

Invitation to tender:

Local communities and the climate crisis

February 2020

Local Trust is commissioning research to understand **how communities can thrive in a climate-changing world**. This research will guide Local Trust to deliver relevant support and advocacy for the communities we serve. In particular, this research will focus on the climate justice agenda, and the need to pay attention to the 'left behind areas' that may be adversely affected by the impacts of climate change as well as the policy response.

[Local Trust](#) is an independent charitable trust that runs the Big Local programme. Big Local is a 15-year Big Lottery funded initiative to support 150 communities in England. Each Big Local area has been awarded £1m to spend over 10-15 years. The work in areas is led by local volunteers, and areas set their own priorities. As well as delivering the Big Local programme, Local Trust also provides training, networking, research and support to areas.

The climate crisis is affecting every aspect of life on Earth, and local communities are no exception. Recent research highlights that both extreme weather and changes to the economy could exacerbate or reinforce existing inequalities in poorer and more deprived communities. We want to help ensure that these communities are not disproportionately affected by the climate crisis.

While many aspects of our collective response to climate change will be national or international, there is an opportunity and a need within this crisis for residents to shape local responses and for communities to have a strong influence over the nature of the future, post-carbon economy. Indeed, some Big Local areas are already demonstrating how they are uniquely situated to respond to the crisis, making themselves more resilient to extreme weather by creating stronger, better-connected communities; creating climate change-ready places by managing greenspaces and planting trees; starting to produce their own energy and insulating homes; and improving local public transport.

Purpose of research

There is a wealth of research and resources relating to the climate emergency and local communities. The purpose of this work is to synthesise this existing knowledge, so that we are better placed to advise and support communities in our Big Local programme who wish to take action in response to the climate crisis. We will also use the research to work with Big Local areas to advocate for action in government, private sector and civil society that strengthens community in the context of the climate crisis. It is our aim to make a significant contribution to the national

debate on the climate emergency and the role of communities within this, and this research will help inform this work.

For more information on our recent publications and initiatives on climate and communities, please see:

- [The funders commitment on Climate change](#), of which Local Trust were a founding signatory.
- Big local resident and worker Becky Doran Brown's thoughts on [why we need a more inclusive climate agenda](#).
- [This blog post](#) written in response to a joint event with IPPR's Environmental Justice Commission and the [accompanying podcasts](#) giving an overview of the event and emerging themes.
- We are also happy to email you an internal document, sharing notes from our Big Local learning cluster event on climate change and energy.

Research focus

The guiding question for this research is: '**How can communities thrive in a climate-changing world?**'. To answer this, we require primary and secondary research resulting in a report to answer the following questions:

1. **How are local communities affected by and responding to the climate crisis?**

As general context, we would like a broad overview of the direct impacts of climate change on local communities, now and projected. We would then like more detailed research into:

- a. Measures being taken in local communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- b. Measures being taken to adapt to climate change – including hard infrastructure and social infrastructure (high research priority)
- c. Measures being taken to adapt to a post-carbon economy (high research priority)

And for each of the above areas (where relevant) what current leading practice is.

2. **How are communities in the Big Local programme responding to the climate crisis, what are their future plans and what support do they need?**

3. **What support (funding, resources, advice etc) is available for local communities wishing to take action on the climate crisis? Where are there gaps and what might be done to address the gaps?**

4. **What recommendations are being put forward by different people and organisations active in the climate change field, that have a particular relevance to local communities?**

5. **What theoretical models and frameworks have been proposed that might represent entirely new approaches for thriving communities in a climate changing world (e.g Radical Ecological Democracy, Elinor Ostrom's 'Governing the Commons' etc)?**

Please note that we are particularly interested in the climate justice agenda and the need to focus attention to 'left-behind' communities that may be adversely affected by the impacts of climate change as well as the policy response.

The research should have a focus on England but bring in examples from other UK countries and overseas, particularly where there are good practice examples that communities in England could learn from.

Methods

The research question should be answered through primary and secondary research. We welcome suggestions on the appropriate methods to answer this research question and do not wish to be prescriptive about a particular approach. Case studies should be used to illustrate the different models and conclusions.

The research report should include an executive summary collecting the main insights and put forward recommendations for actions that could support communities to thrive in the climate crisis, and the implications for Local Trust and Big Local. Budgets should make provision for at least two rounds of comments on a draft report and submission of a final, clean draft. Local Trust will undertake any design and production work.

We would like the contractor to attend and participate in an event to launch the findings of the research. Local Trust will organise the event.

Budget and timeline

We have allocated up to **£40,000** as the budget for the research, inclusive of VAT and all expenses. The timeline for this piece of work is four to six months, concluding in a report publication and event.

The project will be managed by the partnerships team at Local Trust.

Commissioning process

Please include the following information within your proposal, clearly setting out the following using the numbering below:

1. An overview of you and/or your organisation: charity, company or other reference or registration number; summary annual income and expenditure for the 2018-2019 financial year; projected income for 2019-2020; membership of trade bodies, kite marks or awards relevant to this contract.
2. Your understanding of what is needed.
3. A detailed description of how you would approach and deliver the work, including a timeline indicating when you would plan to deliver different activities
4. A detailed budget including costs, expenses and VAT, specifying all day rates, the number of days proposed and cost of particular activities.
5. Details of the staffing you propose for the work and a description of the team's skills which outlines how you meet the skills requirements.
6. A description of your organisation's knowledge and experience of the climate change crisis and the volunteering and community sector.
7. An indicative list of initial research sources.
8. Details of how you will project manage and quality assure your work.
9. The contact details of two previous clients with direct knowledge or experience of your work relevant to the work we require. Please specify how the referees know your work and if they can be contacted by us straightaway.
10. Any other relevant information that will assist us in our decision.
11. Your contact details, including email address and phone number.

Proposals should not exceed 10 pages and fonts should be a minimum of size 12. CVs can be appended and do not count towards the page limit but should not be any longer than two pages each.

Submitting a proposal

Please send your proposal as a PDF document (plus CVs) to: Georgie Burr at georgie.burr@localtrust.org.uk

Proposals to be submitted by: Monday 9th March 2020, 14.00 (UK time)

Subject: Please include TENDER: CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH as the subject line

Following this process, we intend to shortlist a small number of potential contractors to invite for interview week commencing 16th March 2020.

Any questions relating to this invitation to tender should be emailed to Georgie.burr@localtrust.org.uk with subject line QUERY: CLIMATE AND COMMUNITY RESEARCH.

Assessing your proposal

Contracts will be awarded based on the most responsive service provider whose offer is assessed to be the most advantageous in terms of cost, methodology and relevant experience.

Proposals will be assessed using the following criteria:

- Skills, resources and experience to carry out all elements of the work
- Evidence of understanding of:
 - the climate crisis and the potential impact on communities from direct to policy impacts.
 - the climate justice agenda
 - best practice within community responses
 - Big Local, our values, ethos and approach to creating resident-led change.
- Value for money (we are not bound to accept the cheapest proposal).

More information on Local Trust and Big Local can be accessed here: www.localtrust.org.uk