



CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHILANTHROPY INFRASTRUCTURE

Supporting the Ecosystem to Act

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Supporting the Ecosystem to Act

Philea

Philanthropy Europe Association

2 INTRODUCTION

- 4 Ecosystem of philanthropy infrastructure organisations (PIOs) active on climate in Europe

6 SURVEY FINDINGS

- 6 Increased PIO engagement in climate philanthropy faces sectoral and organisational barriers
- 8 PIOs perceive their added-value as multifaceted
- 8 PIOs are responding to identifiable needs within the sector
- 9 With broader purposes, PIOs are well-positioned to mobilise non-climate foundations
- 10 PIOs demonstrate a clear understanding that tackling climate change is an interconnected issue
- 10 Spotlight on intermediary, joint and pooled funds; funding collectives; and umbrella foundations

11 CONCLUSIONS

12 PROFILES OF PIOS

- 46 Glossary
- 47 Endnotes
- 48 About Philea

13 ACTIVE PHILANTHROPY

14 ALLIANCE MAGAZINE

15 ALLIANCE OF GERMAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

16 ARIADNE

17 ASSIFERO

18 ASSOCIATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS

19 CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE

20 CLIMATE EMERGENCY COLLABORATION GROUP

21 CLIMATE JUSTICE & JUST TRANSITION DONOR COLLABORATIVE

22 CLIMATE LEAD

23 CLIMATEWORKS FOUNDATION

24 EDGE FUNDERS ALLIANCE

25 ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDERS NETWORK

26 EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION

27 EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

28 FONDATION DE LUXEMBOURG

29 FOUNDATIONS PLATFORM F20

30 FRENCH FOUNDATION CENTRE

31 GLOBAL GREENGRANTS FUND

32 GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR THE FUTURE OF FOOD

33 HEALTHY FOOD HEALTHY PLANET

34 IMPATIENCE EARTH

35 NEW PHILANTHROPY CAPITAL

36 OECD NETFWD

37 PARTNERS FOR A NEW ECONOMY

38 PHILEA

39 PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND

40 POLISH DONORS FORUM

41 ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS

42 SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF FOUNDATIONS

43 UK COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS

44 WING

45 YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE FUNDS

Introduction

The global impact of the climate crisis, increasingly marked by deadly heatwaves, droughts, floods, and other climate-related disasters, endangers all aspects of society, particularly vulnerable groups. This makes philanthropy's role, not only in achieving climate neutrality, but also in supporting adaptation, resilience, and broader climate action, more and more important. Yet, despite its potential, only around 2% of global philanthropic funding* goes toward climate mitigation efforts, underscoring the need for greater systemic engagement to address this societal challenge.¹

The scale of the challenge calls for collective action, and philanthropy infrastructure organisations (PIOs) are integral to fostering collaboration, innovation and impact within the broader philanthropic ecosystem. This takes place in a dynamic context where the support available to foundations continues to expand in various forms including collaborative giving platforms, networks and advisory organisations.²

This publication aims to shed light on the various roles of PIOs in this context of urgency and momentum. More specifically, it has three primary objectives:

- 1. TO HIGHLIGHT** the pivotal role that PIOs play in shaping and advancing philanthropic efforts to tackle climate change.
- 2. TO EXPLORE** how the philanthropy infrastructure ecosystem is adapting and evolving in response to the intensifying climate crisis, identifying key trends, challenges and opportunities for the sector.
- 3. TO GUIDE** PIO staff in navigating the climate philanthropy ecosystem and potentially fostering stronger connections among peers through the [PEX Climate Learning Circle](#).

This is the third iteration of such an overview of the ecosystem of PIOs active in the field of climate in Europe. It provides an updated snapshot of the diverse actors that are contributing to supporting and shaping the field, including thematic and geographic networks, associations, pooled funds, consulting and advisory organisations and media entities.

* It is important to note that philanthropy contributes to addressing the climate crisis in various ways, including; making more resources available; tackling climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience; supporting a just transition; and integrating these efforts into existing programmes and areas of work, while also considering the impact of investments and operations.

As the landscape of climate philanthropy continues to grow in complexity and importance, this publication offers valuable insights into how PIOs are responding to the demands of the climate emergency.

What you'll find in this report:

AGGREGATED FINDINGS FROM OUR SURVEY OF PIOs

MAP OF PIOs ACTIVE IN EUROPE IN THE FIELD OF CLIMATE

INDIVIDUAL PROFILES OF PIOs

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

About the PIOs surveyed and methodology

This third iteration reflects the growing depth of engagement within climate philanthropy infrastructure. The number of surveyed organisations has expanded from 21 to 33, a 57% increase, not only because there are more actors, but because our scope has broadened to include a wider range of relevant organisations.

From July to September 2024, Philea conducted a survey among 40 PIOs that met the following criteria; their activities involve European foundations and/or PIOs; and they work on climate. The survey was designed to capture a comprehensive view of the roles, objectives and challenges that PIOs face in addressing the climate crisis based on existing taxonomies such as the WINGS and Dafne 4 Cs framework and WINGS Taxonomy of PSOs.

We limited our research to PIOs that focus on philanthropy. We have used the so-called "4Cs framework" to better explore the added value of PIOs. These 4Cs include **capacity, capability, connection** and **credibility**. We added a fifth "C", **catalysing transformation**, to better reflect a more prominent leadership role some PIOs are embracing that reflect their potential as multipliers.³ The glossary contains further explanation of these terms.

The surveyed PIOs include thematic, geographic and foundation-type associations and networks; intermediary, joint or pooled funds; funding collectives; umbrella foundations; consulting and advisory organisations; and media platforms. Although it is possible for the scope of PIOs' work to span different dimensions (e.g. thematic and geographic), we asked respondents to select the type that represents most their organisational identity via the survey.

This publication examines PIOs in a broader sense of term, while some organisations included are foundations or philanthropic organisations, we are focussing upon their infrastructural role within the wider philanthropic ecosystem.

The data collected was analysed to identify trends, patterns and gaps in how PIOs perceive their roles and contribute to the broader climate philanthropy landscape. It was also used to build profiles of the PIOs, providing an overview of their work on climate and their target audiences.

Geographic scope

More than half of the surveyed PIOs (57%) operate at the global level. National-level PIOs (24%) are the second most common. Additionally, only a few PIOs (15%) operate at the European level and one PIO (3%) operates at the regional level.

FIGURE 1 - ORGANISATIONS BY GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

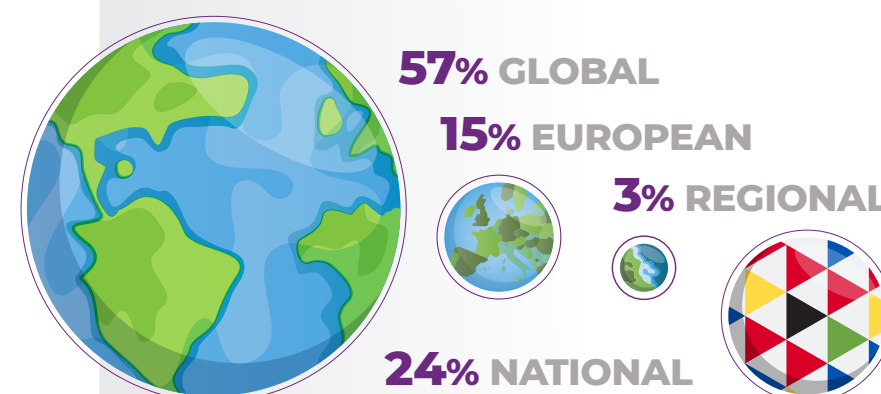
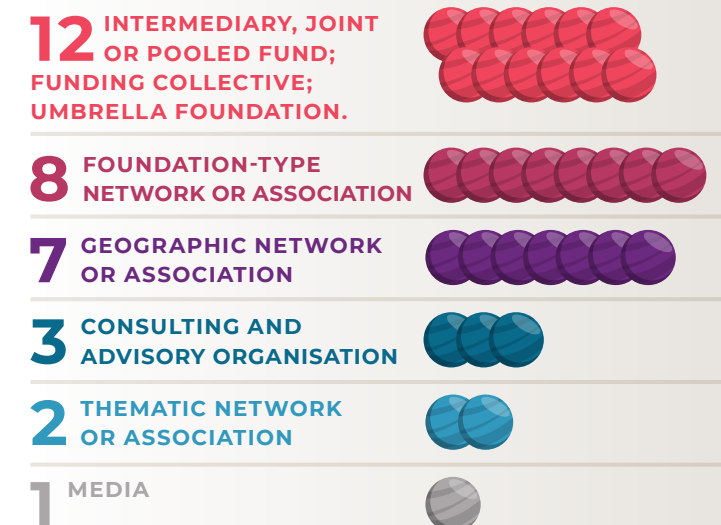


FIGURE 2 — ORGANISATIONS BY TYPE



Organisation types and scope of work

Intermediary, joint or pooled funds; funding collectives; and umbrella foundations represent a significant portion of the surveyed organisations, comprising more than one-third of the total (36%). Networks and associations represent over half of the responding PIOs, with nearly a quarter (24%) identifying themselves as foundation-type network or associations; one fifth (21%) identifying as geographic networks or associations; and a couple (6%) identifying as thematic networks or associations. The responding organisations also included a handful of consulting and advisory organisations (9%) and one media platform (3%).

Although the majority (73%) of responding organisations say that the climate crisis is not the primary focus of their work, over half of respondents (52%) state that the climate crisis is still a significant focus. Some (21%) say that it is no more significant in their work than other issues.

While some organisation types (e.g. foundation-type networks and associations) are spread fairly evenly across these categories, and others offer too small a sample size (e.g. media platforms), some patterns emerge: Consulting and advisory organisations as well as intermediary, joint or pooled funds; funding collectives; and umbrella funds tend to be more specialised, with all organisations identifying as such stating that climate is either a significant or the primary focus of their work. On the other hand, all of the geographic and thematic networks and associations either have climate as their primary focus, or consider climate not the only one or no more significant than other issue areas.

FIGURE 3 ECOSYSTEM OF PIOS ACTIVE ON CLIMATE IN EUROPE



Survey findings

Increased PIO engagement in climate philanthropy faces sectoral and organisational barriers

Sectoral barriers

In our research process, we asked respondents to share key learnings about their constituencies, including their members (where relevant) and the broader philanthropic ecosystem, as well as to identify barriers they face to encouraging greater climate ambition from the sector. These responses highlighted sectoral barriers which can be clustered around three main themes:

1. Lack of philanthropic understanding and capacity to engage around climate
2. Approaches that prioritise incremental changes over systemic transformations
3. Systemic limitations in philanthropy

1. LACK OF PHILANTHROPIC UNDERSTANDING AND CAPACITY TO ENGAGE AROUND CLIMATE

Despite foundation leaders overwhelmingly considering climate change to be a pressing challenge, foundations are struggling to mobilise resources at scale and speed to tackle climate change for reasons related to diversity, capacity constraints, and their understanding of the issue and their role.⁴

These reasons include:

- The diversity of needs and starting points within the sector, which require different types of tailored support.
- A lack of organisational capacity and funding across the philanthropy ecosystem.
- A superficial understanding of climate change that does not duly consider its scale and impact, coupled with the perception that tackling it falls outside a foundation's mission, which often leads to a sense of scarcity and competition with existing priorities and programmes. Many foundations also perceive climate change as too big and complex relative to their available resources.

- The belief that significant enough progress has already been made in Europe in addressing climate change, which translates into lack of new philanthropic giving at scale in this region.
- Limited awareness and knowledge of proven solutions make it harder to direct meaningful funding to where it is most needed, particularly youth-led, community-driven work and organisations in the Global South; as well as funding for adaptation.

2. APPROACHES THAT PRIORITISE INCREMENTAL CHANGES OVER SYSTEMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Respondents also identified operational challenges that hinder philanthropy adopting a more ambitious approach to addressing climate change. These issues are not unique to philanthropy's response to the climate crisis and align with other data collected in the sector, revealing several key obstacles:⁵

- An avoidance of risk within the sector.
- Short-termism and a preference for incremental change, often driven by KPIs.
- The hesitation to be "political" and a lack of differentiation between being politically partisan and engaging on issues such as climate that are considered as political in nature.
- A lack of coordination and collaboration, which is made difficult by a lack of common understanding of the issues involved. Philanthropic and cross-sectoral collaboration are vital to bring about large-scale, systemic transformations.
- Conservative and/or uninterested foundation governance is particularly identified as a hindering factor to increasing ambitions.

3. SYSTEMIC LIMITATIONS IN PHILANTHROPY

Respondents also listed several challenges rooted in the structures and practices within the sector, often reflecting broader societal dynamics, which prevent climate philanthropy from being deployed at its fullest potential:

- Philanthropy is tied up in the systems causing problems. Continued investments in fossil fuels were specifically mentioned, as these remain some of the most financially profitable.
- Philanthropy as a sector does not see its own limitations, biases and hidden assumptions about who is a "changemaker" or "thought leader". Specifically, respondents highlighted a need to reflect on Global North – Global South power dynamics and how these translate into funding.

Organisational challenges faced by PIOs

While PIOs aim to strengthen the sector's response to climate change, respondents identified organisational challenges that limit their ability to be more ambitious in their engagement of philanthropic organisations on climate-related issues.

LACK OF RESOURCES AND CAPACITY

Respondents highlighted a lack of financial and human resources to work at the pace and scale that is required. Beyond resourcing, responding to the climate crisis requires a new way of working for both PIOs and their constituents and many respondents also referenced capacity constraints.

LACK OF VISIBILITY AND UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR WORK AND THE ROLE THEY PLAY

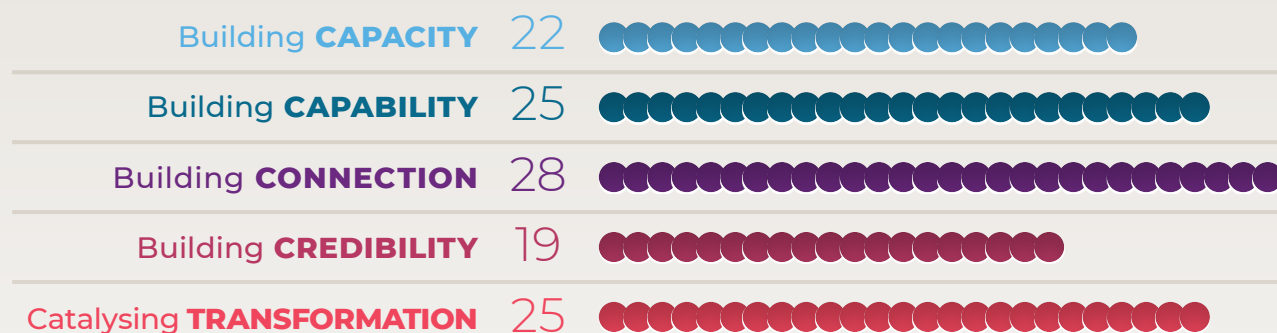
Respondents mentioned that their current reach limits the scale and the impact of their work.

LACK OF CONNECTIONS AND COLLABORATION WITH OTHER PIOs

Respondents emphasised the need for greater coordination at infrastructure level in order to best leverage the limited resources available and each organisation's unique network and expertise.



FIGURE 4 — ORGANISATIONS PERCEIVED OBJECTIVES, BASED ON THE "4-C FRAMEWORK" PLUS



PIOs perceive their added value as multifaceted

Following the 4 C framework; Building **capacity**; building **capability**; building **connection**; and building **credibility**, which aims to articulate the added value of PIOs, and with the addition of a fifth “C”, **catalysing transformations**, respondents shared the objectives of their climate work. An overwhelming 88% of PIOs report that their climate work encompasses multiple objectives, with over half (55%) managing four or five objectives at once. This illustrates the complexity and scope of their missions as they strive to address the diverse needs of the philanthropy sector.

The most widely recognised role among PIOs is **building connection**, with most respondents (85%) identifying community and relationship-building as central to their climate work. This underscores the importance of fostering collaboration, facilitating partnerships and enhancing the overall climate philanthropy ecosystem. On the other hand, the least widely perceived role is **building credibility**, with just over half of PIOs (58%) acknowledging their role in advocacy, representation or influencing the sector.

Interestingly, over a third (36%) of the surveyed PIOs do not see themselves as focused on **building capacity** (meaning increasing the amount of philanthropy and improving its practices), despite the clear need for more effective climate philanthropy. This gap presents an opportunity for PIOs to enhance their own capacities and engage more deeply in efforts to increase the volume and effectiveness of climate philanthropy.

Three-quarters of PIOs identify **catalysing transformations** (meaning incentivising change at scale; expanding the range of stakeholders who engage in imagining, enabling and amplifying change; demonstrating leadership

and thought-leadership towards and on behalf of the field; being a “changemaker”) as one of their objectives. Intermediary and pooled funds appear particularly focused on catalysing transformation (92%). On the other hand, national associations are least likely to consider this among their objectives (40%), potentially demonstrating a lack of confidence or mandate.

PIOs are responding to identifiable needs within the sector

Through our research, perhaps the most significant finding is that the work of PIOs responds to tangible sectoral barriers and needs identified by respondents (outlined previously in this publication) as well as existing research on philanthropy’s response to climate action. This is perhaps not surprising given that PIOs carry out substantial research on the sector’s response to climate change and work closely with philanthropy practitioners.

CHAMPIONING EQUITY AND JUSTICE

Publications such as EDGE Funders Alliance’s [“Beyond 2%, From Climate Philanthropy to Climate Justice Philanthropy”](#), ClimateWorks’ [“Funding trends 2023: Climate Change Mitigation Philanthropy”](#) and the Environmental Funders Network’s [“Where the Green Grants Went: Volume 9”](#), converge around the need for philanthropy to embed considerations of equity and justice into climate to ensure a greater quality of climate philanthropy. Philea’s most recent [research into environmental funding in Europe](#) found that only 1% of funding reflected an environmental justice discourse, framed by the concepts of rights, justice and empowerment - and made the case to increase this.⁶



Nearly half of the responding PIOs (46%) included justice and/or equity in the purpose and rationale of their work, endeavouring to support philanthropic actors to include this in their approach to climate action.

TACKLING FUNDING GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Through their work, some PIOs explicitly aim to support foundations’ impact by focusing on high-emitting sectors and issues (like food systems, which accounts for over one-third of global greenhouse gas emissions, or plastics which is projected to account for 15% of emissions in 2050 up from 3% in 2021).⁷ PIOs also aim to channel philanthropic resources towards under-resourced communities, particularly those on the frontline of climate change, and climate leadership. For example, the Youth Climate Justice Fund was set up in response to the [Youth Climate Justice Study](#) that found only 0.76% of grants from the largest climate foundations reached youth-led climate justice initiatives.

Certain funding needs and gaps are perhaps not yet sufficiently addressed by PIOs. For example, other studies have found that within Europe, there is an uneven geographic distribution of philanthropic attention, with only 4% of environmental funding being directed to central and eastern Europe.⁸ Among our respondents, only one organisation mentioned a geographical focus on this region and only one organisation is based there.

With broader purposes, PIOs are well-positioned to mobilise non-climate foundations

According to research from the Centre for Effective Philanthropy, the perception that climate falls outside of the scope of their mission is the biggest barrier for foundations to start funding climate.⁹ For almost three-quarters of responding PIOs (73%), climate sits alongside a broader organisational focus. Networks and associations that do not have climate as their primary focus are particularly well-placed to mobilise more foundations who are not yet active on climate, given their deep knowledge and existing relationships with a wider range of foundations who do not identify as “climate foundations”.

For example, geographic networks are particularly well suited to mobilise the breadth of the philanthropic ecosystem as demonstrated by the 750+ signatories to national Philanthropy For Climate commitments, representing over 90% of the global movement. Thematic and foundation-type networks and associations can also effectively work alongside their specific constituents to foster effective action.

Specialised PIOs, for whom the climate crisis is the primary focus of their work, also play an onboarding role in supporting foundations to get quickly active in this complex field on account of their expertise and networks of actors already engaged on climate.

PIOs demonstrate a clear understanding that tackling climate change is an interconnected issue

Many PIOs are focused on fostering systemic action: When describing their work, over three-quarters of responding organisations (76%) describe the interconnected and causal relationships between the climate crisis and other global and local challenges, considering both the systemic causes of climate change and its broad, societal impacts. This mirrors a trend among philanthropic actors more broadly, which are increasingly embracing systems perspectives, although based on our research, it is clear that further progress can be made.¹⁰ This reflects the nature of the climate crisis which is inherently complex, unpredictable and context-dependent.¹¹

- A handful of PIOs (15%) explicitly articulate their role as **supporting foundations and donors to take a more systemic approach**.¹²
- One-third of the intermediary, joint or pooled funds, funding collectives or umbrella foundations are **funding at explicitly systems level**. At its best, pooled funding offers funders the potential to share risks, distribute power, take an ever more strategic approach and build-up the infrastructure making it a well-suited vehicle for transformational systemic work.¹³
- Conducive power dynamics are a key condition for enabling deeper systems change.¹⁴ And yet only a small percentage of respondents (9%) describe their work in terms of **challenging or shifting power**, particularly to local communities on the frontlines of climate change and leading climate action.

While many PIOs are using the language and concepts of systems change, there remains a gap in fully embracing some of the deeper levers of change, echoing a wider sectoral tendency, and perhaps under-explored potential in leveraging their influence towards the sector.¹⁵

Spotlight on intermediary, joint and pooled funds; funding collectives; and umbrella foundations

Intermediary, joint and pooled funds; funding collectives; and umbrella foundations, which bring together and deploy funding from multiple donors, have emerged as key drivers of climate philanthropy and represent one third of the surveyed PIOs. A key strength lies in their ability to foster the scaling up of ideas by pooling resources from multiple funders, enabling them to tackle large-scale climate challenges and support ambitious projects that individual organisations may struggle to address alone.

By combining financial resources, expertise and influence, they can foster collaboration and innovation across sectors and create opportunities for learning. This model allows them to take on high-impact initiatives, reduce risks for funders and create more strategic alignment and sustained attention in addressing climate-related issues. These PIOs also create opportunities for grantees, becoming a trusted partner for those working in the field. Their capacity to leverage collective action, while building up infrastructure and strengthening the field, makes them essential in facilitating systemic change.¹⁶

For a more comprehensive overview of climate pooled funds, read [“The Power of Collaborative Philanthropy: Giving Together to Address the Climate Crisis”](#) by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and Climate Lead.

Conclusions

PIOs perceive themselves to be enablers of more effective, coordinated and equitable climate philanthropy, ensuring that the philanthropy ecosystem is mobilised, equipped and connected to respond to the climate crisis in meaningful ways. PIOs show a strong degree of responsiveness and agility, embracing complex and multifaceted roles in a dynamic ecosystem.



The infrastructure supporting climate philanthropy must continue to grow to meet the scale of this crisis; this highlights the integral role for PIOs within the philanthropic ecosystem. There is potential for expansion and deeper collaboration within the ecosystem but also a risk of duplication. As the urgency of the climate crisis intensifies, foundations, as an integral part of the broader

philanthropy ecosystem, hold a unique ability to drive the transformative changes needed to create a sustainable and equitable future for people and our planet. By leveraging philanthropy infrastructure, we can collectively enable more collaborative and ambitious action, while also inspiring a broader commitment from foundations and PIOs that have yet to engage with climate issues.

PROFILES OF PIOS ACTIVE IN THE FIELD OF CLIMATE

13	ACTIVE PHILANTHROPY
14	ALLIANCE MAGAZINE
15	ALLIANCE OF GERMAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
16	ARIADNE
17	ASSIFERO
18	ASSOCIATION OF CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS
19	CLIMATE AND LAND USE ALLIANCE
20	CLIMATE EMERGENCY COLLABORATION GROUP
21	CLIMATE JUSTICE & JUST TRANSITION DONOR COLLABORATIVE
22	CLIMATE LEAD
23	CLIMATEWORKS FOUNDATION
24	EDGE FUNDERS ALLIANCE
25	ENVIRONMENTAL FUNDERS NETWORK
26	EUROPEAN CLIMATE FOUNDATION
27	EUROPEAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION INITIATIVE
28	FONDATION DE LUXEMBOURG
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35	NEW PHILANTHROPY CAPITAL
36	OECD NETFWD
37	PARTNERS FOR A NEW ECONOMY
38	PHILEA
39	PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FUND
40	POLISH DONORS FORUM
41	ROCKEFELLER PHILANTHROPY ADVISORS
42	SPANISH ASSOCIATION OF FOUNDATIONS
43	UK COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS
44	WINGS
45	YOUTH CLIMATE JUSTICE FUND

Active Philanthropy

Active Philanthropy works for more and better climate philanthropy. Its goal is for philanthropy to step up and be part of the solution. It works with individual actors, groups and networks to help them understand climate issues and potential entry points, explore options and opportunities, and build strategies that create lasting change.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- One-to-one advisory services
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations
- Individual donors

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

None

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Active Philanthropy perceives climate as an overarching problem with no singular solution, meaning that we need philanthropy to play a critical role in convening interests, inspiring action and advancing solutions. Climate appears differently to each actor, requiring individual perspectives and approaches from everyone, depending on one's role, experiences and background. Only by making the issue more relatable can the right motivation and level of ambition be found to create lasting change.

- [Active Philanthropy](#)
- [Climate Mitigation Tool](#)

Alliance Magazine

Alliance Magazine believes that there is potential for greater engagement on climate issues including from itself. This means putting the defining issue facing the planet at the heart of its coverage. In response, it launched the ClimatePhilanthropy2030 initiative. From January 2020, it committed to weekly coverage of Climate Philanthropy with the aim of increasing the level of coverage to 10% of its overall work.



ACTIVITIES

Alliance Magazine offers a global platform for new thinking on philanthropy, and fosters a community of practitioners who, through their participation in debate and discussion, will shape the future of philanthropy.

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Its platform is open to all who have a perspective to share on climate philanthropy.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Alliance Magazine believes climate change is the defining issue of our times and a major social and inter-generational justice issue disproportionately affecting the poorest communities, and future generations. Despite various climate philanthropy commitments, contributors feel the main issues remain a lack of funding; communities at the sharp end of climate change who are bearing the brunt; and fears that foundations are accelerating the climate crisis by investing their endowments in fossil fuels.

[Alliance Magazine climate](#)

Alliance of German Community Foundations

Bündnis Bürgerstiftungen Deutschlands

With a series of webinars structured around the seven pillars of the International Philanthropy Commitment on Climate Change, the Bündnis Bürgerstiftungen Deutschlands wants to raise awareness, give impulses and present best practice examples to community foundations in Germany.



ACTIVITIES

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking and operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

The Bündnis Bürgerstiftungen Deutschlands network consists of 420 community foundations who are invited to participate in all network activities.

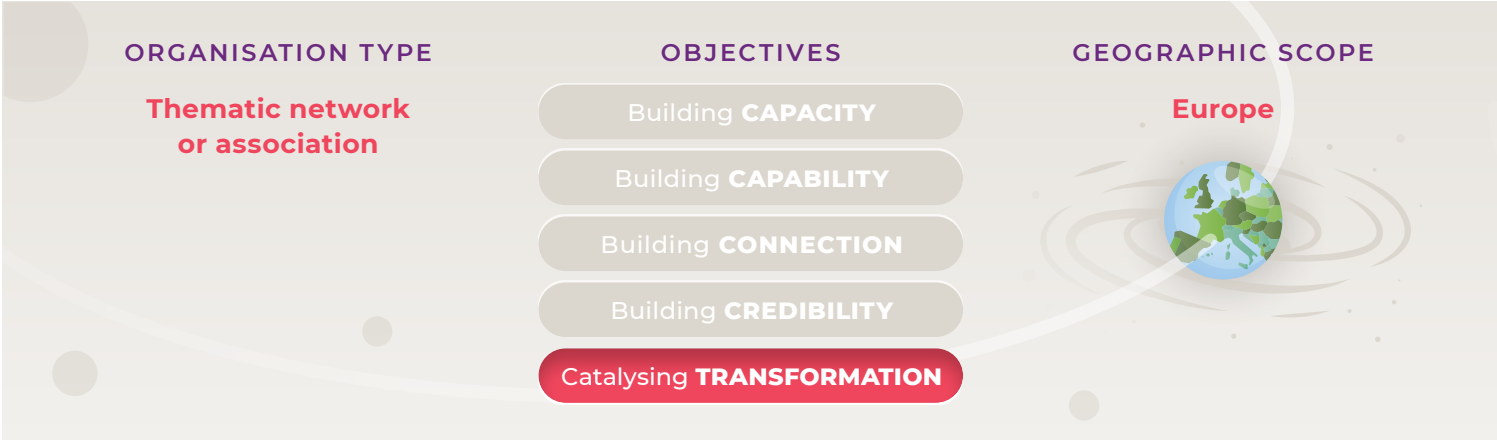
MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Working on climate is important because it affects us all, and community foundations are committed to everyone. Working on climate has confirmed the Bündnis Bürgerstiftungen Deutschlands' role as a thematic driving force and enabler.

[Climate Change and Community Foundations](#)
[Together good for the climate](#)

Ariadne

Ariadne’s work is aimed at encouraging funders to take a justice-centred approach to tackling the climate crisis and highlighting the connections between climate justice and other human rights issues.



ACTIVITIES

Convening peer groups, communities or networks
Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Ariadne’s reports are freely available on its website. Access to its discussions and events is limited to funders, with priority given to its members.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

It is important to take a holistic approach to addressing the climate which takes into account the root causes of the crisis and its social impact. Ariadne sees that it has an important role to play in drawing connections between different issue areas to help funders without climate programmes to become more engaged in supporting climate.

[Ariadne](#)

[Centering equity and justice in climate philanthropy](#)

[Funding at the intersection of climate and tech](#)

Assifero

Filantropia per il Clima (Philanthropy for Climate)

Assifero aims to be a key reference point for climate philanthropy and the third sector in Italy. It aims to create a network for knowledge exchange among philanthropic entities, while setting a higher standard by supporting best practices, promoting ambitious funding strategies, and connecting international and national climate networks.



ACTIVITIES

Hosting a Philanthropy for Climate Commitment
One-to-one advisory services
Convening peer groups, communities or networks
Research, data and knowledge development
Other: Learning opportunities, exchange of best practices

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Participants must be a philanthropic organisation, either grantmaking or operating, or a foundation.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate intersects with all the social challenges that Assifero’s members are working on, acting as both a welcoming, learning safe space for those not yet ready to embrace the climate journey, and as an ambitious partner to develop strategies and provide opportunities for learning.

[Filantropia per il Clima](#)

[Analysis Report – Self-assessment survey: Declaration of commitment from foundations and philanthropic entities for the climate](#)

[Practical guide to the implementation of the declaration of the foundations and Italian philanthropies for the climate crisis](#)

Association of Charitable Foundations

Funder Commitment on Climate Change

The Association of Charitable Foundations (ACF) hosts the Funder Commitment on Climate Change, a high-level framework to encourage trusts and foundations to consider how they can play a role in addressing the causes and adapting to the effects of climate change. The Funder Commitment on Climate Change sets out six areas where foundations can act, and signatories share their progress with peers through peer-exchange meetings and reporting annually on their progress.



ACTIVITIES

Hosting a Philanthropy for Climate Commitment

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

The Funder Commitment on Climate Change can be signed by any UK organisation which is an endowed foundation or makes grants for charitable purposes. ACF interprets the term grantmaking to include investing for charitable purposes.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

ACF’s members have consistently expressed that climate change ranks among their top challenges, and it wants to encourage more foundations to actively engage in addressing the climate crisis. ACF brings together trusts and foundations, wherever they are on their journey to integrating climate action into their work. It encourages foundations to share their experiences as practical examples for others to learn from and help them make the link between their mission and climate.

[Funder Commitment on Climate Change](#)

[Funder Commitment on Climate Change Year 4 Progress report](#)

[Funder Commitment on Climate Change Year 4 progress data](#)

Climate and Land Use Alliance

The Climate and Land Use Alliance (CLUA) is a collaborative of foundations seeking to amplify the power of people and the potential of forests for achieve a just and climate-resilient world. By aligning and leveraging its diverse expertise, resources and networks, CLUA supports civil society organisations and other partners driving systemic change worldwide and in tropical forest regions.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

CLUA does not accept unsolicited grant proposals. Instead, it works closely with its partner foundations to identify funding opportunities that create impact.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The next decade is critical for humanity and for the planet’s climate, forests and diversity of life. Tropical forest systems are essential for all life on the planet. CLUA categorises its roles under three main areas: first, funding mobilisation and deployment; second, strategy and learning; and third, expertise and external engagement.

[Climate and Land Use Alliance](#)

Climate Emergency Collaboration Group

The Climate Emergency Collaboration Group (CECG) vision and mission are to use the international negotiation moments to drive inclusive climate ambition and action.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Advocacy and/or campaigning

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations
- Individual donors
- NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Its grantmaking, convening and campaigning are tied to the international negotiations and processes.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate is at the core of CECG – it addresses the climate emergency using the multilateral processes to get good outcomes. It focuses on international climate negotiations, addressing all tracks, including mitigation, adaptation, loss and damage, and finance, funding in areas and regions that are sometimes overlooked.

[Climate Emergency Collaboration Group](#)

Climate Justice & Just Transition Donor Collaborative

The Climate Justice Just Transition Donor Collaborative (CJ-JT) was set up by six philanthropies in 2021 to shift power and resources to just and equitable climate solutions led by those on the frontlines who do not yet have their due share of voice in policymaking and whose efforts are critically under-resourced. This was achieved by mapping organisations working in the Global South, creating a learning journey for philanthropy comprising high-level events and webinars led by the field, and by piloting trust-based funding.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development
- Other: CJ-JT has built the world's first open-source, multi-language mapping of organisations working on climate justice and just transition

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations
- NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

The webinars & high-level events are free to attend, ongoing and online. The Climate Justice Map is available to all free of charge.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate is already destroying ecosystems and causing devastation for millions of people, especially those who are already the most vulnerable to other forms of injustice. CJ-JT's mapping and high-level events revealed huge numbers of outstanding organisations, re-granters and intermediaries in the Global South who are already doing amazing work and just need more funding.

- [Climate Justice Just Transition](#)
- [Climate Justice Map](#)
- [Blogs](#)

Climate Lead

Climate Lead empowers philanthropic leaders everywhere to take immediate and far-reaching climate action. By serving as an impartial guide, Climate Lead equips new climate philanthropists with the information and insights they need to drive transformative solutions. It has cut through the complexity by curating roadmaps, in partnership with a diverse network of experts, to help philanthropists make a bold impact on climate from day one.



ACTIVITIES

- One-to-one advisory services
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Other: Translating complexity into donor-ready materials

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Individual donors

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Climate Lead serves philanthropic leaders with the capacity to embrace risk, drive innovation, and catalyse transformative change around the world at the speed and scale required.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate touches every aspect of our world, and the impacts are felt disproportionately. Climate Lead is dedicated to lifting proven solutions to cut emissions, spur economic growth and improve global well-being. Because it is fully funded by leading philanthropies, it is uniquely positioned to serve as a trusted guide to donors—curating roadmaps, in partnership with a diverse network of experts, that align donor interest with tangible climate impact.

[Climate Lead](#)

ClimateWorks Foundation

ClimateWorks Foundation is a global platform for philanthropy to innovate and scale high-impact climate solutions that benefit people and the planet. It delivers global programmes and services that equip philanthropy with the knowledge, networks and solutions to drive climate progress for a more sustainable and equitable future.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

Philanthropy infrastructure organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

ClimateWorks Foundation works with both climate funders and implementing partners to accelerate climate action worldwide.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The ClimateWorks team is on a mission to end the climate crisis by amplifying the power of philanthropy. Since 2008, ClimateWorks has granted over \$1.8 billion to more than 850 grantees in over 50 countries. Philanthropy is fostering meaningful climate progress — and offering a blueprint for even bolder ambition that benefits people and the planet. ClimateWorks ongoing series highlights its learnings and the growing community of changemakers driving transformative climate action.

[ClimateWorks Foundation](#)

[Funding trends 2023: Climate change mitigation philanthropy](#)

[ClimateWorks' 2022 Annual Report: Materializing Real-World Change in 2022](#)

EDGE Funders Alliance

EDGE Funders Alliance organises within philanthropy to raise awareness and deepen the understanding of the interconnected crises threatening our common future, and to increase resources for systemic alternatives that support justice, equity, and the well-being of the planet. It aspires to alert funders to false solutions and redirect their resources to intersectional climate justice work.



ACTIVITIES

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations
- Individual donors
- NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

At the moment, funders need to be EDGE network members. Movement representatives can sign up through its website.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate injustice manifests itself disproportionately in the global majority. It intersects with economic, gender and racial injustices. To truly work towards systemic alternatives and build just and equitable worlds, climate is a key lens to organise around.

- [Climate Justice Initiative](#)
- [Beyond 2%: From climate philanthropy to climate justice philanthropy](#)

Environmental Funders Network

The Environmental Funders Network supports funders to be more effective supporters of climate action through events, convening, research and publications.



ACTIVITIES

- One-to-one advisory services
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Individual donors
- NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

To be part of the Environmental Funders Network, you must be a funder (trust, foundation, individual donor). There is no fee to participate, though we do ask for annual voluntary membership contributions.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

As an environmentally focused network, the Environmental Funders Network sees the climate crisis as one of a series of critical interlocking crises. We know that climate philanthropy works - but we need more of it, and it needs to be deployed strategically.

- [Environmental Funders Network](#)
- [Where the Green Grants Went 9](#)

European Climate Foundation

The European Climate Foundation is a philanthropic initiative and field catalyst, working with a grantee ecosystem and funding partners to foster a people-centred, socially just transition to a net-zero world. The European Climate Foundation works at local, national, European, and global levels, and across sectors, to broaden and deepen public and political support for climate action, and to promote ambitious policymaking to tackle the climate crisis. We are a trusted guide to philanthropists in navigating the complex climate landscape.

ORGANISATION TYPE

Intermediary, joint or pooled fund, funding collective or umbrella foundation

OBJECTIVES

Building **CAPACITY**

Building **CAPABILITY**

Building **CONNECTION**

Building **CREDIBILITY**

Catalysing **TRANSFORMATION**

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Global



ACTIVITIES

Grantmaking

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

Advocacy and/or campaigning

Research, data and knowledge development

Other: Thought leadership on climate; incubating new platforms; developing and collaborating on best practice in climate philanthropy

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

Individual donors

NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

The European Climate Foundation invites applications for funding and actively seeks to grow its network. Partners need to demonstrate how their work contributes to the wider climate movement, or a clear link to the European Climate Foundation's strategy in a certain country or sector. The European Climate Foundation completes due diligence on all of their partners.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

As a regional climate foundation, the European Climate Foundation exists to leverage the power of climate philanthropy to deliver a green, peaceful and democratic future. As a field catalyst, the European Climate Foundation has learned that it must go beyond policies and technologies, defending democracy and empowering citizens in support of climate progress. For the next phase of the transition, we need a whole-of-society shift: one that responds to loud citizen calls for prosperity, equity and security.

[European Climate Foundation](#)

[2023 Annual Report](#)

European Community Foundation Initiative

The European Community Foundation Initiative (ECFI) supports European community foundations in taking action on climate. It does this by providing learning opportunities (via Learning Journey scholarships and thematic meetings); connecting changemakers from over 30 community foundations across Europe (via the ECFI Climate Action Peer Group and the ECFI Climate Action Days in 2023); and highlighting and sharing examples of community foundation climate actions (via publications and blog posts).

ORGANISATION TYPE

Geographic network or association

OBJECTIVES

Building **CAPACITY**

Building **CAPABILITY**

Building **CONNECTION**

Building **CREDIBILITY**

Catalysing **TRANSFORMATION**

GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

Europe



ACTIVITIES

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

Research, data and knowledge development

Other: Learning opportunities

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

ECFI's climate-related activities are open to all community foundations in Europe.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Community foundations create bottom-up solutions to the climate crisis, leveraging local assets and capabilities, and work to strengthen the resilience of their communities in a rapidly warming world. Change often starts with individual changemakers, and ECFI can add enormous value by recognising, supporting and connecting these changemakers from community foundations across Europe, no matter how different the contexts they operate in.

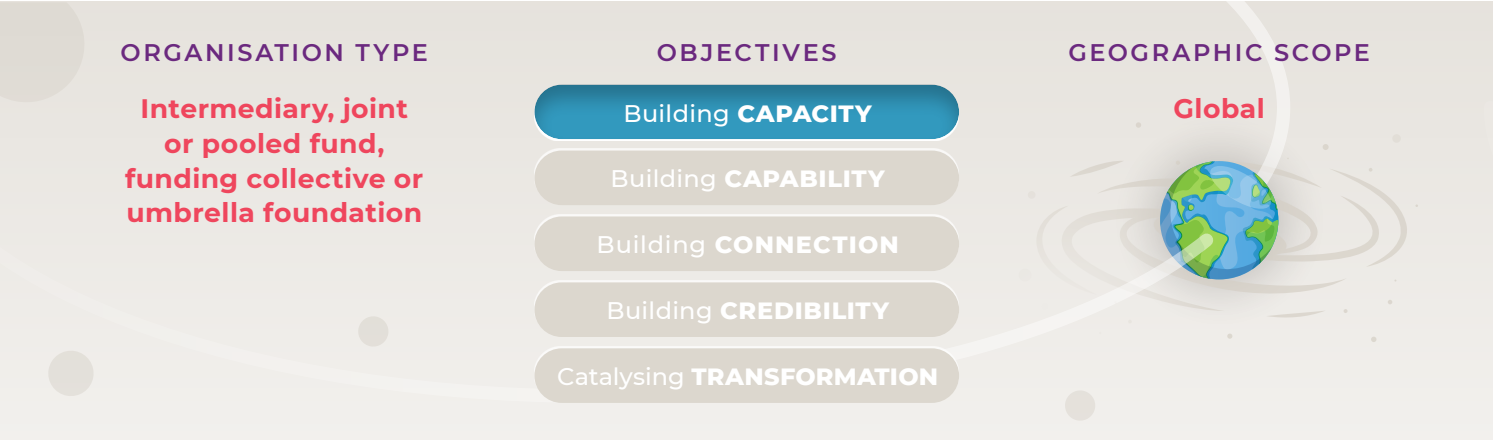
[European Community Foundation Initiative](#)

[Walking the climate talk](#)

[Community Foundations: The hidden champions of philanthropic climate action](#)

Fondation de Luxembourg

Since its creation, the Fondation de Luxembourg has supported the foundations under its aegis in their philanthropic efforts across five themes, including Climate Change & Biodiversity. In 2024, the Fondation de Luxembourg also launched its own Fondation pour le Climat, under its aegis, to connect external corporate donors with local projects focused on climate change awareness, research and biodiversity preservation.



ACTIVITIES

Grantmaking

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

Individual donors

Other: Corporate donors

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

External corporate donors may support our climate foundation and their chosen local climate project, reviewed by a scientific advisory board. It facilitates long-term philanthropic engagement, so projects are of a certain scale. Donors may contact Fondation de Luxembourg for more information.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate change is the greatest challenge facing humanity and is deeply intertwined with all other major global issues, such as poverty, increased inequalities, social tensions and migration. With its climate foundation, the Fondation de Luxembourg increases opportunities to fight climate change by matching external donors with local projects. It capitalises on its beneficiary network, expert scientific advisory board that reviews projects, and proximity to corporate donors who seek to build a better future.

[Foundation for the Climate](#)

[Fondation de Luxembourg launches a climate foundation](#)

Foundations Platform F20

F20 aims to align the G20 political processes with the Paris Climate Agreement and the SDGs of the 2030 Agenda. F20 wants to build bridges between civil society, business & politics within and beyond G20 nations, focusing on climate solutions, mitigation & resilience. It believes global challenges require international collaboration and partnerships, focusing on solutions. F20 serves as a platform for linking foundations globally for mutual opportunities within the G20 framework.



ACTIVITIES

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

Advocacy and/or campaigning

Research, data and knowledge development

Other: Network building, International Cooperation, North to South & South to South Partnerships

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

Philanthropy infrastructure organisations

Other: G20 Countries, Decision-Makers, International Politics

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Many of F20's climate activities are open to the public. To participate in and access them as a full member, foundations must commit to sustainability, comply with F20's mission statement, and engage in advocacy and convening work by partaking in working groups and convenings, or submitting publications.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Addressing climate change is crucial for developing sustainable solutions, mitigating risks, and safeguarding the environment for future generations, thereby enhancing resilience and social equity. Working on climate has taught F20 that its role as a platform for foundations and philanthropy is to organise convenings; open spaces for and foster collaborations; lead by example; and strive for meaningful environmental change by inspiring collective climate action as a bridge-builder within the G20 space.

[Foundations Platform F20](#)

[F20 Recommendations for action to the G20 under the Brazilian Presidency](#)

[Press release – Successful conclusion of the F20 Climate Solutions Forum](#)

French Foundation Centre

Coalition Française des Fondations pour le Climat
(French Coalition of Foundations for Climate)

The French Coalition of Foundations for Climate (CffC) is a programme of the French Foundation Centre which promotes and encourages initiatives in the service of the ecological and solidarity transition of French funds and foundations, of all sizes and social missions, by focusing on their operational and financial strategies, their ways of managing, supporting and/or accompanying projects of general interest, as well as their capacity to support and influence to meet a collective challenge.



ACTIVITIES

Hosting a Philanthropy for Climate Commitment

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

Advocacy and/or campaigning

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Being a foundation or endowment fund. This programme aims to also collaborate and interact with relevant public and private structures.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

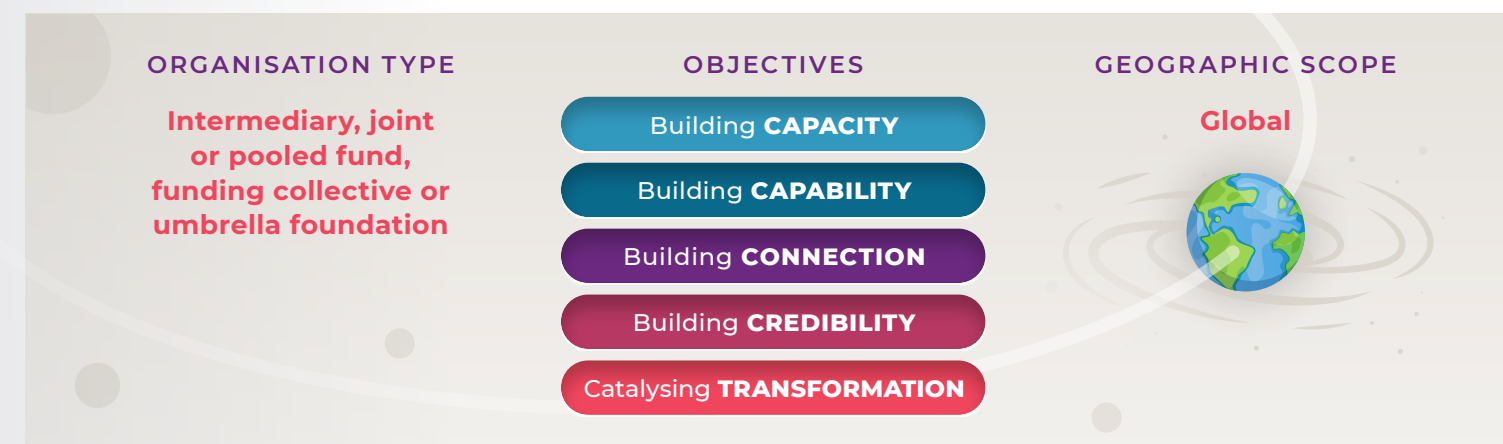
The just ecological transition is a factor of importance for the entire French system. The CffC provides a programme specifically adapted to philanthropic organisations. There is a need to bridge the existing area of work of signatories with climate needs, making the transition a solution. The transition does not need to be an impossible process but ensuring that it is "just" is important, in a context in which the sector's actions are essential in moving forward.

[French Coalition of Foundations for Climate](#)

[Manifesto of French foundations to combat climate change](#)

Global Greengrants Fund

The Global Greengrants Fund's purpose in the field of climate is to provide financial and other forms of support to grass-roots climate justice groups.



ACTIVITIES

Grantmaking

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

Individual donors

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

None.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate is an important area for Global Greengrants Fund because it was founded as an environmental justice organisation in recognition both of the existential threat posed by the climate and nature emergencies, and the untapped power of local communities to respond. Through its work on climate, Global Greengrants Fund has learned that there is limited funding for grass-roots-led climate initiatives. It occupies an important niche as one of the few funders supporting small and unregistered groups, while also advocating for improved practices in working with grass-roots civil society.

[Climate Justice](#)

Global Alliance for the Future of Food

As an alliance of philanthropic foundations working on food systems transformation, the Global Alliance for the Future of Food is committed to making the case about the food-climate nexus. Food systems contribute to over 30% of greenhouse gas emissions and yet receive proportionally little attention from climate funders and finance. Now, this is changing, so bridging food and climate funders is important, as well as identifying specific opportunities for climate-food action with big mitigation and/or adaptation returns.



ACTIVITIES

Convening peer groups, communities or networks
Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
Philanthropy infrastructure organisations
NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Most of the Global Alliance for the Future of Food’s work on climate is open, but it has a strategic focus on working with its membership.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate and social justice are foundational for the Global Alliance for the Future of Food as cross-cutting, intersectional issues. Food and climate narratives and entry points are different and there is a need for intentional bridging. Moreover, the food/energy nexus is a critical yet mostly missed, opportunity for mitigation and adaptation with a focus on food systems transformation.

[Global Alliance for the Future of Food](#)
[Power shift: Why we need to wean industrial food systems off fossil fuels](#)
[Toward fossil-free food: Why collaboration between food and energy systems players is key](#)

Healthy Food Healthy Planet

Food systems encompass the entirety of the food journey, from production to consumption to waste. Food systems significantly contribute to global greenhouse gas emissions, environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, and both human and animal welfare concerns. Healthy Food Healthy Planet works to transform food systems by focusing on reduction of animal-sourced food and on food environments which are the contexts that determine the affordability, availability, convenience and desirability of food.



ACTIVITIES

Grantmaking
One-to-one advisory services
Convening peer groups, communities or networks
Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Apply for grants, participate in collaborative actions, offer services or take part in services provided under our movement-building efforts.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The impact of climate change on people often excluded from the transition is a sharp reminder that a successful transition is one that is inclusive. Convening of cross-thematic and intersectoral work, and sparking meaningful collaboration between organisations are needed to overcome silos and “silver bullet solution” mindsets. This, however, takes time and effort. There is a need to offer spaces for experimentation and trial and error.

[Healthy Food Healthy Planet](#)

Impatience Earth

Impatience Earth provides pro-bono advisory services to corporate foundations, private foundations, and high-net-worth individuals. Through a combination of comprehensive learning opportunities, expert guidance and strategic connections, it empowers its clients to take confident and impactful action on climate issues they care about across a range of sectors and approaches. Impatience Earth services allow donors to delve into the systemic causes of the climate emergency and develop effective strategies.



ACTIVITIES

One-to-one advisory services
Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
Individual donors

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Funders must either be new to climate philanthropy, in the early stages of exploration, or looking to scale up or speed up their climate giving. Impatience Earth works with clients able to make at least £100,000 (~€120,000) in new funding available to the climate sector, with clear goals around their timelines and commitment.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Failing to address the climate crisis will undermine all the other things funders care about. Impactful climate solutions that deliver co-benefits for society and nature desperately need more support. Impatience Earth has learned that its role is not just to increase the quantity of climate philanthropy, but to focus just as much on the quality; to help funders apply a climate justice lens; direct Resources to the Global South where possible; and become trust-based funders.

[Impatience Earth](#)
[Scaling up climate-smart development](#)

New Philanthropy Capital

Everyone's Environment

The environmental crises do not affect all people in the same way: Some of the most disadvantaged and marginalised people are worst affected by our changing environment and related policy. Charities and funders have a critical role to play in supporting and empowering different social groups to be part of the solutions. The Everyone's Environment programme is a collaboration of social and environmental charities and funders accelerating action on the social impacts of the environmental crises.



ACTIVITIES

One-to-one advisory services
Convening peer groups, communities or networks
Research, data and knowledge development
Influencing and/or campaigning

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

There are no requirements. NPC has free resources for charities and funders to access on its webpage. It also offers one to one advice through our consultancy service.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

New Philanthropy Capital helps the social sector maximise its impact. The environmental crises are having significant social impacts, and so it is central to its mission to help charities and funders take action. Now more than ever, social and environmental charities and funders must operate systemically and collaborate to achieve impact for people and planet. Without coordination, this is difficult for the sector to achieve. New Philanthropy Capital's role is to convene charities and funders to accelerate shared action.

[Everyone's Environment](#)

OECD netFWD

The OECD Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) supports foundations working on health, education and gender equality to integrate a climate lens into their work through peer-learning based on data and evidence, knowledge codification, and positioning philanthropy in the global, multilateral system.



ACTIVITIES

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

Research, data and knowledge development

Other: Positioning philanthropy in the global, multilateral system

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Being a grantmaking foundation following the OECD’s definition.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The OECD netFWD believes that all foundations should integrate in their work some key cross-cutting themes, including climate action and gender action in their work, as well as a clear focus on reducing inequalities. Non-climate foundations need to be supported in their journey to integrate a climate lens in their work, and netFWD can play a key role in that.

[Networks of Foundations Working for Development \(netFWD\)](#)

Partners for a New Economy

The initiatives funded by Partners for a New Economy (P4NE) show a deep understanding of planetary boundaries and an urgency to transform our economy to live within them. They push the frontiers of alternative economic thinking, and work to change the rules, goals and mindsets underpinning the current economic system.



ACTIVITIES

Grantmaking

Convening peer groups, communities or networks

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations

NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

P4NE hosts an annual gathering which is curated around actors working on the new economy. P4NE’s grantmaking is by invitation. Special offers, such as the New Economy Leaders Academy, have a selection process.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

P4NE takes the view that climate is part of a broader framework—the environment—where all forms of life are interconnected, influencing and impacting one another. To tackle the climate crisis, we need to address its root causes, our economic system being a significant one. A large part of the environmental degradation comes from how the economy operates and what is valued by it (and what is not).

[Partners for a New Economy](#)

Philea

European Philanthropy Coalition for Climate, European Environmental Funders Group, EU Cities Mission, European Foundations for Sustainable Agriculture and Food

Philea wants to play its part in increasing the share and quality of philanthropy’s contribution towards tackling the climate and other environmental crises by strengthening philanthropic infrastructure, generating evidence and encouraging peer-learning.



ACTIVITIES

- Supporting Philanthropy for Climate Commitments
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development
- Advocacy & campaigning

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Philea reaches out to a broad spectrum of actors, both within and beyond the European philanthropic sector. Some of Philea’s activities are open to all, and some only to specific types of organisations, depending on the purpose and scope of the activity and/or Philea member status.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The impact of environmental crises, like climate change and biodiversity loss, are being felt by people in every part of the world. Philanthropy, in its diversity, can play a crucial role, catalysing much-needed transformations that work for people and for our planet. We believe that every foundation, regardless of size, mission, or geographic area, has levers at this disposal to take meaningful climate action, whether they are just getting started or are showing leadership in the field. Philanthropy infrastructure organisations can play a vital role as accelerators and multipliers of this work.

- [Philea Climate](#)
- [Feeling the Heat: How foundations can use their investments to curb climate change](#)
- [Environmental Funding by European Foundations: Volume 6](#)

Plastic Solutions Fund

To avoid breaching the 1.5°C limit set by the Paris Agreement, the Plastic Solutions Fund’s work covers the full lifecycle of plastics, beginning with its extraction, seeking deep and rapid cuts in plastic production, so that only truly necessary and non-toxic plastics are produced, and even those are reused, repaired, or recycled.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

As a pooled fund, philanthropic foundations join the Plastic Solutions Fund through annual financial contributions, to access its climate-related activities.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The Plastic Solutions Fund is seeking systemic change that reduces and eliminates problematic plastics, while moving towards reuse systems and a truly regenerative economy. Work to end climate change should be more than just emissions reductions and quick technofixes: It should focus on long-term efforts that transform the systems we live in, creating a better future for both people and the planet.

- [Plastic Solutions Fund](#)
- [The Global Plastics Treaty](#)

Polish Donors Forum

Organizacje społeczne na rzecz klimatu
(Social organisations for climate)

Through the initiative “Social Organisations for Climate,” the Polish Donors Forum wants to make climate awareness an integral part of civil society organisations in Poland, so that it becomes part of their DNA, in line with their individual mission.



ACTIVITIES

- Hosting a Philanthropy for Climate Commitment
- One-to-one advisory services
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations
- NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

All meetings are open to the signatories of the Polish Climate Commitment, while certain events are accessible to the entire sector.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The Polish Donors Forum wants to raise the standards of grantmaking organisations. Climate change affects us all, so it wants to see organisations acting for the common good to take this issue into account as well. Through working on climate, it has learned that even organisations without a direct climate focus play a crucial role in fostering awareness and action. Its influence can extend beyond its primary mission by integrating climate-conscious practices and encouraging others to do the same.

[Social organisations for climate](#)

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors

Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors’ work is threefold regarding climate. First, it promotes systems change approaches for philanthropy, and climate philanthropy is one of three foci; Second, it advises clients on climate and environment philanthropy; Third, it hosts 30+ fiscally sponsored projects on climate and related environmental philanthropy.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- One-to-one advisory services
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

None.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate change is a crisis in itself, but it both contributes to other challenges, including health and poverty, and is affected by other challenges such as eroding democratic practice. We are all having difficulty making the individual and organisational commitments needed on the scale needed; that is why regulation and policy change is essential.

[Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors](#)

Spanish Association of Foundations

Fundaciones por el Clima (Foundations for Climate)

Through Fundaciones por el Clima, the Spanish Association of Foundations (AEF) aims to promote the action and commitment of the philanthropic sector in the fight against climate change and the inequalities it creates, through the Spanish Pact for the climate emergency and social justice signed by 270 foundations. It organises workshops, events and working groups in order to foster a collaborative space where foundations can learn from each other.



ACTIVITIES

- Hosting a Philanthropy for Climate Commitment
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development
- Other: Working groups, workshops and events about carbon footprint, climate investments, reporting, etc.

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

To fully participate in all activities, including working groups, a foundation should be a signatory to the Spanish Commitment. However, events are open to all foundations.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

AEF believes the Spanish philanthropic sector should have a crucial role in the ecological and just transition. It has learned that foundations, not just environmental ones, need to act as leaders and key reference points in the field of climate change for the broader philanthropic sector.

- [Fundaciones por el Clima](#)
- [Carbon footprint, sustainable mobility and climate risks](#)
- [Investments for Climate](#)

UK Community Foundations

UK Community Foundations' work in the field of climate focuses on empowering communities to adapt to climate change, enhancing resilience, and addressing climate justice. By supporting community-led initiatives, UK Community Foundations aims to mitigate climate risks, promote social equity, and ensure that vulnerable groups, who are disproportionately affected by environmental challenges, are prioritised in efforts to build a sustainable, equitable future.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Individual donors

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Membership to UK Community Foundations.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

Climate directly impacts community health, resilience, and equity; addressing it helps safeguard future generations and tackle social injustices exacerbated by environmental changes. Through working on climate, UK Community Foundations has learned its role is to empower community foundations, build capacity and convene stakeholders to address local climate resilience and justice. UK Community Foundations aims to drive impactful funding and influence national policy.

- [UK Community Foundations](#)

WINGS

Philanthropy For Climate

Through the Philanthropy for Climate movements and commitment framework, WINGS aims to unlock more and better climate philanthropy. It encourages all foundations -regardless of size, geographic location, or thematic focus - to integrate a climate lens from governance to grantmaking.



ACTIVITIES

- Hosting a Philanthropy for Climate Commitment
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development
- Advocacy and/or campaigning

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Operating foundations and philanthropic organisations
- Philanthropy infrastructure organisations

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Be a part of the philanthropic ecosystem.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

The climate crisis represents an existential threat to the pursuits of philanthropic activities everywhere, and without a collaborative and whole sector approach we will not reach the global goals. Philanthropy Support Organisations (PSOs) are key to mobilising funders to engage in the climate agenda and connecting philanthropy to the public and private sectors for impactful collaboration. As a global organisation, we are uniquely placed to connect PSOs from across the world to learn from each other and improve practices.

[Philanthropy for Climate](#)

Youth Climate Justice Fund

The Youth Climate Justice Fund (YCJF) was setup as the first ever youth-led fund focused on climate justice issues globally. It is committed to creating a strategic participatory mechanism to pair funding with youth-to-youth capacity development. The YCJF works to strengthen existing organising efforts and support emerging youth movements with a focus on bridging the gap between funders and organisers to enable flexible and impactful support.



ACTIVITIES

- Grantmaking
- One-to-one advisory services
- Convening peer groups, communities or networks
- Research, data and knowledge development

TARGET AUDIENCE(S)

- Grantmaking foundations and philanthropic organisations
- NGOs

REQUIREMENT(S) TO PARTICIPATE

Donors of YCJF form a collaborative of 18+ philanthropic structures, meeting quarterly to explore youth-led climate solutions. The YCJF also curates exclusive events for high-net-worth individuals and donors alongside global gatherings like New York Climate Week.

MOTIVATION AND APPROACH

YCJF supports youth-led solutions which are trying to solve climate and environmental issues by strategically tackling other social issues. As an intermediary, YCJF offers key services to philanthropy: outreach to underfunded youth groups via participatory grantmaking in multiple languages, capacity development for greater impact, improved MEL practices, rapid funding transfers, and enhanced sustainability for small organisations.

[Youth Climate Justice Fund](#)

[Youth Climate Justice Study](#)

[Young people are the best renewable energy:](#)

[We need to fund their work](#)

Glossary

The following glossary provides working definitions of key terms and concepts used in this report. These definitions are by no means intended to establish universal or standardised meanings but rather to assist the reader in understanding the specific meanings attributed to these terms within the context of this publication.

Where possible these definitions reflect those from existing frameworks, particularly “[Understanding the Meaning of Terms: Definitions and Taxonomy](#)” published by WINGS, and “[Using the 4Cs: Evaluating Professional Support to Philanthropy](#)” published by WINGS and Dafne (now Philea).

PHILANTHROPY
INFRASTRUCTURE
ORGANISATION

Organisations that support and strengthen philanthropy. PIOs usually do not directly fund or implement philanthropic programmes themselves, but rather support those that do.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Generating money and other resources for the field increasing the amount of philanthropy and improving its practice.

BUILDING CAPABILITY

Building skills, knowledge and expertise within foundations and philanthropic organisations.

BUILDING CONNECTION

Building relationships through convening; networking; peer-learning; community and relationship building; ecosystem building; facilitating collaboration.

BUILDING CREDIBILITY

Building the reputation, recognition and influence of the field towards governments, civil society and at large through advocacy and representation of and/or towards philanthropy, influencing the sector and or on behalf of the sector.

CATALYSING
TRANSFORMATION

Incentivising change at scale, expanding the range of stakeholders who engage in imagining, enabling and amplifying change; demonstrating leadership towards and on behalf of the field; being a “changemaker”.

CONSULTING
AND ADVISORY
ORGANISATIONS

Social sector firms who provide advice to foundations or philanthropic organisations on issues like strategy, programme implementation, internal organisation and governance.

FOUNDATION-TYPE
NETWORKS

Organisations that bring together a singular type of foundation or philanthropic organisation (e.g. community foundations) to share knowledge and encourage collaboration.

GEOGRAPHIC NETWORKS
AND ASSOCIATIONS

Organisations that bring together foundations or philanthropic organisations from a specific geography to share knowledge and encourage collaboration.

INTERMEDIARY, JOINT
OR POOLED FUND;
FUNDING COLLECTIVE;
UMBRELLA FOUNDATION

Philanthropic organisations that bring together, maintain and administer the financial resources of multiple donors.

MEDIA

Digital or print platforms which seek out, cultivate and disseminate the best in research, data and practice, based on knowledge on issues of relevance to philanthropy and giving actors in their target audience.

THEMATIC NETWORKS
AND ASSOCIATIONS

Organisations that bring together foundations or philanthropic organisations focused on a common cause or interest to share knowledge and encourage collaboration.

Endnotes

1

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About Philea Philanthropy Europe Association

Our vision is for philanthropy to use its full potential to co-shape and support a pluralistic, just and resilient society that centres people and planet. To achieve this, our mission is to enable, encourage and empower the philanthropic community to build a better today and tomorrow.

We nurture a diverse and inclusive ecosystem of foundations, philanthropic organisations and networks in over 30 countries that work for the common good. With individual and national-level infrastructure organisations as members, we unite over 7500 public-benefit foundations that seek to improve life for people and communities in Europe and around the world.

We galvanise collective action and amplify the voice of European philanthropy. Together we:

- ▶ **Co-create knowledge and learn from effective practices**
- ▶ **Collaborate around current and emerging issues**
- ▶ **Promote enabling environments for doing good**

In all we do, we are committed to enhancing trust, collaboration, transparency, innovation, inclusion and diversity.

www.philea.eu

THE EUROPEAN PHILANTHROPY COALITION FOR CLIMATE (CLIMATE COALITION) *(an initiative of Philea and was co-initiated by the PEXcommunity)*

We believe that all foundations and philanthropic organisations, regardless of their mission, can and should commit to meaningful climate action. We want to offer a framework for this journey. Since 2021, the Climate Coalition has worked in partnership with WINGS to launch and scale the global Philanthropy For Climate movement and the International Commitment. Philea leads on supporting the emergence of new national commitments in Europe and acts as the main point of contact for European signatories to the International Commitment.

www.philea.eu/climatecoalition

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Philea

Philanthropy Europe Association

CLIMATE CHANGE AND PHILANTHROPY INFRASTRUCTURE

Supporting the Ecosystem to Act

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