change
- **Using all our levers for change** – funding, assets, influence, relationships, and voice – to help ensure the transition to a greener future is fair, inclusive, and accountable

Our journey and accountability

Our climate justice commitments have been shaped over time through practical action, reflection, and learning.

Before climate was named as a core strategic priority, Blaggrave funded climate-related work in response to urgent need and youth-led momentum. This included early support for the **UK Climate Strikes**, **Teach the Future**, enabling **War on Want** to support young people to attend the annual United Nations climate change conference COP, and backing initiatives such as **Bright Green Futures**. This funding recognised young people as emerging climate leaders but sat largely outside a coherent organisational framework.

In 2022, we made a deliberate decision to bring climate into the heart of our thinking – recognising it as one of the defining issues shaping young people's lives and futures, and inseparable from social and economic justice. To support this shift, we commissioned a whole-organisation climate audit from **Impatience Earth**, examining our funding, operations, investments, and influence. This marked a turning point in how we understood our responsibility and role.

We subsequently created a dedicated **climate and policy manager** role to embed this work across the organisation, strengthen accountability, and support more intentional climate-aligned practice. We launched the Climate Justice Accelerator, a pilot funding programme to support youth-led climate groups. Alongside this, we began working with aligned funders and partners to design and host **Roots & Routes**, a pooled fund supporting youth-led climate justice work and intentionally growing the funding pipeline for this field.

Looking ahead, we aim to bring more funders into this collaborative model, growing resources for climate justice and strengthening the ecosystems that support young people to lead long-lasting change.

We are signatories to the **Funder Commitment on Climate Change**, publicly aligning ourselves with sector-wide accountability, and members of the

Environmental Funders Network, learning alongside peers and contributing to collective action for climate-aligned grant-making.

How climate justice shows up in our work

Under **Leading with Hope**, climate justice is not a standalone theme – it is a thread running through everything we do.

Empowering young changemakers

Young people are already leading bold and creative responses to the climate crisis. We:

- Resource young changemakers working on climate justice through grants, investments, and non-financial support
- Host and co-design **Roots & Routes**, a pooled fund dedicated to supporting youth-led climate justice work and growing the funding pipeline for this field
- Support climate-focused leadership development, networks, and convening, including climate justice accelerator approaches
- Work to reduce barriers to funding so that young people with lived experience of climate injustice can lead

Funding climate justice across all our work

We treat climate as a thread that flows through all justice-related work, rather than a niche issue. This means:

- Integrating climate justice considerations across all funding programmes
- Recognising the links between climate breakdown and issues such as housing, health, racial equity, and economic inequality
- Using participatory and accountable approaches to ensure funding responds to real-world contexts

Stewarding our assets responsibly

We recognise that philanthropy's impact is shaped not only by what it funds, but how it manages resources. We commit to:

- Addressing the climate impact of our assets and investments
- Aligning asset stewardship with our mission and values over time
- Exploring how buildings, land, and capital can actively support a just transition rather than contribute to extraction or misalignment

Decarbonising our operations

We are committed to reducing our own environmental footprint. This includes:

- Decarbonising Blaggrave's operations as an organisation
- Making climate-conscious decisions about travel, procurement, and suppliers
- Using learning from our climate audit to guide continuous improvement

Climate-positive community spaces

As we invest in youth-centred community hubs in Birmingham, London, and Portsmouth, we commit to making these spaces as climate-positive and resilient as possible. This includes:

- Climate-proofing buildings against future environmental risks
- Prioritising energy efficiency, renewable solutions, and sustainable materials where feasible
- Exploring ways hubs can generate green income or support local climate resilience
- Working with young people and communities to design spaces that reflect local environmental priorities

Collaboration and influence

We know we cannot address the climate crisis alone. We commit to:

- Collaborating with other funders, partners, and infrastructure bodies to strengthen climate justice ecosystems
- Using our influence to advocate for philanthropic and long-lasting change
- Sharing learning openly – including what works, what doesn't, and the tensions we encounter

Place, context, and learning

Our climate justice work is shaped by place. As we deepen long-term partnerships in Birmingham, London, and Portsmouth, we will work alongside communities to understand how climate risks and opportunities show up locally – from housing and air quality to employment and green space.

We commit to learning in public, adapting our role as decision-making is shared, and staying accountable to young people and communities most affected by climate change.

Looking ahead

Climate justice is an evolving commitment. As the crisis deepens, so must our response. **Leading with Hope** means using everything we have – funding, assets, relationships, and influence – to support young people and communities to build a fairer, safer, and more sustainable future.

We recognise this is long-term work, and we commit to staying with it, learning as we go.