

Climate Citizens Visiting Fellowship Scheme

Overview

We are excited to be inviting applications to join the [Climate Citizens](#) project as a Visiting Fellow. Climate Citizens is a project run out of Lancaster University aiming to change how people engage with the creation of climate policy. With a particular focus on deliberative methods, we want to transform climate policy from something that happens to people, to something that happens with people.

Our work is highly collaborative and project partners include the Climate Change Committee (CCC), the Energy Systems Catapult and the CAST Centre. The project is based on the principle that improving public engagement in climate policy requires bringing together insights from the worlds of academia, policy making, civil society and deliberative practice. This Fellowship scheme is designed with this principle in mind and is open to people working on public engagement on climate and energy issues in any capacity, including (but not limited to): civil servants, public engagement consultants, professional facilitators, academics at any careers stage including PhD researchers, and researchers or policy professionals from the private sector, think tanks, NGOs or Trade Unions.

A maximum of four Fellowships are available for three months each. We are open to any ideas for how the Fellowships might be used within the scope of the themes addressed by the Climate Citizens project. Fellows will work with the whole Climate Citizens team but will be partnered with the team member whose work most closely overlaps with their Fellowships focus.

About the Climate Citizens project

The Climate Citizens project is a five-year research project based at Lancaster University. The core project team is made up of Professor Rebecca Willis, Dr Jake Ainscough and PhD researchers Pancho Lewis and Rachel Coxcoo. We are working with a range of partner organisations to design and trial approaches to deliberative public engagement on a range of climate and energy topics. We also work on a number of conceptual issues related to democratic participation in the creation of climate policy.

Examples of recent/ ongoing work:

- deliberative research on policies for decarbonising energy use in owner-occupied homes (in partnership with the CCC);
- research into the representation of 'people' in climate and energy governance and implications for policy formation;
- longitudinal citizens panel on UK climate and energy politics (in partnership with BritainThinks, Ovo, WWF and Citizens Advice);

- exploration of how public deliberation can contribute to driving a just transition to a post-fossil fuel economy for communities in West Cumbria;
- research into the impact of political worldviews on how people engage with different forms of public engagement on climate and energy policy.

Topics of interest within the scope of the Climate Citizens project include (but are not limited to):

- the design, implementation, and impact of deliberative mini-publics on climate and energy related topics;
- institutional innovations to improve opportunities for citizens to engage with the climate policy making process;
- the evolving role of citizens/ consumers in energy governance;
- how people's worldviews and political affiliations influence their understanding of and engagement with climate policy and politics;
- the role of 'affect', place attachments and identities in shaping engagement with climate policy formation;
- the role of deliberative practices in addressing issues of environmental justice;
- discursive representations of climate and energy topics and their prevalence and utilisation in the media;
- contemporary debates in deliberative democracy as it relates to climate change.

Examples of possible approaches to the Fellowship

The Fellowships are intended as an opportunity for collaboration and the sharing of knowledge and expertise. Beyond that, we are open to hearing your ideas about how you would like to use the Fellowship. Below is a non-exhaustive list of examples for different ways we see the Fellowships being used:

- to explore an idea you currently have around climate engagement, leading to a greater understanding of its viability and possibility for enactment;
- to do comparative work to place climate engagement in a country/ context you are familiar with in a wider context, leading to e.g. a research article or policy brief;
- to do an appraisal of your organisation's working practices around public engagement with support from Climate Citizens team, leading to a written report summarising findings;
- to explore how to galvanize political action around climate issues, in particular in relation to the link between deliberation, participation, and political change;
- to undertake a mini-research project or literature review leading to a policy briefing and/or academic publication;
- to do an appraisal of a specific exercise in climate engagement you have been a part of, leading to a written briefing;
- to do a sub-part of your own ongoing research project that aligns with the work of the Climate Citizens team, leading to future academic publications;

- to undertake work for a distinct chapter of a PhD thesis that aligns with the work of the Climate Citizens project;
- to contribute to an ongoing strand of Climate Citizens research, leading to co-authored publications;
- to spend time with the Climate Citizens team contributing to a range of project and ongoing group discussions for the purpose of sharing knowledge, developing ideas, and building relationships.

Though the Climate Citizens project is currently UK focused, we are very keen to hear from applicants working on similar issues outside of the UK.

It is not necessary that all Fellowships lead to a written output. Outcomes could be in other formats such as podcasts, or could be the development of your own understanding, knowledge, or skills.

Benefits for Fellows from outside academia

Though Visiting Fellowships are relatively common within academia, we understand they are less common in other sectors. Below we have listed some potential benefits of taking part in the scheme for those outside of academia:

- access University Library resources including extensive subscriptions to academic journals;
- increase your professional profile and the profile of your organisation through Fellowship outputs (blogs, media pieces, research articles, policy briefs etc.);
- answer questions or develop ideas related to your professional practice that you do not currently have the time or resources to explore;
- improve your skills and knowledge in a specific area of climate engagement, and thereby help build up your organisations' skills and knowledge;
- have the chance to reflect on your current professional practice or the practice of your organisation and identify areas for innovation and improvement;
- build your professional network.

Duration, working arrangements and remuneration

All Fellowships will be for a total duration of three months. The Fellowship should start no earlier than 1st December 2022 and finish no later than September 30th 2025. Beyond these specifications, the Fellowship scheme is designed to offer maximum flexibility to applicants. It is not necessary to complete the three months as one block, the time can be divided into sections spread out over a longer period. Though we are keen to have Visiting Fellows in person in Lancaster, we are open to remote working/ a mixed approach for reasons of cost, minimising travel or due to caring or other responsibilities. We will consider any proposals regarding working patterns and remote working.

Travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs are included in the Fellowship. There is also a limited budget to support salaries where these cannot be covered by home institutions. We will target financial support at those applicants who would not be able to take part in the scheme without it. If you require your salary to be covered, please state this in your application.

Please note all applicants must have a legal right to work in the UK, unfortunately we are not able to sponsor visas for those without the right to work.

As part of the project's environmental commitments there is a presumption against air travel. However, we will consider applications that require air travel for overseas applicants if alternatives modes of travel are not available.

We currently envisage up to four Fellowships, however we will revise this in light of the focus and budget implications of the proposals we receive.

How to apply

To apply you will need:

- A CV (no more than two A4 pages not including lists of publications)
- An expression of interest explaining (in no more than one A4 page):
 - o Your current work and why you are interested in the Fellowship
 - o What you propose to do over the course of the Fellowship
 - o What outcomes you envisage from the Fellowship
- Additional information:
 - o What your preferred start date would be
 - o Whether you intend to complete the three months in one go or to spread the time out. If the latter, what pattern of working do you envisage?
 - o Whether you intend to relocate to Lancaster for the full time, visit Lancaster a number of times through the fellowship, or undertake the entire Fellowship remotely. Please also specify your reasons for this preference.
 - o Whether your salary would be covered by your current employer, or you would require a salary for the duration of the Fellowship.

Please send your application to j.ainscough@lancaster.ac.uk no later than 12:00 on 21st October 2022 with the subject line 'Visiting Fellowship Application'.

Applications will be short listed by the Climate Citizens team. A panel consisting of Lancaster University staff and members of the Climate Citizens advisory board will then be convened to select candidates for interview. Interviewees will be notified within four weeks of the application closing date.

For more information or if you want to discuss an idea you have for a Fellowship before applying please contact Jake Ainscough (j.ainscough@lancaster.ac.uk).