

Research Portfolio

Developing knowledge-exchange partnerships to bridge the gap between research and practice

At Climate Outreach, we understand the expectation on academics to demonstrate the impact of their research on policy, as well as the social and natural world. Climate Outreach is a non-partisan Oxford-based charitable think-tank, and we have developed a reputation as Europe's leading climate change communication specialists. Because of our unique experience in acting as an intermediary between research and practice, we are ideally positioned to broker knowledge exchange partnerships with research teams and ultimately increase the impact of academic research. We work with academic researchers in a variety of ways – from network-building and stakeholder engagement to producing bespoke resources that showcase best practice for researchers seeking to identify pathways to impact.

We are committed to engaging a wide range of stakeholders around the practical applications of new climate change research, including civil society organisations, policy makers and the general public. We have 10 years of experience widening and broadening public engagement with climate change and our reputation is built on our consistent use of academic research in our projects and publications. The aim of Climate Outreach is to create a society where climate change and its human impacts are understood, accepted and acted upon in a manner that creates a truly sustainable future.

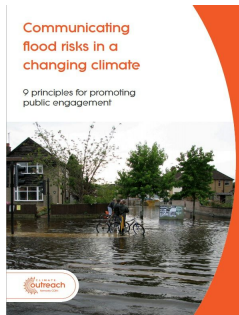
We have a diverse funding base but increasingly our work is being supported through partnerships with academic researchers seeking to maximise the social and economic impact of their work. Our growing research team, led by our Research Director, Dr Adam Corner, works closely with a range of academic organisations. Other sources of income for Climate Outreach include charitable donations as well as consultancy work for third sector organisations, government departments and the corporate sector.

Our academic partners have typically approached us because of the thoughtful way that Climate Outreach synthesises and disseminates independent research – ensuring that it has the widest possible impact on society. We believe that knowledge exchange partnerships with non-academic organisations are an essential part of effectively engaging both the public and stakeholders with climate change research.

We also maintain an online academic database of thousands of papers. Our comprehensive and frequently updated library acts as a gateway to research on climate change communication.

Delivering impact through research partnerships

As research funders increasingly seek to justify their research investments in terms of wider social impacts, Climate Outreach has developed a varied portfolio of collaborations with academic teams across the UK and further afield. Our 2015 research programme includes:



Cardiff University - 'Communicating flood risks in a changing climate'

This practical resource to help build community resilience for future climate impacts identifies 9 principles for communicating about flooding in a changing climate. It is designed for campaigners, policy makers and those working with communities directly affected by flooding. It represents a powerful statement from a diverse cross-section of experts including climate scientists, social scientists, representatives from major NGOs and national policy makers.



Cardiff University - 'European perceptions of climate change'

Working with Cardiff University's Nick Pidgeon and partners from Norway, France and Germany, Climate Outreach is helping to design a survey of public attitudes towards climate change to be conducted in each of those four countries. Climate Outreach is coordinating a panel of stakeholders from across Europe to advise on the survey, integrating their insights and then drawing up recommendations for public engagement at the end of the two-year collaboration. The project is funded by the ESRC.



University of Exeter - 'Community resilience to flood risk'

Climate Outreach is working on a 'Knowledge Exchange' grant with Stewart Barr and Ewan Woodley from the University of Exeter, based on shared experience exploring how members of the public engage with flood risks. The project aims to produce a Community Flood Resilience Plan, using a 'competency group' approach. It will bring together people with different perspectives, skills and experiences, including climate scientists, local citizens and emergency services in order to pool memories of past flood events and knowledge on managing floods in the future. The project is funded by the ESRC and has been developed in collaboration with Devon County Council, the Environment Agency and Devon and Somerset Fire Authority.



University of Bristol - 'A handbook for communicating uncertainty'

Communicating uncertainty is one of the central challenges of engaging the public on climate change. Working with Stephan Lewandowsky at the University of Bristol, Climate Outreach used its unique position as a bridge between academia and practitioners to produce a 'Handbook' on communicating uncertainty. The handbook featured interviews with key stakeholders and a synthesis of existing literature. It was widely disseminated through our policy and civil society networks. The project was funded through an 'Impact Accelerator' grant from the ESRC.



University of West of England - 'Drought Risk and You'

Climate Outreach is part of a 4 year interdisciplinary research project led by the University of West of England. DRY ('Drought Risk and You') takes a pioneering approach to understanding drought risks associated with a changing climate. The project focuses on 7 river catchments across the country. Hydrologists will produce detailed models of changes in water availability as droughts frequency increases. This scientific data will be combined with another type of knowledge – the experiences and stories of those who live in the catchment areas – producing a decision-making tool that is both 'science' and 'narrative'. We will provide the team with guidance and training on communicating drought risk with the public and key stakeholders (such as Public Health England and water utilities).



HELIX - 'Training early-career researchers'

The HELIX (High End cLimate Impacts and eXtremes) project is a major collaboration between 16 research institutions, funded through the EU 'FP7' programme. In collaboration with Asher Minns (leading on public and stakeholder engagement for the HELIX project), we led a specially designed one-day communications workshop for early-career climate change researchers, to be repeated throughout the four-year duration of the project. These aim to provide young researchers with increased confidence and expertise when engaging non-academic audiences around climate science, whilst initiating a network of early-career researchers who can provide peer support for each other in the future.



University of Bristol and Cardiff University - 'Are we engaged? The UN Climate Talks and the UK Public'

We undertook a process of consultation (comprising 3 structured discussion groups) with the UK public in order to deepen civil society and political understanding of UK public opinion in relation to the UN climate negotiations. This consultation provides UK national governments (Cardiff, Westminster, Edinburgh) with up-to-date research in order to inform their negotiating positions in Paris. The research findings are also intended to strengthen the mandate and policy work of NGOs and civil society organisations around the Paris negotiations whilst promoting collaboration between NGOs and NGO-networks in Scotland, Wales and England. The project has three phases: the research phase to September 2015, the advocacy/engagement phase to December 2015 involving UK parliaments, civil society and NGOs and finally a post-Paris strategy which will form a key part of Climate Outreach's strategizing and communications activity in 2016.



- Climate Outreach co-produced a report with the **Grantham Research Institute at the London School of Economics**, 'Young Voices', which made recommendations for more effectively engaging 18-25 year olds with climate change.



- In a two-year project with the **University of Vienna**, Climate Outreach is producing a literature review on how young people engage with climate change (including a publication for the journal WIREs climate change).
- In 2012 Climate Outreach published a [pioneering report](#) on engaging more constructively with citizens on the centre-right of politics, funded through the previous ESRC centre at Cardiff University, **BRASS** (Business Relationships, Accountability, Sustainability and Society).

Our work beyond academia

While collaborations with academia have become a core focus of Climate Outreach's work, as a charity we also work with a broad range of non-academic partners. We receive funding from charitable foundations, individual donors and clients from the public, private and charitable sectors who pay for consultancy services. Clients choose to work with Climate Outreach because we offer a rigorous and evidence-based approach to research consultancy, informed by the latest academic literature as well as our own qualitative research. Recent clients include:



- **The Department of Energy and Climate Change** for whom we produced two reports reviewing the evidence base on public engagement with energy system change.



- **The Climate Coalition** who asked us to conduct qualitative research with members of the public to help inform the Coalition's new national campaign on climate change.



- **The renewable energy company RWE** for whom we ran a workshop on engaging communities more effectively around onshore wind.

Climate Outreach also runs a project which explores the complex relationships between climate change, migration and displacement, including coordinating the UK Climate Change and Migration Coalition. This is primarily supported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, a charitable funder.

Find out more

If you'd like to know more about Climate Outreach, or are interested in discussing collaboration opportunities, please contact Dr Adam Corner, Climate Outreach's Research Director.

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