

Third Sector Task Force on Climate Change, the Environment and Sustainable Development

Work Programme

1. Introduction – Task Force aims and working groups

The Task Force aims to:

- Develop a vision for third sector action on climate change, the environment and sustainable development;
- Identify the specific roles of government and third sector organisations in achieving this vision;
- Develop a partnership action plan with proposals to make this vision a reality by mainstreaming climate change, environmental sustainability, and sustainable development in the sector, and in the third sector programmes of relevant government departments.

Its ultimate aim is to enable a rapid acceleration of commitment and action on climate change and sustainability throughout the third sector, as both the sector and government acts on its proposals.¹

To best meet these aims the Task Force has formed three working groups. Each of them will explore a key set of issues facing the sector and government on this agenda. The working groups are:

- Working group 1 – Third sector leadership;
- Working group 2 – Jobs, procurement and service delivery; and
- Working group 3 – Communities.

2. How to input into the Task Force's work

In order to develop a compelling vision for the third sector and government on this agenda and to make practical and inspirational proposals on how we can achieve it, it is vital that the Task Force gets input from across the sector. The work programme below sets out what each group will be looking at, its chair, its members and its secretariat. We encourage you to get in touch any of the people listed below to share your thoughts and experience in regard to the issues that the Task Force is looking at.

¹ These aims were set out in the Task Force's terms of reference

Key people to contact²

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Third Sector chair of the Task Force	Stephen Hale	Green Alliance
Chair – Third sector leadership working group	Tom Flood	BTCV and Acevo
Chair – Jobs, procurement and service delivery working group	Liz Atkins	
Chair – Communities working group	Maria Adebawale	Capacity Global

The best way to get in touch with the Task Force's third sector chair or the working group chairs is through their respective secretariats, as they will be coordinating all inputs. Even where the chair and secretariat work for different organisations they are in very regular contact.

Secretariat details

<u>Role</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Contact details</u>
Full Task Force ³	Faye Scott	Green Alliance	020 7630 4524 fscott@green-alliance.org.uk
Third sector leadership	Belinda Pratten	NCVO	020 7520 2558 belinda.pratten@ncvo-vol.org.uk
Jobs, procurement and service delivery	Olof Williamson	NCVO	020 7520 2555 olof.williamson@ncvo-vol.org.uk
Communities	Jeremy Fennell	Bassac	020 7336 9494 jeremy@bassac.org.uk

We encourage stakeholders to get in touch as soon as possible with anything they feel relevant. The Task Force is working to a very tight timescale and to ensure that your input is considered it needs to get to the working groups at a time when they are still able to take it into account.

Key dates

- The working groups are developing draft recommendations by July 30th
- They are presenting their final recommendations to the full Task Force on August 17th

Stakeholders are also invited to share any information they think relevant through Defra's Third Sector blog <http://blogs.defra.gov.uk/3rd-sector/> and you are welcome to get in touch with Green Alliance or NCVO at any time. Section 6 below also sets out events and activities of relevance, which are another way of engaging with the work of the Task Force.

² Full details of the Task Force members can be found in annex 1.

³ Green Alliance and NCVO are jointly providing the secretariat for the Task Force. As Belinda is also acting as a secretariat for a working group, it is best to go to Faye with issues you wish to bring to the attention of the whole Task Force.

3. Foundations for the work of the Task Force

3.1 Starting principles

The key principles for the work of the Task Force will be to:

- Recognise the strong connections between economic, social and environmental issues;
- Develop a set of practical and inspirational proposals for future action that will lead to quick wins, and catalyse radical changes by the sector, public and government in the longer term;
- Take account of the diversity of organisations within the sector, the diversity of people and communities that they work with and for and their different motivations;
- Be a multiplier for action in making recommendations to the sector and to government that lead to a rapid growth in the scale and impact of third sector activity; and
- Focus on the sector's unique leadership role and our ability to shape the actions of both citizens and government.

3.2 Target audiences

The Task Force will make recommendations to:

- The sector on how it can play a leadership role by engaging and inspiring individuals and communities, thus influencing public action and that of government;
- Central and local government on how they can do more to enable the sector to play a more effective role on this agenda; and
- The sector and (central and local) government on how they can work together on these issues.

3.3 Scope

The terms of reference for the Task Force refer to climate change, sustainable development and the environment. Our work will consider significant issues in each of these categories. However, there was agreement that we need to focus and prioritise within this potentially very broad scope.

The Task Force recognises the scale of the threat associated with climate change, and the critically urgent need for action. Nevertheless, the Task Force agreed that the language of climate change is not the means through which to engage those within the sector or the general public. Our view is that broader economic, social and environmental issues, including social and environmental justice, have more resonance with people when considering what climate change means for their organisation or community. The Task Force will focus on climate change as our top priority, but address this primarily by reference to economic and social issues.

4. Working groups

The working groups will be the primary means through which the Task Force develops proposals and delivers against its terms of reference. Each group has a third sector chair and is supported by a secretariat. To ensure that the groups have the full range of expertise they need, relevant individuals have also been co-opted onto them. Co-optees will be an important source of ideas for our work and are one of the key ways in which the Task Force will be able to broaden its reach and build buy in across the sector.

4.1 Mandate for working groups

The Task Force has a very short time to complete its work. Each working group will cover different issues but will produce comparable outputs that can be brought together in the Task Force's Partnership Action Plan in October.

The mandate for each working group is to:

- Use the starting principles, audiences and scope outlined above to shape their work, as well as the inputs from departments on relevant policy developments;
- Identify relevant work that has already been done, learning from what has worked (and what has not) and building on success;
- Identify the key opportunities and challenges in their area of work;
- Identify who holds the primary levers that can lead to action (central or local government, third sector organisations, funders and other partners etc.);
- Outline their view of what could be achieved in the short-term (within a year) and in the longer-term over the next five years;
- Develop proposals for action by the agreed target audiences: the third sector, central and local government, and for joint action;
- Identify the top 3 – 5 priorities for action by each of these target audiences.

4.2 Working groups

Working group 1: Third Sector Leadership

This group will consider leadership on climate change and sustainability throughout the sector. This includes the responsibility that third sector leaders have to act on these issues and the wider role that third sector organisations play in mobilising public opinion and action.

Building on the Third Sector Declaration on Climate Change, the group will identify what the sector can do to make a difference as well as practical suggestions on how to do it.

Key issues for this working group to explore include:

- Why has there been a failure of leadership in the sector on this agenda to date – what have the barriers been?
- Are there are particular leadership skills needed at both the national and community level to enable effective leadership on climate change and sustainability – what capacity building is needed, who is best placed to provide this?
- What is the role of central and local government in supporting the third sector and its leaders in mainstreaming action on this agenda?
- What should intermediary bodies, e.g. national, local and specialist umbrella and infrastructure organisations, be doing in this area to raise the awareness of, and encourage action from their members?
- How can we ensure that third sector organisations lead by example in terms of their operational footprint?
- How can we ensure that this agenda is taken up among the third sector funding community, and unlock new sources of funding for work of this kind?
- What are the best ways in for organisations to see the climate change and sustainability agenda as one with relevance to a broader range of activities and remits – what has worked for other organisations that have taken this on and what support have they needed in the process?
- What role should the sector have in promoting public mobilisation and what kinds of campaigns will help a broader range of organisations see this agenda as one of relevance?

Group 1 membership

Chair: Tom Flood

Third sector Task Force members:

Maria Adebawale (also group 3 chair)
Jo Butcher (also on group 3)
Stephen Hale
Michael Allen
Clare Thomas

Government members:

Defra will be the lead department for this group
Simon Berry, Defra
Annie Cooper, OTS

Co-opted members:

Matthew Scott, director, CSC
Mark Walton, head of stronger communities, CDF, as well as EAC
Eleanor Carter, policy officer, BTCV
Seb Elsworth, head of policy, Acevo
Richard Williams, director of enterprise, NCVO

Group 1 secretariat:

Belinda Pratten, NCVO, 020 7520 2558, belinda.pratten@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Working group 2: Jobs, Procurement and Service Delivery:

The focus of this group will be the role of the third sector in promoting the links between financial and environmental sustainability, particularly in the context of recession.

Key issues for this working group to explore include:

- Identifying the potential levers for sustainable commissioning and procurement, linking into OTS work on social return on investment;
- Explore the opportunities presented by sustainable procurement – what can the sector do to push for it and ensure that it is ready to respond, and what does central/local government need to do in order to green its procurement?
- Ensuring that community assets are resourced and managed sustainably;
- Examining the role of social investment in promoting sustainability and funding innovation;
- Promoting the role of social enterprise in developing innovative services and promoting a sustainable business model;
- Maximising the green employment, volunteering and training opportunities that the third sector can offer, e.g. through a link to the DWP's Future Jobs Fund; and
- Identifying good funding practice that can promote sustainability.

Group 2 membership

Chair: Liz Atkins

Third sector Task Force members:

Nigel Lowthrop
Roger Smith

Government members:

OTS will be the lead department for this group
Ian Leete, OTS
Future jobs panel representative, DWP, tbc

Co-opted members:

Ron Fern, deputy director, BTCV
Daniel Shah, research and policy officer, Social Enterprise Coalition
Graham Duxbury, acting director of development, Groundwork
Nick McAllister, procurement and commissioning executive, Acevo
Matthew Thompson, director, ICRN
Mary Rayner, policy officer, Co-operatives
Bill Garland, deputy director, CSV, tbc
Steve Wyler, chief executive, Development Trusts Association, tbc

Group 2 secretariat:

Olof Williamson, sustainable funding officer – promoting enterprise, NCVO, 020 7520 2555, olof.williamson@ncvo-vol.org.uk

Working group 3: Communities

This group will consider the potential for action in relation to both diverse communities of place, and also communities of interest. The third sector has a key role in developing and supporting individual and collective action on climate change and sustainability to achieve individual behaviour change through the many different communities it works with. Many groups are already doing useful work in this area but the strength of the third sector's interaction with communities means there is still greater potential to build the public support and demand for action on climate change and sustainable development, as well as commitment to making changes in our own lives, that we need to see.

Key issues for this working group to explore include:

- What do we mean by communities of place and communities of interest?
- What works well in delivering action with diverse communities on climate change and what can we learn from past efforts?
- How do we develop the community leadership that will be needed to engage the public with these issues (e.g. maximise potential of national umbrella bodies)?
- How do we best engage communities to reflect and change public attitudes, to inspire local action to tackle climate change and to support and promote behaviour change across different sectors of society?
- What should the third sector's role be in making climate change relevant to the daily lives of UK citizens – e.g. public mobilisation and campaigning, better information provision etc.
- How can the sector and local government, with their key role in responding to local social and environmental agendas, best work together through channels like local strategic partnerships (LSPs) and efforts to build sustainable communities?
- How can we ensure sustainable development is at the heart of initiatives to strengthen local democracy (both elected and participative)?
- How might the third sector capitalise on the resources, markets and expertise of local business to get the message out, change consumer choice and build new alliances
- What are the best means for addressing these issues through wider community initiatives, such as those that focus on equality, well-being and public health?

Group 3 membership

Chair: Maria Adebowale

Third sector Task Force members:

Ben Hughes
Sylvia Brown
David Shreeve
Ian Jones
Fay Mansell
Maria Arce
Lola Barrett
Jo Butcher

Co-opted members:

Andy Johnston, head of the Centre for Local Sustainability, Local Government Information Unit
An LGA representative, tbc

Government members:

CLG will be the lead department for this group
Peter Matthew, CLG
Conor Ritchie, Defra
Alex Mason/ Kevin Devers, Decc

Group 3 secretariat:

Jeremy Fennell, regional manager, 020 7336 9494, Jeremy@bassac.org.uk
Louise Roberts, administrator, Bassac, 020 7336 9412, louise@bassac.org.uk for logistics

5. Cross-cutting papers

To inform its work, the Task Force will commission some cross-cutting papers. It will also receive inputs from government and, as set out above, is open to receiving any other inputs that stakeholders want to put forward. These will include:

- Papers from departments on the current policy context and relevant policy processes;
- Lessons learned from Every Action Counts; and
- Lessons learned from abroad.

6. Timescale

The Task Force has already met twice. Once on May 20th and for a second time on June 15th. Ministers from Defra and Decc and ministerial representatives from OTS and CLG attended the second meeting. These meetings were an opportunity to develop and agree the working groups and their focus and to get a steer from Ministers about the kinds of things they are looking for from the Task Force.

The working groups will now meet during July and August to produce recommendations and the future timeline is as follows:

- Third meeting of Task Force – July 30th – the full Task Force will work on developing a vision for the third sector on this agenda and will consider draft recommendations from the working groups;
- Fourth meeting of Task Force – August 17th – the Task Force will consider final recommendations from the working groups, consider the cross-cutting papers and agree an outline for their Partnership Action Plan;
- Fifth meeting of Task Force – September date tbc – the Task Force will consider a draft of the Partnership Action Plan, produced by the secretariat; and
- Sixth and final meeting of the Task Force, with Ministers – October date tbc – the Partnership Action Plan will be presented to Ministers for discussion and the meeting will also focus on identifying ways forward to raise awareness and buy-in to the action plan.

7. Outreach

All Task Force members have committed to sharing the Task Force's work with their area of the third sector and to building buy in to the work. Some Task Force members have already begun this work and more such activity is needed. We welcome details of any relevant events and the following activities are already planned:

- June 18th – Green Alliance and Every Action Counts away day with a range of third sector groups to explore the challenges and opportunities of climate change for the third sector;
- July 8th – Acevo sustainability special interest group meeting, with presentation from the Task Force's third sector chair

- July 10th – a meeting of key players in the funding community to explore how they can encourage sustainability and climate change awareness through the power of the funder;
- July 20th – Dartington Schumacher College workshop on strengthening the learning capacity of the third sector in relation to the twin challenges of climate change and sustainability; and
- On-going - Jo Butcher is convening representatives of the children's third sector to meet two or three times during the Task Force process to ensure that the learning of their sector can inform the Task Force's work.

Annex 1 – full details of Task Force members and secretariat

Ministerial co-chairs of the Task Force

Huw Irranca-Davies MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State	Defra
Joan Ruddock MP, Minister of State	Decc
Angela Smith MP, Cabinet Office Minister for the Third Sector	OTS
Ian Austin MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State	CLG

Third Sector Task Force members and their organisations

Stephen Hale	Green Alliance – elected Third Sector chair of the Task Force
Tom Flood	British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) and the Association for Chief Executives of Voluntary organisations (ACEVO) – chair of the Third sector leadership working group
Liz Atkins	National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO) – chair of the Jobs, procurement and service delivery working group
Maria Adebowale	Capacity Global – chair of the Communities working group
Michael Allen	Wildlife Trusts
Maria Arce	Practical Action, and British Overseas NGOs for Development (BOND)
Lola Barret	Grenfell Housing Association, and National Association for Voluntary and Community Action (NAVCA)
Sylvia Brown	Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) and the Community Sector Coalition (CSC)
Jo Butcher	National Children’s Bureau
Ben Hughes	British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres (Bassac) and the Community Sector Coalition (CSC)
Ian Jones	Volunteer Cornwall
Nigel Lowthrop	Hill Holt Wood and the Social Enterprise Coalition (SEC)
Fay Mansell	National Federation of Women’s Institutes
David Shreeve	Church of England and the Conservation Foundation
Roger Smith	British Red Cross
Clare Thomas	City Bridge Trust

Government officials involved in the Task Force

Simon Berry	Defra	Ian Leete	OTS
Conor Ritchie	Defra	Annie Cooper	OTS
Alex Mason	Decc	Peter Matthew	CLG
Kevin Devers	Decc		

Secretariat for the full Task Force

Belinda Pratten	National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)
Faye Scott	Green Alliance