



Press Release

Active Philanthropy launches guide on how foundations can incorporate climate change into their portfolios

- *Funding the Future – How the climate crisis intersects with your giving* is first guide to show ‘climate intersections’ – where climate protection measures can benefit other activities of foundations
- Contains five ‘climate intersections’, twelve case studies from well-known foundations, and action points that can be implemented immediately
- Virtual launch event and panel discussion on October 20th, from 4 to 5 PM CEST / registration now open

Berlin, 05.10.2020 – The Berlin-based social enterprise Active Philanthropy is publishing a new climate philanthropy guide showcasing how European foundations can adopt climate change into their funding strategies. *Funding the Future – How the climate crisis intersects with your giving* convincingly makes the point that most European foundations are paying far too little attention to climate change. It illustrates how they can successfully identify and support areas in their portfolio that are affected by the climate crisis and presents five areas of 'climate intersection': Just and democratic societies, health, disadvantaged groups, education, and nature conservation.

Twelve well-known foundations and NGOs from across Europe shared their individual stories as case studies, and seventeen internationally renowned scientists contributed to the report. The Donors and Foundations Networks in Europe (DAFNE) serves as a network partner of Active Philanthropy and will co-host the launch of the guide. Active Philanthropy is grateful for the generous support of the Children’s Investment Fund Foundation (CIFF), which has made this report possible.

Five ‘climate intersections’ to adopt into foundations’ portfolios

The climate philanthropy guide puts forward five topics as examples of where the work of foundations intersects with climate change and gives suggestions for how foundations and donors can incorporate climate change issues into these areas without losing sight of their own core concerns. These intersections are **just and democratic societies, health, disadvantaged groups, education, and nature conservation.**

Dr Felicitas von Peter, Managing Partner of Active Philanthropy, says: ‘The fight against climate change is severely underfunded around the world. Given the scale of the problem, we urgently need foundations to step up their action against the climate crisis. And we cannot only rely on new foundations to drive this change: existing foundations have a huge potential to add a climate lens to their portfolio. Even foundations whose strategy, at first sight, seems far removed from the issue of climate change are able to act – either through their grant giving or through the way in which they work.’

Best practice from well-known donors and foundations

The guide contains case studies from, and interviews with donors who have already considered and implemented climate change in their work. These include Sonia Medina, Executive Director, Climate Change, CIFF; Mary Robinson, former President of the Republic of Ireland and founder of the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice; Bernard Aryeetey, Director of External Affairs, Clean Air Fund; Marie-Stéphane Maradeix, Executive Director, Fondation Daniel & Nina Carasso, and others.

The report concludes by providing suggestions for how foundations can review their donation strategies and incorporate climate change in their portfolios – regardless of the nature of their activity.

Max von Abendroth, Executive Director at DAFNE, added: 'Given the dimension of the challenge, we need to support the philanthropy field to launch concerted action from foundations across Europe also in collaboration with international allies. With the help of national, regional and thematic philanthropy networks we enable and empower as many foundations as possible to engage around climate action. This climate philanthropy guide is an important starting point for foundations to live up to their own ambition and it offers a framework for action.'

'Climate change exacerbates global injustices and societal challenges. It follows that, if foundations ignore the dangers of climate change, they are likely to undermine their current efforts and the success of their future projects,' warns Dr Johannes Lundershausen, climate expert at Active Philanthropy and lead author of the guide, adding that 'whether we achieve the United Nations' sustainable development goals (SDGs) depends on how we respond to the climate crisis.'

Sonia Medina, Executive Director Climate Change at CIFF, commented: 'Working at climate intersections is absolutely vital for a positive long-term impact. The climate crisis poses the single biggest threat to children. We at CIFF concluded that we needed to combine our work on children's issues with minimising the risk of climate impacts. Adopting a focus on climate change in CIFF's portfolio has therefore become critical to fulfilling our mission.'

Virtual launch event on October 20th, 2020

DAFNE and Active Philanthropy invite interested foundations and donors to the virtual launch event to take place on October 20th from 4 to 5 PM CEST. The keynote will be held by Sandrine Dixon-Declève, Co-President of the Club of Rome, followed by an interactive panel discussion with Sonia Medina (CIFF), George Kabalt (Special Advisor (Climate), Laudes Foundation and Porticus), and Marie-Stéphane Maradeix (Executive Director, Fondation Daniel & Nina Carasso)

Registration is now open: bit.ly/RegisterForClimate

Download the climate philanthropy guide:

Download the report: <http://bit.ly/DownloadClimateGuide>

Website: <https://bit.ly/ClimatePhilanthropyGuide>

Social media accounts

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ActPhilanthropy>

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/18167720>

Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCiU8IzABiRrv-g5pyufRZSg/featured>

Hashtag for social media: #ClimatePhilanthropyGuide

About Active Philanthropy

Active Philanthropy was founded in 2006. The social venture supports philanthropists, social investors and business families who want to make a lasting difference in protecting the planet for future generations. For donors who wish to ensure a maximum impact of their philanthropic commitments, the organisation offers strategy design and analysis, grant management services, access to a portfolio of pre-screened climate projects and NGOs, as well as other bespoke support. It also advises philanthropists on how to realign their existing portfolios in light of the climate crisis. Since 2007, Active Philanthropy has been organising expeditions to Greenland for philanthropists to explore the causes and witness the impacts of climate change.

In 2019, Active began working in close collaboration with CIFF, Europe's largest climate funder, to increase the awareness and motivation to act on climate change among foundations and philanthropists.

Media Contact

Active Philanthropy

Karolin Strunz

strunz@activephilanthropy.org

+49 (0) 30 120878420

Nadine Bütow

buetow@activephilanthropy.org

Additional information for readers

Overview of climate intersections

Climate intersection 1: Just and democratic societies

The restructuring of the global economy towards lower carbon dioxide emissions has begun. Many of the associated changes can, in the short term, lead to higher costs for consumers. These costs affect poor and disadvantaged groups the most, as they spend a higher proportion of their income on emission-intensive goods such as food and energy. Existing or new inequalities can present a fertile ground for social polarisation and populism. To counter this, foundations and individual donors can support democratic processes and an open exchange between social groups about what is needed to secure a just and sustainable future.

Climate intersection 2: Public health

The physical and mental health of every human being depends on the rapid mitigation of climate change. Air pollution is already the biggest environmental risk: every year, millions of people die prematurely from its effects, and in 83 per cent of the world's cities air pollution exceeds WHO limits. Heatwaves present a serious health hazard, causing droughts and a deterioration in water quality, and jeopardising food security across the world. New patterns in rainfall, extreme weather events and rising global temperature have caused infectious diseases to spread more quickly.

Climate intersection 3: Disadvantaged groups

Climate change affects everyone – but not everyone is equally capable to react to it. Children have limited capacity to deal with the hardship resulting from crop failure, forced migration or illness. Women are also particularly hard hit by the effects of climate change, which make care and housework – and providing family members with food, fuel and water – much more difficult. It systematically weakens the ability of women, children and other structurally disadvantaged groups in society to help themselves and increases their dependence on others.

Climate intersection 4: Education

Climate education is essential if humanity is to survive in a dramatically hotter and more unstable world. It empowers people of all ages to understand the earth system across disciplines, to acquire professional qualifications that are needed in a CO₂-neutral economy and to adapt their own values and identities to a changing planet. Change will be possible only if climate-relevant content is taught not only in schools but also in other places of learning, such as religious organisations, citizens' groups, workers' associations, the private sector and other educational institutions. There must also be an improvement in the quality of education in general, and in access to it, if the climate resilience of disadvantaged groups is to be strengthened.

Climate intersection 5: Nature conservation

Undamaged ecosystems benefit people: clean air, clean water, nutritious food. Environmental protection is also a cost-effective means of fighting against climate change, as wetlands and other ecosystems store large amounts of CO₂. But only 2 per cent of the worldwide funding that is made available to combat climate change is spent on nature conservation – a huge gap, and one that provides an excellent opportunity for donors looking to create an impact with their resources.