



## Highlights from 2023

### Raising climate voices...

Uplift's Tessa Khan has become a respected high profile expert voice on the energy transition in the UK's main media outlets including flagship BBC programmes.

River Action UK has entered the national dialogue about rivers with messages that are cutting through into the news agenda this year including their petition for rivers and exposing pollution levels in the Thames. They have also secured the right to sue the Environment Agency over its failure to protect the River Wye from pollution.

Muntaka Chasant increased the coverage of climate stories and trained journalists at three Ghanaian News Agencies; the Ghanaian Times, the Ghana News Agency and Asaase news.

Partners including SYND and GYEM are raising youth voices on climate in Ghana including through GYEM's galamsey campaign and SYND's first annual youth conference.

### Political wins....

Having built broad cross-party support, Power for People's community energy campaign is beginning to chalk political wins including a £10 million community energy fund and a commitment to consulting on removing the barriers to community energy schemes.

SOS Teach the Future's plan for a reformed curriculum to more meaningfully include climate change has been adopted by Labour and incorporated into their policy platform for the general election campaign. This has been achieved through direct campaigning but also grassroots demonstrations of how it can be done through the track changes project.

Common Wealth's plan for a Great British Energy company has been further developed and maintained as a key plank of Labour's policy platform.

Eco Care has continued to campaign at the EU, UK and Ghanaian governmental levels on workable forestry regulations that will protect both forests and livelihoods.

The Stop Ecocide movement has gained new momentum and support including from the Pope and through Ecocide laws being proposed in Mexico, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Brazil and backing for international laws on ecocide by the EU and UN.

The Fossil Fuel Non-proliferation Treaty movement has continued to build momentum and support with new endorsements from the state of California and the Pacific Island Block.



## Investing in the tools activists need....

Climate Emergency UK have launched their Local Authority Climate Scorecards for 2023 enabling local groups to see what progress has been made and what needs addressing.

People and Planet have published their University Sustainability league table.

SOS Teach the Future have published their track changes version of the national curriculum for a range of subjects so schools don't have to wait for wholesale curriculum reform to start improving their climate education.

## Groundwork paying off...

In response to the government's decision to approve development of the Rosebank oil field in the North Sea, Tipping Point was able to mobilise its network for the quickest and widest reaching set of actions it has coordinated yet. This included 40 protests across the UK within 5 days of the announcement being made and plans accelerated to target investors and insurers of the proposed oil field.

Peers for the Planet's (P4P) chalked many legislative amendments won and debates influenced this year including a commitment from the government to consult on planning processes for new onshore wind farms and extending the lifespan of existing wind farms. This was one of the first issues pushed by P4P via a private members bill as the group was set up and is an example of how persistence and patience can eventually pay off in policy work.

Following Gower Street's support for its development, the Sustainable Welfare Network (SWEN) was launched to help bring about a more sustainable care-based culture in the climate sector.

The British Museum ended its sponsorship deal with BP after 27 years thanks in part to tireless campaigning by Culture Unstained.

The CAMFED Association (which is an alumni network of young women whose schooling was supported by CAMFED) continues its CAMA Enterprise Fund programme without donor funding. This business training and micro-finance programme was seed funded by Gower street and after four years is now becoming a self-sustained programme through loan repayments and CAMA member donations.

## Sowing seeds...

Gower Street became one of the first funders of the Labour Climate and Environment Forum (LCEF) which now has two staff and aims to work across the Labour movement to build climate ambition, much as the Conservative Environment Network (CEN), which Gower Street has also supported this year, has a strong track record in.

Gower Street became one of the first trust funders of Rights of Nature work in the UK, a new law focused approach to tackling the nature crisis which has been developed in other parts of the world including North America.



Gower Street became one of the first funders of Future Economy Scotland, a think tank which is working to reimagine the economy of Scotland for a more sustainable future.

Gower Street has seed funded several new movement-based groups that have the potential to reach scale and make a substantial impact on UK climate dialogue including Wild Card, WECU, Climate Watch, Another Way and Fossil Free Pride.

In Ghana, seed funding and core funding has also been a key focus in building the capacity of the climate sector as a whole.

In Ghana momentum is building around the need to increase the government's ambition when it comes to the energy transition. Gower Street has funded several voices in this space to put more energy and expertise into work on the transition including SYND, Greenfaith, CSPOG and WACAM.

### Patience and effective funder collaborations ...

With a group of likeminded funders Gower Street has developed a model for supporting Stop Ecocide International which cuts down their reporting burden whilst maximising their core and flexible funding. This has taken a shared commitment to the way of working that has enabled the challenges of aligning different admin, governance and finance systems in service of the delivery partner.

When a Gower Street grantee sadly folded, Gower Street came together with a group of co-funders and worked step by step to understand the situation and put in place additional support for those who worked there, to enable them to recover and rebuild.

### The intangibles...

As the Gower Street portfolio has grown we have come to appreciate the extent and value of collaborative working across the climate sectors in the UK and Ghana and how this approach underpins successful campaigns. This includes the sowing together of social and climate causes behind the scenes by Tipping Point and more visibly in the Warm this Winter Campaign. It also includes the collaboration and communication between parliament-facing groups such as P4P, CEN and LCEF and more issue-based groups including Power for People and Fuel Poverty Action.

Gower Street has continued to fund longer term deeper systems change work with BCAN and work around deeper storytelling with Ella Saltmarshe. This work is mostly longer term and harder to measure and for that reason can be harder to fund.

A lot of the work we support is not newsworthy or agenda setting, it is about supporting the everyday efforts of communities identifying challenges, innovating to find solutions and delivering day in and day out. It's this kind of support that means hundreds of children who were struggling to get to school in the Upper East have had multi agency support to get back to learning, hundreds more girls and boys have spent their evenings in Eduspots libraries learning and enjoying the chance to open new doors for themselves. It means women in



Tamale have learned how to cook with less fuel, farmers in Brong Ahafo have been out choosing the best fruit trees to grow alongside timber, families in North Tyneside have sat down and discussed what climate means in their lives, passionate communicators have been able to channel their energy away from corporate greed and into trying to shift the narratives which frame all our lives. The list goes on.

## **Our own progress...**

In 2023 (January- December) we have supported 70 partners with 80 grants and a total of £1,736,083 has been dispersed this year. We see success as understandable through the effectiveness of the work we support, the quality of the learning (particularly where things don't go to plan) and the quality of our relationships. Overall, we are proud of our record on those three measures this year.

We have delivered on our plans to convene the portfolio this year, with two whole portfolio convenings and two partner briefing sessions delivered. We have ensured the agenda for these sessions is set by the participants and on review feel these have been worthwhile having seen active discussion and several new connections made.

We have piloted a series of capacity building activities for partners in Ghana which have been well received and will form the basis for further learning.

Learning and sharing within the wider sectors we work in has been a priority this year. Tessa has continued her role as coordinator of the EFN Climate Funders Network, Nick has participated in the EFN philanthropy lab, Sophie and Sally have participated in the SWEN and we have continued several regular collaborative conversations with other climate funders. We have also published a paper on spending down in an academic journal and participated in several networks including IVAR's Open and Trusting Network and the international network for oil and gas funders.

Finally we offer support to partners wherever we can including one to one mentoring and fundraising advice for individuals in the sector.

## **What we are itching to work on next...**

Ending things well- as 2030 draws closer and some key partnerships have to come to an end, we want to ensure we find the right process to end these well and think about what it means to be a Gower Street alumni.

Finding new brilliant ideas to support including at the community level in the UK and at the intersection of education and climate in Ghana.

Find new co-funders in Ghana and the UK or sources of funds for Gower Street to regrant, to help grow the overall pie for climate in both places.



Develop our capacity building programme in Ghana and consider if/how we can bring this work more into the UK portfolio.

Begin to convene organisations working on the energy transition in Ghana and education partners in Ghana.

Continue to use our convening and value add power for the benefit of our portfolio and the climate sector as a whole.