

Local Action, Global Impact?

**A report on the engagement of the
Voluntary and Community Sector
(VCS)
in work on Climate Change**

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for the
Community Development Foundation
and Defra**

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This report has been produced for CDF by Chris Church. We apologise for any errors of interpretation of viewpoints expressed by those interviewed and will take steps to amend these where possible.

This work is based on a large number of discussions, interviews and meetings with both community workers and senior VCS staff and it would not have been possible without their support. Our thanks go to them.

Use of the materials in this report is encouraged and welcomed, but please inform CDF of any detailed use.

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Summary

This report seeks to:

- Map the extent of the VCS;
- Consider how this sector is engaging with local communities on issues around climate change; and
- Consider how more of this work could be enabled.

This work was done in January – March 2005 through a combination of interviews, discussion groups and research work.

The initial sections provide an overview and breakdown of the VCS, along with an examination of the key issues around engagement on climate change. It is important to remember throughout that community work has traditionally focused on poorer communities, yet it is more affluent areas that contribute most to climate change. As well as seeking to disaggregate the VCS, section 3 looks at some of the underlying issues about policy and practice and why there has been little direct engagement to date. It also suggests that work on climate change can usefully be spilt into:

- First-tier work, which directly addresses and focuses on climate change to build awareness and action;
- Second-tier work, on closely linked contributory issues such as energy efficiency, fuel poverty, renewables and transport;
- Third-tier issues, where links are significant but less apparent to those involved: this would include waste minimisation and recycling, environmental regeneration, biodiversity etc.

Section 4 assesses the sector in more detail with a focus on a range of key organisations, dividing it into four main areas:

- The core VCS organisations and networks (including NACVS, ACRE, BASSAC etc.)
- The 'Environmental Community Sector', a growing and under-assessed sector (which includes place-focused groups such Groundwork, BTCV etc. as well as groups working on energy, waste, transport etc.)
- Other relevant issue groups where not all the networks which reach communities are in the VCS (this includes work on fuel poverty, community development and housing)
- Community-specific networks (such as organisations of and for women, faith groups, BME communities, young and older people, and sports and leisure)

It also assesses the role of the public sector in reaching communities.

Section 5 provides an overview analysis of some of the key issues. It considers whether organised community group members are more likely than ordinary citizens to engage with climate change (because they are politically aware) or less likely (because they are over-stretched doing their existing work). Both seem to be true to some extent, yet even amongst the most committed and over-worked there are people who understand the issues and want to be active).

There are a range of issues where there are differences within the sector. These include differences in approach (some organisations have more of an 'NGO' rather than 'voluntary group' orientation), in whether the organisation is focused more on policy than implementation, and over the extent to which the organisation has any existing environmental focus.

It clearly emerges that for many overloaded groups this may be just one more issue. If there is to be real engagement then there will need to be resources available, and there will also need to be evidence that all (or most) government departments are taking this issue on board (given that to date Defra has had less engagement with many VCS organisations than other Departments).

Ways forward

Most VCS organisations have a very full workload and little scope for taking on new work areas. Any work to engage on these issues will have to meet one or more of these requirements:

- Be simple and straightforward (and thus not too time-consuming)
- Be interesting (and even intriguing) to that community
- Be a logical development of work they are doing now
- Have some clear result and impact

The research suggests that there may be four ways forward:

- A strategic approach to key VCS organisations and networks;
- Development of current contacts between environmental work and communities, building on existing commitment and enthusiasm;
- Developing ways to provide support to individuals (community workers or local activists) who have already brought in to climate change as an issue and would like to build engagement within their community;
- A new and specific approach to engaging with local communities.

Some of these will clearly need to be linked to other work in the Sustainable Development Strategy on the engagement of the VCS in work on SD.

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Part 1: The context

1. Introduction

Climate change has been described by the Prime Minister as “probably, long-term the single most important issue we face as a global community”. It is an issue where national and international frameworks and laws will be essential if we are to make the changes necessary to minimise the impacts we face. But many of the changes will have to be made at a local level, and those changes will impact on the lifestyle of everyone in the UK.

For that reason it will be important to build as wide a body of public support for change as possible. To date most of the public concern that has been expressed has been done so by environmental NGOs and their members. While these are by no means small organisations they are only one small part of the wider Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) that is a central part of civil society within the UK today.

This report looks at how that wider VCS might best become involved in work on climate change. The specific aims of this work were to:

- Map out the extent of the VCS, with special reference to how the VCS actually encourages community activity;
- Consider which parts of this sector are already engaging with local communities on issues relating directly or indirectly to climate change; and

Consider which other parts of the sector might usefully be enabled to do such activity; and how this might be done.

The number of voluntary organisations of all sizes in the UK is huge estimates vary from 500,000 to 750,000 organisations. These include community organisations, faith groups, and sport and leisure organisations as well as social, educational and health focused organisations. The great majority of these are certainly likely to be keen to see a better future for the communities in which they function, yet so far few have seen the threat posed by climate change as one which links to their prime concerns.

This may be a problem but if all that local energy and purpose can be linked to tackling this global issue then it is indeed also a huge opportunity. This report looks at how that might be done.

Methodology

The specific objectives of this work are to:

- 1) Map the key stakeholders currently involved in climate change policy, implementation and community sector activity.
- 2) Identify the activities which contribute to climate change and identify the existing level of community sector engagement in tackling these
- 3) Identify the existing level of community activity on climate change within diverse communities (i.e. BME groups, faith communities, young people).
- 4) Identify what a community engagement project on climate change would need to look like for it to be successfully mainstreamed into community development work across England.

The work to meet these objectives included a large number of personal meetings and phone interviews, along with two focus groups, web-based research and literature searches. This work was done from January – March 2005.

Sections 2 & 3 of this report outline the key issues and organisations while section 4 looks at the VCS and related bodies in more detail.

Communities and climate: the nature of the sector

In all this work it is important to be aware that the word 'community' is often taken to mean 'poorer community'. Much of the focus of community work is in poorer areas and tackling poverty, poor health and exclusion is the reason why most funding goes into communities. However most CO2 emissions come from richer communities - those with higher car ownership, larger homes and more affluent lifestyles. When considering climate change, reaching out to the more affluent is as (or more) important as engaging poorer communities. This is discussed in the final sections.

2. An overview of the VCS

The VCS in the England and Wales (and indeed the rest of the UK) is huge and multi-faceted and it can be hard to be sure exactly where it ends. The boundaries between voluntary organisations, social enterprises and other bodies are increasingly blurred.

Exactly how large it is remains open to question. Research done by CDF in 2002 suggests that Councils for Voluntary Service (CVSs) and similar bodies are in regular touch (mostly monthly mailings) with some 265,000 local organisations. Other pieces of research suggest that CVSs tend to link only to about 1/3 of existing community groups: most of the smaller, less formal, and purely social groups do not link to their CVS. Other work suggests that in some areas there is around one community organisation for every 1000 people.

This suggests a broad top-level figure of 750,000 groups: even a small membership of 10-20 people means that this is a potential way of getting to several million people

who regularly meet with and interact with people in their neighbourhood who they know and trust.

This last seems to be critically important: work on climate change will involve changing behaviour, in some cases potentially quite drastically. Local peer group support and involvement will be crucial to helping make that change.

As a first step in developing this report it was important to work out the types of organisation and network that should be considered. The direct links between VCS activity and climate change are still relatively limited, although there is much more activity that will be described here as 'second tier' – activity around issues that contribute to climate change (see section 2).

The various sectors within the VCS that may have relevance were mapped out. These are as in Box 1 and four key sectors were identified. These are:

- National VCS networks (the bodies that are at the 'tops of the pyramids' through which information can be circulated outwards to the grass roots)
- Those bodies that are broadly within what can be defined as the Environmental Community Sector (ECS) (those working with local communities on environmental issues)
- Agencies and organisations engaged in specific issues that may have potential for delivering work on climate issues
- Networks that reach specific sectors of the community (these include faiths, BME groups, women's organisations et al.)

It is also important to consider how the public sector (local authorities and other agencies) engage with local communities. These offer many different ways to reach out and engage with VCS groups.

Box 1: An overview of the VCS

1. VCS networks

This includes groups and networks such as:

- Community Sector Coalition
 - National agencies (e.g. WCVA, SCVO, NICVA, NCVO)
 - CVSs & CENs & Civic societies
 - RCCs (& ACRE)
 - DTA, Urban forum et al
 - TAROE & NATMOs
 - Volunteer Bureaux, Citizens Advice Bureaux
- (These networks offer direct access to over 300,000 groups.)

2. Environmental / Sustainability work

These organisations run environmental programmes that reach out to communities:

- Groundwork
- BTCV, Wildlife Trusts, Fed of City Farms & CG, National Trust, Forests
- Centre for Sustainable Energy, Energy 21, COIN
- CRN (and other waste organisations)
- T2000 (and other transport issues)
- Areas-based sustainability networks (e.g. Mersey Basin, WestDen)
- Green lifestyle and policy work

3. Other relevant issues

There are several issue-specific work areas that may be relevant such as

- fuel poverty (NEA et al.)
- energy efficiency and generation (EEACs and CRI)
- community development and related (CDF, Scarman Trust etc.)
- housing (PfA, TPAS etc.)
- food and healthy living (PCTs, HLCs, food projects etc.)
- clean streets / green spaces (ENCAMs, Friends of parks allotments etc.)
- local economy (credit unions, time banks)
- global focus (fair trade, global poverty etc.)

4. Other specific types of network

Networks that offer access to communities of interest and identity:

- Faiths
- Older people (Help the Aged, Age Concern)
- Womens (NFWI, Townswomens)
- BME networks (EMF, ROTA, 1990, CEMVO etc.)
- Sports / Leisure (CCPR at al.)
- Youth (Youth Clubs UK, National Youth Association)

5. Local, regional and national statutory and related bodies

These are not VCS but certainly offer ways in. they include:

- Local authorities & LSPs
- National agencies (notably Wales, Scotland, N. Ireland)
- Govt. depts other than Defra (notably ODPM, DFES, Home Office)
- Regeneration partnerships

Some of these were outside the scope of this project, but their engagement will be central to long-term work this issue.

[Ed note: The acronyms here should may be spelt out?]

3. Current work on climate change and contributing factors

Those interviewed were generally in accord (unprompted) on identifying two or three main areas where community-level action might have a mitigating effect on climate change:

- Energy Use (and energy generation)
- Transport, and in some cases,
- Housing

There was also some discussion and awareness of adaptation issues, notably around flooding and insurance.

It has been useful in this work to classify local action on climate change into three levels:

- First-tier work is that which directly addresses and focuses on climate change to build awareness and action;
- Second-tier work is on closely linked contributory issues such as energy efficiency, fuel poverty, renewables and transport;
- Third-tier issues are those where links are significant but less apparent to those involved: this would include waste minimisation and recycling, environmental regeneration, biodiversity etc.

This division, imperfect though it is, has proved useful for this exercise and is referred to frequently in this report.

Policy, Infrastructure and Public Support

Long-term sustainable change on this issue will need work to tackle:

- **Legislation and Policy**

Most Government concern and much NGO activity is focused here.

- **Infrastructure to support change by organisations, communities and individuals**

This has perhaps been neglected. While there are transport programmes, energy advice centres etc. it is not clear exactly what infrastructure will be needed to support the long-term change needed if the UK is to reach its' climate change targets.

- **Popular desire and capacity to make changes**

If change is going to work and stick, people need to want (or at least grudgingly support) change, need to understand why it matters, and what they can do. This is especially important for complex and multi-faceted issues, where it is hard to impose change from above. Climate Change is highly relevant in this context, and the focus of this report is very much on how to build work in this area.

Much of the discussions focused on work on implementation and public engagement rather than policy. It is fair to say that in general there is at present a clear division between those organisations working on climate change policy and those in the broader VCS. The first group is almost entirely environmental NGOs (the phrase NGO is used in this report to describe national non-governmental organisations which have a clear policy focus).

It is important in this context to recognise the divergence between policy-focused environmental NGOs and the wider ECS (Environmental Community Sector). There are clear differences between those national policy groups (FoE, Greenpeace, WWF) and those who focus primarily on implementation (Groundwork, BTCV, City Farms etc.). There are of course overlaps (many policy groups now also have community projects): these are discussed in more detail below.

It is also the case that this work is being done at a time when the major environmental NGOs have set up the Climate Movement to encourage joint action. So far this is made up mostly of major environmental organisations and is focusing primarily on getting stronger government commitments and action on those commitments. We found little or no awareness so far of this outside the involved organisations, although it had not been launched at the time when this work was done. FoE have also launched their 'Big Ask' campaign, while WWF have a major initiative around 'Climate Chaos'.

The distinction between environmental organisations and the rest of the VCS is seen clearly by many parts of the VCS, especially those closest to work on poverty and work at the grass roots. The interviews done for this research showed a range of critical stances and some suspicion. This is an issue that will need to be considered and addressed if work on moving climate change from an environmental issue to a wider social responsibility is to be successful.

Part 2: The assessment

4. The sector in detail

4.1 The national VCS networks

The focus of this sub-section is those bodies that are at the 'tops of the pyramids' through which information can be circulated outwards to the grass roots.

It is fair to say that in general the results were not very positive in terms of this issue, although this was not too surprising.

There were some differences between the national voluntary sector bodies (mostly linked to NCVO) and the community sector agencies. It is of course the case that this distinction is a very blurred one (thus the use of the phrase VCS), but as with environmental bodies there is a difference between the national policy-focused bodies and those more concerned with service delivery and community-level action.

To outsiders the most obvious way in to the national sector is NCVO, the National Council for Voluntary Organisations. They are the umbrella body for the voluntary sector in England, ranging from large national bodies to community groups, volunteer bureaux, and development agencies working at local level. They work primarily as a lobbying and information service for the sector and in fact have few direct links to communities. They currently have no environmental policy person and it is a long time since they had a National Environment Support Team (NEST) in the early 1990s, which did some good work in promoting work on these issues by the sector.

This is broadly the case for many organisations in the national part of the sector: environmental issues are seen as a low priority, although some of the second-tier work such as fuel poverty and transport does get covered.

Initial contacts were made with the Community Sector Coalition, a body that links the key players in terms of local VCS action. This part of the sector was further explored through:

- Web-based and literature review
- Phone or face-to-face interviews with staff in seven relevant major organisations
- A commissioned report from NACVS (see below)

A letter was sent from CDF (who are a member of this Coalition) to other members. There were only limited responses to this letter despite it coming from managerial level. In follow-up calls the issues relating to lack of response were very much as might be expected:

- Overwork / lack of time & resources
- Not doing anything that relates to climate change / nothing to say
- Not sure how we can help

There is on the face of it a lack of leadership within the social sector with regard to environmental issues.

- **NACVS and Councils for Voluntary Service**

NACVS was one of the members of the CS Coalition who responded without prompting to a letter from CDF. Given that local Councils for Voluntary service directly link some 265,000 groups this is the single most significant network by a long way.

They were helpful and informed: the Chief Executive admitted that environmental issues were low on their list of priorities and that there has been little other engagement with environmental issues. There is some focus on the rural and some work on fuel poverty. He suggested that 'if the 20 biggest CVS were asked for their ten biggest issues climate change would not figure on even one and environment would also not figure much'. Interest in the environment mostly comes from where it links with social exclusion issues e.g. fuel poverty, sites for gypsies etc.

We commissioned NACVS to assess their most recent (2004) survey of local CVS organisations with regard to environmental concerns. This was a thorough survey: of the 335 full members, associates and local affiliates. 297 responded, giving a response rate of 89%. The survey asked members about 28 specific policy areas. One of these was the environment.

Out of 295 respondees 165 said they had 'Very little or no involvement' and at the other end of the spectrum 2 described it as 'the most important' issue and 7 as 'An over-riding priority / major piece of work'. Those nine represent just 3%: not a great deal to build on, but it is notable that those nine include Bristol, noted as a city where many ECS groups (see below) are very active, and also one where there is a large and active CVS-linked body (VOSCUR).

NACVS recognise that this is a government priority, although they also pointed out the different messages coming from different departments. They added that there were things they could do: develop information resources on their website, put out information, work up case studies, support local training programmes, and generally make it an issue that was appearing regularly in information bulletins, etc.

This would need a fulltime person but could also lead to a national forum for groups around the CVS network that see this as an issue. They mentioned unprompted work done through LA21 as something that had opened new doors between social and environmental work and felt that it was unfortunate that this has not been followed through.

Responses from other VCS bodies were generally non-committal as above. There is interest from networks such as Urban Forum, the Development Trusts Association, notably through links being made with the sustainable communities and regeneration issues. The issue of work on climate change with urban regeneration is one that needs more attention (see below).

There were two other notable exceptions to this lack of engagement: ACRE and the NFWI. The NFWI are covered in more detail in 4.4. BASSAC also proved to be increasingly active in this field.

- **BASSAC – the British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres**

BASSAC is a membership organisation for ‘social action centres’ and currently has around 110 members, who are mostly larger centre-based community organisations. BASSAC has now been employing a Sustainable Development Manager for about six months (the post also involves other duties such as managing regional staff).

They are part of an independent ‘strategic alliance’ that has emerged in the VCS, mostly based around NACVS, ACRE and BASSAC, of organisations with an interest in longer-term policy issues. This is likely to have a more focused approach than the wider Community Sector Coalition.

BASSAC is now looking to develop sustainable development (SD) programmes and the relevant manager sees SD as a set of underpinning issues. They are keen to engage on environmental issues but do not see these as leading their approach to SD. They are planning a national conference on these issues later in the year.

They have not specifically addressed climate change in any way. They could see the links between this and SD (both as complex multiple issues) and are also fully aware of the links with fuel poverty and other linked social issues. Their involvement in longer-term work would be likely to be partly in response to how members see the issues and act on it.

- **ACRE – Action with Communities in Rural England**

ACRE is a national charity whose purpose is to support sustainable rural community development. It provides a national platform for its founder member Rural Community Councils (RCCs), other bodies and individuals who work at local, county, regional and national level to alleviate rural disadvantage in England. There are 38 RCCs, one based in each county of England, They vary in name, for example some are known as Community Action or Community Futures, but each works to support communities in the county.

They are already active on climate change nationally and the Director has been on a Defra working group. Their focus on sustainable development links them to both Defra and ODPM. Members within RCCs are certainly active on second tier activities linked to climate change such as fuel poverty, transport, community buildings etc. and ACRE itself has a ‘watching brief’. They would ideally seek to integrate work on climate with other issues and see it as ‘another tool in the tool kit’ for making change happen.

They recognise that the central issue is community engagement and are keen to see whether and how far the government will invest in this. If there is investment, as suggested in the new SD Strategy then this would be consistent with developing the role of RCCs and lead to increased action.

The issue that came up repeatedly in this discussion was integration: they drew attention to the similarity between climate change and sustainable development as

being work areas that need the engagement of many different departments. That integration should be based around existing plans and expertise, and should look at ways to link climate targets to Rural Transport Partnerships, parish plans, and other local development work.

They would be interested to support grass roots pilot work that would extend beyond liveability to global issues. This would need some support for community workers and communities. As with NACVS they were aware of good work done through Local Agenda 21 but were aware that this had varied very much depending on levels of support.

Other VCS networks exist in this area. These have been harder to assess in detail because there is less of a central 'hub' for their work. These include notably:

- **Community Empowerment Networks (CENs)**

These networks are still new in terms of the relatively slow evolution of the VCS. 80 funded networks in the poorest areas have the potential to stimulate a lot of activity and many do appear to be doing so. However so far this activity has not fulfilled its' potential with regard to environmental issues and especially not for climate change. A recent survey for GoL in London suggested that only four out of twenty have much or any significant engagement, and anecdotal evidence suggests the same picture (of a little good practice and a lot of inactivity) in many other areas. The good practice does seem in many cases to stem from one or two keen individuals within relevant bodies.

There is however some potential here: those involved in the London 'good practice' boroughs have expressed some interest in further action and a possible joint event is being discussed.

- **Civic Societies and Amenity Groups**

These groups, often at the professional end of the community sector, are well distributed throughout the UK. Their focus is clearly local issues but many are well versed in national policy issues (especially around the planning system).

To date their engagement in climate change has been related mainly to impacts of flooding etc. and to potential risk issues such as housing on flood plains. It has not been possible to do more detailed work at this time but these would offer a way into networks of professionals and richer communities.

Amenity groups also link to bodies such as local heritage societies; these in turn link to groups such as arts societies, friends of museums etc. These may have a low profile within the traditional voluntary sector but are clearly likely to have links to local decision-makers. Indeed one of the concerns amongst such groups in some areas is that they tend to be made up of older people and are having trouble attracting younger volunteers.

Almost every town and city also has one more important network (omitting here political party groups and organisations such as the Freemasons) which is the

Rotary Club (or the Lions etc.). Rotaries offer an excellent way in to businesses and the local 'establishment'. In the past they have shown active interest in environmental issues and have sponsored local clean-ups. These might offer a way in to sections of local communities that may otherwise be rather inaccessible.

4.2 The Environmental Community Sector (ECS)

This is a sector which has been relatively poorly defined and analysed. It consists of those working with local communities on environmental issues. While some organisations (e.g. BTCV) have been there for many years there has been a rapid expansion during the last fifteen years (as charted in the 2002 review *'The Quiet Revolution'*): some organisations have grown rapidly (e.g. Groundwork) and some new ones have appeared (the Community Recycling Network, the 'local food' movement etc.). This sector is also closely linked to environmental NGOs (see section 3), some of whom such as FoE have local branches. These are briefly discussed in the section below on green lifestyle and policy.

A previous work for CDF and the Joseph Rowntree foundation (*'Thinking Locally, Acting Nationally'*, 2002) assessed the various environmental and social impacts of such work: the question here is how far such work is contributing or could contribute to work on climate change mitigation (and adaptation?). It is the case that much of the basic work on how to engage with local communities on other environmental issues has been done by organisations in this sector: there are therefore lessons to be learnt from work on climate change.

Most work by this sector is within the second and third tiers. The implementation-based focus of much of this work tends to rule out direct work on climate, but there are many obvious links.

This sector was explored through:

- Web-based and literature review
- Phone or face-to-face interviews with staff in relevant organisations
- A focused discussion with community outreach staff working for Groundwork Trusts in the North-West.

• Linking climate change to work on green spaces and land

The green spaces / conservation sector is the largest part of the ECS. In 2002 the 'Quiet Revolution' survey concluded that there are around 11,000 conservation groups active in the UK and that over 130,000 volunteers are involved in local projects. These figures underestimate the number of people involved in local project work with Groundwork and there has also been expansion since that time. New funding programmes from the Lottery and the Government's 'Living Spaces' programmes have stimulated new activity and show plenty of evidence of a desire to engage.

It is clear from discussions with Groundwork, BTCV, and the Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG) that there is potential here to open up work on climate issues.

Groundwork staff suggested that it is not clear what the motivation would be for work on climate change for poorer communities who will ask: *'how is this going to affect me?'*, but there was experience of work with communities on 'bigger issues' than simple local quality of life. It was agreed that getting people to see the links between

the global and the local was a slow process, but that external issues such as the tsunami and Live Aid had led to an increase in global awareness.

They further agreed that this would be a legitimate issue for Groundwork, assuming that there was strong government support and adequate resourcing. Groundwork is already targeting poor communities, who (it was agreed) would indeed be most likely to be adversely affected (insurance issues, poor housing etc.). While very few had ever raised the issue of climate change directly, it was agreed that it often came up informally and that people were often keen to build their knowledge and understanding.

The same informal linking was reported within BTCV. FCFCG had more direct links: the focus on local food growing immediately brings in 'food miles' which ties in to transport costs and resultant pollution and CO2 emissions.

It was generally agreed in all discussions that the challenge here was to make the big issues relevant and linked to local experiences. Given the right motivation and support people could be more active and engaged and local conservation and regeneration programmes could be more engaged. The issue of just what kind of local support and infrastructure would be needed also came through.

A further important factor here would be the engagement of Groundwork (and other bodies to a lesser extent) in regeneration partnerships and LSPs. It was felt that regeneration was spending a lot of money and having major environmental impacts but that there was little or no evidence that limiting energy and cutting CO2 were seen as priorities in those partnerships. Given that Groundwork has set up Business Environmental Associations in many places, which highlight issues such as pollution and transport and target local business, they would have some of the tools and experience necessary to influence regeneration work.

The **National Trust** may also be a player here. They work with c. 40,000 volunteers each year, of whom about half are engaged with environmental work and half with buildings. They are very aware of the potential impacts of climate change in terms of sea coasts, impact on gardens and impacts on historic buildings, and a campaign to highlight climate impacts in historic gardens is under way. The idea of change over time is an important one for this work and the Trust has that perspective more than most organisations. Strategies for coastal management and retreat linked to climate adaptation in East Anglia are working on long time scales: the Wicken Fen site has a 100 year action plan.

- **The Wildlife Trusts**

The Wildlife Trusts are seen traditionally, along with Groundwork and BTCV, as being one of the three core organisations of local conservation work. Their federal structure is rather looser than either of the other two organisations but some of the larger Trusts are substantial enterprises in their own right. There is also a lot of variation in how individual Trusts focus their work.

It has not been possible in the time allowed to do a comprehensive survey of Trusts, but several are engaged in work that would be relevant to this project.

Two trusts are worthy of specific note. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust have had a strong SD focus for many years and have run Wiltshire Agenda 21, linking work done in that county by the various local councils. This has been an innovative example of good community engagement around SD with several excellent programmes, and their local sustainability work employs around 20 people. They run the local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre (EEAC) and are now launching (with EAF funding) a programme looking to develop 'climate aware communities' – as such they may well be people to be more involved in this work in the future.

Sheffield Wildlife Trust has moved in a very different direction. They are very linked in to regeneration work in that city and have developed some pioneering work on incorporating high quality biodiversity work into regeneration programmes. They are also closely linked to the strong environmental sector in that city and might provide a useful entry point.

- **Community action on energy**

There is a lot of work being done around energy issues, much of which directly targets climate change issues. There is some overlap with work on fuel poverty (which is covered in the next main section and focused on the work of NEA).

The Centre for Sustainable Energy in Bristol runs **CAfE, Community Action for Energy**, a programme funded by the Energy Saving Trust, that links energy projects and is one of two significant networks of people and groups actively engaged in this work. CAfE has brought together a wide range of enthusiasts who are working within communities, but they do acknowledge that much of their work is with 'the converted': at their recent and very successful national conference many of those attending were from environmental groups and council-run projects working with communities rather than community groups themselves.

Energy 21, the other network, is a more decentralised network of local energy projects (mostly on renewables), that emerged from the Gloucestershire Vision 21 LA21 initiative. Energy 21 was formalised as a national network in 2002 with over 70 members, some of which are local centres and project while others are small enterprises. They have some ambitious long-term plans and work closely with the Countryside Agency and are engaged in discussions over the follow-up to the Community Renewables Initiative (see below).

Again, the main focus of the work is project-focused rather than community-focused. It may be that some of the support needed for both these networks is to help those project leaders further develop their skills in community engagement.

There are other similar agencies at the local and regional level. **SEA / RENUÉ** (Sustainable Energy Action / Renewable Energy in the Urban Environment) is one of at least three in London (**Creative Environment Networks (CEN)** and the **Energy Conservation and Solar Centre (ECSC)** are the others). While SEA / RENUÉ are primarily focused in Southwark and doing innovative work on the Aylesbury Estate and elsewhere they are increasingly working across London. Climate change

features heavily in all their work and they are keen to consider how to get this complex message out most effectively to those they are engaged with.

A second aspect of community work on energy is the centrally-funded Community Renewables Initiative. On the basis of a limited survey this seems to be an excellent way of stimulating activity and innovation on climate-related issues. There are currently 10 Local Support Teams (some seem to be based on one person) throughout England covering most regions and the aim is to eventually cover the whole of England.

Discussions with local staff responsible for grants stress the enthusiasm of the individuals applying to them and suggest that it would be difficult to deliver small scale renewables projects without that strong enthusiasm. While there are some problems – many people are keen but don't understand the details or the need for feasibility work etc. – this programme is putting renewables systems into schools, village halls, nature reserves, local parks as well as one-offs such as a cathedral. It is perhaps unfortunate that DTI funding for this programme finishes next year and it is not yet clear what will replace it.

The problem underlying this work is the fact that much of it is done with the converted and the enthusiastic and there are not enough of such people. Incremental growth from one project to another is not on its own enough to have the kind of impact that appears to be needed in coming years to really make an impact of CO2 figures. However it is also essential that people do see and hear about work on the ground, and it is also the case that these projects could pay an important part in a structured programme of engagement with wider community activity.

- **Climate Outreach Information Network (COIN)**

COIN is a new charity recently set up in Oxford, specifically on these issues, by experienced campaigners now seeking to focus on engagement. COIN “aims to educate by building the knowledge needed to show that the vision of stabilising greenhouse gas emissions is practically attainable. It will do this by demonstrating the changes needed to combat climate change, and by generating an understanding of climate change through activities, which develop public awareness, demonstrate results, share knowledge and influence others”.

They recently secured funding for a pilot ‘one stop shop’ project with B&Q and they are also working with National Grid Transco on climate change awareness raising for staff. Their strong understanding of the policy issues coupled with a commitment to enabling local action means that they could have an important part to play in this work.

- **Other issues and agencies**

There are various other issues where there are well-developed links between environmental organisations and local communities. Of these the issue with the greatest outreach by a long way is waste and recycling. The **Community Recycling**

Network includes many members who deliver door-to-door services, while the linked Composting and Furniture networks also have valuable outreach.

There was some doubt amongst these networks over how much they could contribute, with wide variations. Many of the agencies with the greatest outreach are social enterprises delivering services on very tight budgets that might lack the time and capacity to do education and awareness work on a much bigger issue. There is undoubtedly consciousness-raising going on that is valuable and some projects have found extra funding for education work. Given that many such projects work with local councils it may be the case that any work to link in with recycling would best be done as part of a local council-led programme.

Transport is another important issue: indeed this is the area where cutting emissions is likely to be most controversial and be most opposed, given previous protests.

Transport 2000 are the main transport-focused NGO and they have been running a community project for some years focusing on revitalising communities affected by main roads. They also run the 'Streets for People' network which supports community groups and residents looking to create traffic-free neighbourhoods and promote traffic reduction in terms of safer streets and air pollution. Climate change is a central part of their motivation and they are actively engaged in policy work.

Sustrans are a national charity primarily promoting cycle ways, cycling and walking. Since much of their work has been location-focused (along cycle routes) they are aware of the need to work with local communities. To this end they are now running and developing a programme specifically to assess the 'climate effectiveness' of their work with and engage local communities (with the Environmental Change Unit at Oxford Uni.), and they also run a 'Liveable Neighbourhoods' programme which has some synergy with this work. Further climate work involves feeding in to the local authority focused work of the Carbon Trust.

While climate change may not be a central issue it is certainly one they are very aware of and promoting modal shift from cars to cycles has many benefits beyond CO₂ reduction. As such both Sustrans and T2000 would be agencies that could provide valuable expertise for any long-term programme, notably in terms of local infrastructure. The Rural Transport Partnerships programme set up through the Countryside Agency has also got a wide range of valuable expertise on rural transport, an issue that has already been shown to be problematic in respect of cutting fuel use.

The National Society for Clean Air (NSCA) is a charity on long-standing that is now widening its work on air pollution issues to include work on climate change. The main focus of this work today has been with local authorities, who have a key role to play in building local engagement (see section 4.5 below). NSCA are setting up a Standing Conference on Local Authority Response to Climate Change (CLARCC), that is designed to support elected members who are taking a leading political role, and local authority officers responsible for technical assessment and policy implementation. A conference took place in June 2005 as this report went to press: engaging with communities will be a theme at that event. NSCA are calling for a coherent framework for local authority action on climate change which would include

statutory obligations for councils linked to enhanced and simplified funding, training and support programmes and improved communication and coordination.

- **Area-based local networks**

There has been a steady growth in the number and size of local networks focusing on environment and local sustainability. Many of these started work as Local Agenda 21 programmes (as adjuncts to work by local councils) but are now independent organisations. Work is currently being done for Defra on another project to survey such organisations.

Most of these are networks of groups who are first and foremost environmental rather than community-focused but that is changing and developing as local practitioners get better at engaging with those communities.

The larger funded networks (e.g. West Devon Environment Network Westden, Southampton Sustainability Forum, London 21 etc.) have paid staff and are deliberately seeking to work with communities. Few have any overt focus on climate change – the feeling has tended to be that this is primarily a policy matter for larger NGOs – but this may be changing. Calderdale Sustainability Forum is actively involved in the work on the regional climate change strategy / action plan for Yorkshire & Humberside. Wiltshire Agenda 21 (run by Wiltshire Wildlife Trust and with around 20 staff specifically working on local sustainability issues) is developing a new communities and climate programme and also run their local EEAC.

The question for such networks will be where and how they can best make a difference on climate issues. The options would include raising awareness and promoting action by smaller member groups and / or setting up programmes to reach out to unengaged groups in their areas. They can also play a role in infrastructure work where collective action is needed, such as bulk energy buying, community renewables etc. The Wiltshire programme is considering a 'climate-friendly towns' programme based around their earlier work on fair trade towns.

- **Green lifestyle and policy work**

The last few years have seen a focus on green lifestyle change, mostly focusing on individual behaviour change. This gets much media coverage, since it ties in with 'green consumer' activities. **Global Action Plan (GAP)** have done most work in this area but there have been various similar initiatives, some run by national agencies and some by local councils.

The GAP 'Ecoteam' approach has tended to focus on drawing teams together rather than using existing community groups and has focused at the household rather than community level. However it and similar projects have provided a lot of valuable insight into what works and what does not work and the kinds of support structures that local projects need. They have also done pilot work with low income groups.

There are also the mainstream environmental organisations. Local branches of Friends of the Earth, WWF, CPRE, Greenpeace etc. are engaged with local communities in very different ways around the country, some much more effectively

than others. The RSPB are notable for being a policy group where many of the members join due a leisure interest (bird-watching) which is reviewed below. Some are primarily focused on raising funds and national members.

They have not been surveyed in any detail for this work: the numbers of local organisations tend to be smaller and their work more focused on policy change and development rather than on building local awareness. Some however are actively involved in local networks and can provide other members of those networks with good up-to-date policy information. Depending on the reaction of the national organisations involved, this is an area that could be usefully developed.

There may be a tension within this work. As mentioned earlier FoE, Greenpeace, WWF, RSPB et al. are launching the 'Climate Movement' which will seek to focus more on challenging the government to strengthen climate policy than on building local awareness and engagement. Any new work to develop public engagement will need to be aware that many activists do not regard the current level of government activity as adequate to deal with this crisis.

4.3 Organisations working on related issues

As well as community-led organisations there are many other agencies active on worked linked to the VCS. These may be national agencies with local branches (as with the ECS) or they may be NDPBs (as with CDF and also Groundwork) or they may be working in other parts of the public sector. Some of these that are relevant include the following:

- **Fuel poverty**

This is perhaps the most obvious link between poorer communities and climate and an important one: there are real concerns that increasing energy prices as a way to cut waste will have a disproportionate impact on poorer communities. Work for JRF (*'Green Taxes and charges'*) by Ekins et al. has suggested ways in which this can be tackled.

Neighbourhood Energy Action (NEA) has been active on affordable warmth and fuel poverty for over 25 years and is the lead agency in the field: their clear first priority is poorer households. They are very aware of climate change as an issue: while activities focused on their core issues their training sessions include materials linking climate change and energy waste.

NEA has also developed a number of 'energy champions' with Primary Care Trusts, and built other partnerships with the health sector through its involvement with npower's Health through Warmth scheme. They point out that there are many agencies promoting energy efficiency from boy scouts giving away low energy lamps upwards (see box below) but that there is a need for a more strategic approach that will in effect 'fuel poverty-proof' a dwelling. Given the new money (around £1200M) coming from the energy industries through the Energy Efficiency Commitment there is scope for more work to be done (see EEACs below).

NEA add that having a clear target issue (energy) is a major advantage. The key interviewee works with BME communities on energy. They run training for sessions for BME community groups aimed at respected advice workers, centre co-ordinators etc. Many of these are young people (in their 20-30s) who are generally more aware of links between social inclusion, environmental and health issues. They have a database of some 500 BME contacts (of whom about half are active).

They would agree that any new activity should include work focused at grass roots / street level. This needs clear direction and strategy, and that there is an need for some branding that 'links the unlinkable' and leads people to consider those links. There is a need to create better joint working with health and social work staff but this will need to be written into work plans and strategies for engagement from the most senior level. They would also suggest some training: a half-day module (people don't need to be experts) for all those in public health and social care would help tem act as supporting advocates to get people to take climate change more seriously.

They also stress the need for better co-ordination between those working on energy issues. The interviewee pointed out that he has recently trained 240 people: not one had heard of an EEAC before the course.

Fuel poverty – a focus for much activity:

Fuel poverty, fuel debt and energy efficiency issues are already a significant feature on the voluntary sector agenda, especially those working with older people. It should be remembered however that for many old people fuel poverty is not identified as a key issue. Among the players other than NEA identified by Help the Aged are:

- The British Legion, with 15,000 cases each year, spends £8.5m on immediate needs support, of which £1.5m is fuel related.
- Citizens Advice sees 1.5m debt cases, of which 800,000 are utility debt. Citizens Advice is not an expert in this area, but would welcome local energy champions to complement its network of field officers.
- NEA has developed partnerships with 60 local authorities to address these themes (and these partnerships strive to involve other local voluntary bodies): that in Luton has 500 trained volunteers in its Affordable Warmth Team.
- RNID gives talks and presentations to local retirement groups primarily about issues related to deafness, but distributes material about benefits and services.
- The Employers' Retirement Association, working through 70 companies and potentially reaching 2m pensioners, can get information to people but has few resources to stimulate action.
- LinkAge has been building partnerships with a local remit to provide a simple gateway to services, and has just made 172 Partnership Fund awards.
- Transco, sponsors of the Newcastle Warm Zone, recently knocked on 30,000 doors in the city, aiming to get a range of helpful messages to the occupants.

One of the problems appears to be the sheer number of messages and the ways in which they are delivered. There is a real danger of confusion resulting. Local energy champions and good, relevant, local information are vital.

• Energy efficiency and generation

There is a network of 52 EEACS (Energy Efficiency Advice Centres) around the UK supported by the Energy Savings Trust. Many of these are actively involved in work on climate change. SEA (see 4.2) run their local EEAC while the Energy Conservation and Social Centre run one for parts of south-east England around London. Some appear to have more effective outreach around climate than others and some have a lower profile (see point from NEA above) but all appear to meet targets and have plenty of demand for their services. They have a key role to play in highlighting the grants available to any household or business.

The issue is likely to be the same as that facing any advice centre: the people who use their services have recognised that they have a need for or an interest in those services. They will be key players in work to tackle climate change but will need to work with other agencies on community outreach.

Some EEACs also provide advice on renewables and promote the CRI (see 4.2 on energy).

- **Community development and related issues**

This report is first and foremost about the engagement of communities and community development is about fostering that engagement. Traditionally community development has focused on meeting the needs of local communities and following their agenda. Future work may include 'issue-focused community development' and using these techniques to foster engagement in climate change would be a new departure.

Discussion with a range of practitioners, especially younger ones, has shown enthusiasm for this approach, while recognising that linking communities to global issues does pose some problems. An informal discussion with CDF staff and associates conference showed there to be widespread interest and no problems that were seen as irresolvable.

It was intended to run a focus group of CD workers to discuss the proposal in more detail. However while this received some interest, very few of those who expressed interest were able to make the meeting date that was set. It is clearly the case that people active on communities and environmental work in areas such as North Wales and Burnley would have had a long journey, but it also symptomatic of the problems that will need to be tackled in dealing with making the links at this level.

A number of phone interviews were substituted for this focus group. These produced some interesting examples of local level practice from people using environmental issues as part of CD. There was a feeling that the new project idea is an interesting one and that this might well yield some very positive results. Some points that came through consistently included:

- Environmental work can be a great way to engage (as described in our earlier JRF report);
- Groups and workers have got to 'be in for the long haul'. There will always be issues with clean streets and traffic and problematic kids and projects will need to work with and build on these;
- Climate change may be 'for the few rather than for everyone' but it can link to e.g. walking buses, cycle routes, transport, energy etc.;
- Most T&R (tenant and resident) groups do want to improve their environment: community development can help them move beyond the street lighting and dogs issues to longer-term issues and solutions;
- It will be important to recognise the limited nature of many people's experiences – education has a role alongside development, especially on complex issues.

Other agencies active in this field include the **Scarman Trust**. Their work focuses on building capacity amongst activists and 'community champions' to engage with new and complex issues whether these are regeneration or training programmes or indeed environmental issues. They are currently developing a training programme

entitled 'Inspiring Change' that will seek to provide further support for community activists and could envisage the possibility of supporting work on climate issues.

Community Development Exchange is the largest member organisation for community development workers. They were initially interested to consider helping run a consultation exercise, but work pressures meant we were unable to carry this through. As with NACVS it has a great many 'priority' issues and at present environment and sustainable development is not amongst those.

There is plenty of CD work that relates to the environment, much of it done by community workers in the ECS area, although this does relate mostly to local environmental and liveability issues. There is also a growing recognition of the value of local environmental work (although most assessment to date has not been researched in detail) and a recognition that this means that CD workers need to develop skills in this area.

- **Housing**

For many people the only perceived direct engagement with 'energy issues' is the payment of bills or buying petrol. Gas and electricity bills inevitably focus attention on housing, and there are many specialist organisations focusing on green housing such as Sustainable Homes, Sustainability Works, Beyond Green, along with a large and increasing number of green housing projects.

The focus here is not so much on the many demonstration projects around the UK but more how the message from such projects gets through to local communities. In this context those communities broadly divide in to four groups:

- Those in council-provided housing
- Those in housing run by RSLs (Registered Social Landlords, more widely known as Housing Associations et al.), ALMOs (Arms' Length Management Organisations), etc.
- Those in private rented accommodation
- Those in houses they own.

Work by local councils is considered in more detail in section 4.5, but it is the case that environmental awareness programmes run in one section of a local council often fail to make use of the substantial outreach potential of the housing programmes within the authority. Increasing support for council housing and community workers to raise fuel issues and to link these to climate change may be desirable, although some of these staff are likely to feel this is adding to an already over-stretched workload.

Owner-occupiers and those in private rented housing are usually not well networked in terms of their housing and are probably better targeted through other community channels. There are exceptions such as housing co-ops and leaseholders working together in private flats, but these do not seem to be priorities.

One area where more work can certainly be done is with Housing Associations and other RSLs. Housing Associations are growing in number and often in size, notably due to stock transfers from local councils. They vary widely in scope and size: larger ones such as Places for People have 52,000 people and the Home Group have 40,000. These are often widely dispersed and thus have less potential for community development work and collective action, but there are large area-focused ones. One example is Walsall Housing which now has 20,000 units, which represents all of Walsall Council's housing stock after transfer.

Making the business case work is a central issue for every RSL. One summed it up by saying that "we have to make money before we can be philanthropic". It is notable (and has been noted by many other RSLs) that the Association responsible for the high-profile BEDZED development was criticised by the Housing Corporation (which manages and regulates Housing Associations) for an over-emphasis on environmental issues. The Corporation does have a sustainability policy and has supported relevant pilot projects and tool-kits but this does not seem to have influenced their core business.

Some smaller Associations (there are quite a few with 300-500 units) have some terms of reference that include some explicit commitment to social justice etc. but larger ones tend to be more business-driven. Getting them to engage will need a clear economic benefit: the problem as ever in housing is that investment in increasing energy efficiency means smaller bills for tenants but little direct return for those making the investment.

Some Associations are already active. Peabody Housing have set up a range of environmental projects and a few are involved in energy services companies in order to get cheaper utilities bills. At the leading edge the Black Country HA have set up 'EnergyExtra' which deliver a range of benefits to those residents that join the scheme and they have also developed a hydrogen-fuelled house. The Devon and Cornwall Housing Association has recently got EAF funding to work with partners "to enable social housing residents to live more sustainably". The Metropolitan Housing Partnership (which ties together a range of HAs) now has a sustainability officer. He is focusing primarily on design etc. but is very keen to engage more with residents on environmental issues. He stated that in his experience many HO staff found this difficult – this suggests more a lack of skill and experience rather than any underlying hostility to these ideas.

Increasing engagement in this sector is likely to need work at two levels. One is work with the Housing Corporation to reach a situation where carbon emission reduction targets are seen as part of the central success criteria for managing housing: this will clearly need to be done by central government. The second is to work with those Associations who do have interest and to develop good practice within those bodies and promote it more widely.

•People for Action

The Agency that is likely to be most useful in this context is People for Action (PfA). PfA is a membership organisation for Housing Associations who are interested in working with their tenants in ways that go beyond the traditional landlord-tenant

relationship. A large and increasing number of HAs are members of PfA which provides a unique networking service and an annual set of seminars, training events etc. as well as special interest groups which enable members to work together directly.

Among these is a sustainability and green environments interest group. This has been running for four years. It recently ran an event on 'encouraging green lifestyles' open to all HAs and has organised events on the use of renewables systems in housing. While it has not directly focused on climate change the second-tier work that it is encouraging is directly focused on climate-related issues.

- **Healthy living and food**

The interdisciplinary problems of linking work on health and environment have been assessed in other reports. Climate change poses some more specific problems but also offers new opportunities. There is a substantial international body of work, led by WHO's work programme on Climate Change and Health set up after the 1999 London European Ministerial Conference on Health and the Environment for Europe. At present this work is not impacting on local action but could provide resources for developing information aimed at this sector.

PCTs and other public health issues are considered in 4.5. The specific foci here are healthy living initiatives and Healthy Living Centres (HLCs) in particular as well as food projects. HLCs are facing ongoing funding problems but the best certainly seem (on the basis of published work) to be doing good community engagement work. Several have a focus on fuel poverty and this could be a starting point for more development.

Food growing projects are covered to some extent in 4.2, but there is a much wider 'healthy eating' network. This might be best seen as 'third-tier' work but it does offer some possibility for raising global food issues and thus wider global development issues. Again this is likely to depend on finding those with an interest and a readiness to engage and providing support for their work. This is an area where some further development work may be needed.

- **Clean streets / green spaces**

The liveability agenda links to much work by the ECS (as above) but also to the work of ENCAMs in running the Tidy Britain initiative. The Living Streets organisation has also developed a long way from its' roots in the Pedestrians Association and has a network of local activists.

These issues are an important way to build public engagement. However informal discussions with practitioners suggest that those people who are most focused and active on this work in their local communities are often those who are less likely to wish to engage at a higher level.

- **Local economy**

Agencies working on the local economy include credit unions, time banks, LETS schemes and social entrepreneurs. Some of these will certainly have an interest in environmental issues but the contacts made suggest that climate change may be one step too far from the core agenda for there to be much interest from such organisations. It is the case however that the social economy does attract active individuals who could play a part in developing engagement within their communities.

- **Global development**

There are substantial networks on global poverty and fair trade in the UK, and the recent upsurge of support for 'Make Poverty History' has put this high on the agenda. This work has been very media-focused and some campaigners have suggested that it is less important that people understand the issues than simply make their voices heard. This may be the case for short-term campaigns, but may be questionable for the 'long haul' on climate change where a high degree of lifestyle change is likely to be necessary.

Some of these groups and networks are linked through faith networks (see below) while others are run by development NGOs such as OXFAM and Christian Aid. There is a question as to how far the national agencies who rely on their local networks for fund-raising and advocacy work would be keen to see these networks engage in work on a rather different issue.

These are important networks of active groups, and ones who are used to dealing with complex issues such as international debt relief and are therefore likely to be able to engage on the more technical issues; they are also likely to be mobilised by the global aspects of climate change impacts on poor and low-lying communities.

There are also a network of Development Education Centres and associated organisations. While these often focus on school support many also work with local communities and with youth groups. Their readiness to engage on global issues and social justice would make them important local focal points but this would (as with other networks) need a commitment to adequate resourcing.

Fair Trade is perhaps the first sustainable development-style issue to be mainstreamed. It has been widely taken up in many areas and 'fair trade towns' have been developed as an idea with agreed criteria. This may provide a useful model for how complex global issues can be tackled locally.

4.4 Community specific networks

All communities are diverse to some extent, but it is the case that there are some networks where there are specific cultural issues that may provide access to certain communities (or may act as barriers if handled badly).

• Faith communities and Climate Change

A growing body of work is being done by faith groups on climate change and many newsletters stress the urgent need for action. This section is drawn principally from recent work done by Community Environment Associates for a longer recent report on faith groups and sustainable development for the Sustainable Development Commission.

The understanding of justice issues is high amongst many faith groups and this may be one reason why faith groups, particularly the Christian church, have been active in supporting the principle of 'contraction and convergence'. This formed a central part of Christian Ecology Link's 2004 annual event.

There are two underlying issues. One was summed up by John Kennedy in *The Guardian* (9/10/04): *"We talk a lot, pray a bit, but don't do much about climate change. What the Churches need is a vision for the future – and courage"*. Linked to that is the feeling that amid the perceived conflicting evidence, faith groups identify a lack of clear guidance for personal action.

Specific initiatives

The highest profile faith project is Christian Ecology Link's 'Operation Noah' Climate Change campaign. This includes the 'Climate Covenant', launched with a special event at Coventry Cathedral in October 2004, which commits churches to take action against global warming. This initiative appears to be proving popular at a local level and is well-resourced by the standards that are the norm in this field. The 'Ark in a box' is the web-based resource centre for Operation Noah. It is a simple and easily accessible set of materials for use by a motivated organisation. It includes materials on

- The Climate Covenant and background information
- 'Asking the government to lead decisive international action'
- 'Showing you mean business by doing your bit'

There is a wide range of downloadable materials including briefing sheets, leaflets, articles and presentations – "Everything you need to create a climate of justice for the poor and future generations". There is also a helpline for presenters

The profile of this work has been boosted by statements from the Archbishop of Canterbury and other leading clerics. The European Christian Environmental Network is also now seeking to develop climate change work.

There are numerous local initiatives around this issue. Most are relatively small-scale awareness projects, often associated with Eco-Congregation. Some noteworthy projects include:

- Recognition that church buildings are notoriously inefficient in their use of energy led to the formation, in 1980, of the Scottish Churches' Energy Efficiency Scheme. Over two thirds of Church of Scotland churches have taken part in the Scottish Churches' Energy Savings Scheme, as well as several other churches of different denominations. As well as significant savings in energy consumption, an estimated £0.75 million is being saved annually as a result.
- CRED is a local carbon reduction programmes launched by University of East Anglia, where 600 churches in Norfolk are being targeted with a view to installing photo-voltaic systems. Unlike houses, churches tend to be built with a common orientation that provides large south-facing roofs which makes them ideal for this purpose.
- A Devon Churches Energy Network is in the process of being launched and Devon Churches Green Action has produced a report on 'Climate Change and the Devon Churches' which proposes ways in which churches and parishes can work on this issue and develop more sustainable communities.
- There is a Jewish climate change project. This has links with 'Operation Noah' but one of its' leading advocates admits that it is struggling to have an impact as it is entirely volunteer-based.
- A number of churches in Lincolnshire are looking to become autonomous energy churches. Funding is being sought but the feasibility study is complete.

There are some interesting projects working on energy within the Muslim faith. Two of these (more detailed information is available) include:

- Be Fikr, (Warm and Cosy) is a Birmingham-based home energy awareness and action project run out of a local mosque, which is providing training in practical action aimed at those living in poor quality private housing, and has notably provided training for women in purdah.
- The Muslim Khatri Association, Leicester have transformed their community centre into an excellent model of a sustainable building project using a large photovoltaic system and a range of energy efficiency technologies.

IFEES, the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environmental Sciences, sets out the Islamic position on ecology and environmental sciences through:

- Research and dissemination of information
- Producing teaching materials, books and journals
- Training on practical and theoretical subjects
- Setting up of an experimental centre focusing on land use and organic farming, and the development of alternative technology

IFEES is slowly building a UK grass-roots base and an international network of Muslims interested in sustainable development, and most of this has taken place within the last year and a half.

They have produced a slide-set 'Qur'an and Creation' as a teaching resource on Islam and the Environment. They are now working on a handbook for imams to teach about the environment, and are helping start a grass-roots network in the UK. The

London group is called LINE, the London Islamic Network for the Environment, which meets monthly. They are keen to be more engaged in climate work.

The values and ethics at the core of every faith have a major contribution to make to climate change (and sustainable development generally). Those values can encourage people to think globally (and act locally), to understand issues of social justice, and, perhaps most importantly, to have a strong hope in a better future. The seeds and 'green shoots' of change and activity are widespread across the UK, but few have a clear structure in which to flourish.

It is possible to see engagement by faith groups on climate as an example of interdisciplinary action and with this are all the problems associated with such joint working. At one level the situation is simple: faith groups are in most instances happy to support the policy goals developed elsewhere. But there are some profound differences in operation and culture: faith groups are looking for their own long-term fulfilment and may have value-based views on what that entails which are very different to the policy-focused goals of professional campaigners.

Faith and ethnicity

There is a critical issue about the overlap with work on BME communities that is inherent in work with faiths. Those working on outreach to BME communities such as Groundwork, BTCV and BEN have made much use of faith networks. Indeed almost all members of the Muslim, Hindu and Sikh faiths are from BME communities. However it is clear that not all members of those communities are engaged with a faith. There is also perhaps a further problem: if too much is made of BME and faiths work this may cause white Christians and others to misinterpret what is going on and conclude that they do not need to be involved.

Faith as a route to increased action

At a time when public attitudes are broadly supportive of the need to be concerned about 'the environment' but are not translating in to action to that end, then working with strong communities such as faith groups could be a valuable way to build behaviour change, both personally and collectively. But engagement of faiths with climate change cannot be imposed from outside. Those who are seeking to build that engagement need to understand how to work with those within the faiths at all levels and to support them in the work on these issues that they have chosen to do.

If there is to be more effective work done by faith communities then there is a need for guidance and leadership. There is also a need for better resourcing, not just in terms of money but in the development of an adequate infrastructure. At the moment many activist networks within the faith communities are working on a purely voluntary basis and are not looking to develop beyond this. Changing this will in all probability need to be supported from outside the faiths.

- **Women**

While there are a wide range of women's organisations the largest within the VCS are the National Federation of Women's Institutes (NFWI) and the Townswomen's Guild. This work focused on the NFWI due in part to their track record. As mentioned above the NFWI are perhaps the most active of the large VCS organisation on climate and they also link work on policy with practical action on implementation.

They are primarily rural and alongside the RCCs (see 4.1) may provide one of the best ways in to rural communities on these issues. They were (and in some cases still are) providing support for LA21 programmes and are proud of their record of working on environmental and social justice issues since 1927.

They are currently working on a major review for their 90th anniversary using focus groups around issues of sustainable consumption (with Defra EAF support). There are three themes all of which are relevant to climate: food, housing and home, and transport.

They have also been engaged on a survey of their members on energy consumption with over 1000 responses. EAF funding will then enable them to move from survey work to action programmes. They are thus very active and ready to work on climate issues. They also run their 'community challenge' programme which encourages and supports local collective action and see this as a possible way to increase engagement with climate issues.

As a mainly rural network transport is a key issue. They are aware of the work of Rural Transport Partnerships and are keen to see these kinds of programmes developed as a way of showing that change is possible.

The NFWI is also engaged at a policy level. While there is a feeling that they may 'leave the policy work to experts' they are supporting the new Climate Movement being set up by FoE at al. and were only one of two VCS networks that mentioned this development. Their priority for this work is 'clear unambiguous policy – action not talk' from the government and they would want to see more pressure on industry.

- **BME communities**

Many of the problems encountered in seeking BME engagement in this mapping were similar to those that have also been met in trying to build that engagement on environmental issues. The national networks and specialist agencies such as CEMVO, Race on the Agenda, the Ethnic Minority Foundation have all been courted by various environmental initiatives and work by Capacity Global has analysed the issues with regard to their participation in environmental work. There are increasing links being made, especially around issues such as environmental justice: the question would be how far climate change is an issue that will inspire action.

There is some evidence that second tier work may be the best way in. NEA's work with BME communities (see 4.3 above) has built links with many black professionals

round fuel poverty. The Muslim case studies referred to above show that there is plenty of good practice on energy issues and that links with climate issues are being made at community level in some cases.

The Black Environment Network (BEN) might be the most obvious place to make connections, although their work in recent years has focused on work engaging black communities with heritage issues and might need refocusing if it were to make an impact on this issue nationally. BEN regional projects have worked with some communities on this issue, notably with Bangladeshi communities in Birmingham (similar communities in London have raised climate change as an issue when raising money for Bangladeshi flood victims). The BEN staff interviewed stressed that there would be a need for a long-term strategy for engagement with adequate resources and that the climate message would need to be set out in ways that were socially and culturally appropriate.

Work with BME communities is likely to be most important in the major cities with large BME populations, notably London, Birmingham, Bradford and Leicester. Cities such as Leicester have well-defined ethnic communities with good community structures and representation: these might be the places to pilot community work, although the 'reverse diaspora' that has made London the most diverse city in the world also points to the need to engage in London. The NEA project mentioned before is clearly breaking the ground here, while work by London Sustainability Exchange and London 21 is also building links.

- **Older people**

Help the Aged and Age Concern are the major VCS focal points, but there are some other key issues to take into account. There are now over 500 Older Peoples' Forums across England and Wales and Strategies for Older People are becoming more widespread. The Welsh strategy is up and running work is going on in London on this and many LSPs / Community Strategies are addressing issues relating to older people.

Those issues are also very wide-ranging. Agencies suggest that while the 'traditional' concerns for many older people are very local – crime, lighting etc.- there are many older people with much broader concerns (and there will be more) and that almost every aspect of social life in the UK has a specific angle that relates to older people. However there are also many older people whose skills and experience could be valuable in terms of building action within their communities.

Help the Aged are very aware of climate issues and have co-operated with Greenpeace on a press initiative that linked this with fuel poverty. Age Concern have the network of local branches and many of these are active on affordable warmth and express an interest in seeing how climate change work could link in to this. Help the Aged recognise that older people could play a key role in this work and would be interested in work that might support their role in new projects.

- **Young people**

A representative of Youth Clubs UK suggested that on environmental issues “young people know the most but do the least”. The same person suggested that ‘it’s geeks and the anoraks’ who are engaged on environmental issues and that it is the case that peer pressure and consumerist media have helped make environmental issues unfashionable (this may have been helped by images of environmental activists in the media). Most environmental programmes on offer seem to be focused on liveability issues and these are a turn-off for many.

There is also a focus on people-sized activity (insecurity is a common trait) which means that few take on world issues unless it is linked to tackling the issue that ‘nobody takes any notice of me’.

Most youth work focuses on helping young people find their way forward and on building relationships. The lack of engagement of most young people on environmental issues means that youth workers in turn will not go out of their way to promote issues where there is seen to be little engagement which in turn means that those who may have a latent interest get less support. Most will build on their own interests and concerns and the currently perceived high priority / fashionable issues.

Ways forward for engaging young people on climate work might relate to three issues:

- *‘Building in good times for people who don’t have many’*

This is archetypal youth work – trips for sporting activity. Hands-on conservation work may appeal as a group activity in this context if it is well-planned and led by people who young people will respect and relate to. This could then be a basis for bringing in global issues.

- *Transport*

Young people need to get around, by cycle bus and train. The desire for cars is of course widespread but a project focused on these issues might encourage those who cannot use cars to see this as something positive. The recent move by the Mayor of London to offer free public transport to older teenagers is a welcome move that may help build long-term usage.

- *Getting noticed*

Many young people such as Asian girls have taken part in demonstrations over the war in Iraq and have been quoted as saying that this shows they have a voice. Giving young people that voice may be the best way forward. There are plenty of examples – many youth groups have done work on fair trade and global issues such as Reebok trainers and sweatshop labour. Any long-term strategy on climate may wish to identify some key issues which could be developed with youth groups. [Ways to ‘empower the geeks’ may also be desirable!]

It should also be stressed that while this section has sought to provide a broad overview which highlights what more needs to be done there are many good youth groups who are tackling these issues already. Organisations such as Envision in London are doing valuable work with 16-19 year olds. But it is the case that these

examples of good practice are a very long way from representing or becoming standard practice.

- **Sports and leisure**

This is an area where informal community organisations are the norm. Amateur football teams and their friends and supporters, swimming clubs, cyclists, golfers and of course anglers and walkers represent a huge part of UK civil society. It has not been possible to gather more than anecdotal evidence in the time set for this work. The CCPR (Central Council for Physical Recreation) highlights the fact that some 13 Million people are engaged in one way or another in this area.

There is a divide to be made in terms of those who work with or reach out to communities and those who are simply community groups, while those who are communities of interest based around a commercial venture such as a sports club or golf club form a third group.

The former category includes for instance a number of football clubs (one East London team has a community officer who formerly worked for an environmental charity) as well as council-run leisure centres. The second category is perhaps one of the hardest to assess since they are so diverse and loosely networked. The third group is perhaps the most challenging, since those who have the money to join golf clubs may well be living a high-carbon life-style.

The anglers and walkers are those groups with traditional links to the wider environmental sector and representatives of both have expressed concerns about the possible impacts of climate change. The British Marine Federation are launching work (with EAF funding) to 'promote sustainable use of coastal and inland waters by water sports participants' and there are also organisations such as Surfers Against Sewage who have mobilised specific groups.

The RSPB is worthy of specific note here. They are a large and well-established NGO and as with the Ramblers Association have substantial membership. Where they differ from other groups in this section is that they are also heavily engaged with policy work on climate change and are part of the developing 'Climate Movement'. Any work to open up engagement through sports and leisure should certainly seek their advice and involvement.

These are areas where further work might be desirable to consider the potential for more structured engagement of local organisations.

4.5 Public sector bodies and communities

If there is one group of organisations that reaches local communities directly more than any other it is clearly local government. The engagement of local councils in work to tackle both mitigation and adaptation (and building public involvement in this) will be crucial. A consultation document from the Local government Association (LGA) on energy and climate change (Feb 2005) points out that: *'Local authorities can plan, co-ordinate, enable and deliver the changes needed for sustainable energy in a way no other organisations can match'*

At the moment such work is patchy at best but there is plenty to build on and some of the most promising programmes see community engagement as a central part of their work.

Local Agenda 21 provided a way in for many local councils and from this and other work 'Councils for Climate Protection' (CCP) was launched in 2000. With this came the 'Nottingham Declaration' on climate change and 83 local councils have signed up to this.

When the CCP programme ended Defra and IDeA talked with the Carbon Trust about a wider roll-out. This has developed into the Local Authority Carbon Management programme, which launched in 2003 with 16 LAs as first tranche pilots. This increased to 24 councils in July 2004 and a third phase may launch this summer. The programme is free to councils but they have to show evidence of commitment and capacity. Around 100 have expressed interest from which the 24 were chosen. The programme has been particularly helpful in providing change management support and adequate resources but has been focused on councils reducing energy bills in their own buildings and has not worked on encouraging others to change their behaviour.

Another approach has come through the Government's 'Beacon' approach. Seven councils have recently been given beacon status in terms of what they have done in terms of promoting energy efficiency, renewable energy and other low carbon technologies in their local community or economy. Increasing community engagement was an important aspect of many of the successful councils.

However it seems that relatively little is happening at a national level. There is concern amongst some engaged staff within local government that there is a lack of a co-ordinated approach. The IDeA wrote to all councils in England and Wales on the issue of climate in June 2004. While some of the results were positive: 93 per cent have a specific strategy in place to improve home energy conservation and 65 per cent have set out plans to tackle the causes of climate change in their area, the actual level of responses was low – rather fewer than the 83 signatories to the Nottingham Declaration – which suggests a lack of engagement.

As this report went to press the LGA (in partnership with the Energy Saving Trust, and the Energy Efficiency Partnerships for Homes) launched a 'Vision Document' entitled "Leading the Way: how local authorities can meet the challenge of Climate Change". The problem remains that IDeA and LGA have only limited resources for

work on this issue and much of that inevitably goes to improving council performance rather than outreach.

Local councils also have engagement with the UK CIP (Climate Impacts Programme) through a specific LA network, which is proving useful to these where flood and storm damage are or are likely to be a major problem. The National Society for Clean Air are also setting up an LA network on climate change (see section 4.2).

- **Regeneration partnerships**

Alongside the local authorities there are in many areas large regeneration partnerships spending substantial sums of money (both UK and European). Apart from a few high-profile projects as exceptions it has to be said that there is little evidence of these agencies providing any leadership or guidance in terms of climate change. It proved difficult to get any partnership staff to discuss this issue in any detail in the time set for this work.

These are agencies at work in areas where major change is taking place and where thus the opportunity to promote innovative action is greater. Many are running substantial community engagement processes. A range of evidence and experience of practitioners shows how these agencies have indeed resisted incorporating environmental activities above and beyond basic liveability issues on the grounds of extra costs involved.

It seems unlikely that good practice or community engagement are on their own going to produce much change in this context. There is a need for guidance and leadership. This is a substantial opportunity to promote the low-carbon agenda that is currently not being used effectively.

The new Academy for Sustainable Communities and the associated agenda might offer a new opportunity to develop such work but it seems most likely that this will need clear leadership and pressure from the ODPM to ensure that this sector plays its part and in turn provides leadership and support to local communities.

Part 3: Moving forward

5. Analysis

This report has focused so far on describing what is and is not being done. This section provides a very brief analytical overview. The time involved in this work has not allowed for a more detailed analysis, but this would be desirable if a major initiative is to be developed. It should be clear from section 4 that there are plenty of areas where more work would be useful.

5.1 What are the issues?

At the core of this work there are perhaps two hypotheses that seem to conflict with one another:

- Hypothesis 1: Those involved in local community activity are more likely to be politically aware, read the papers etc. and thus be ready to engage on bigger issues such as climate change.
- Hypothesis 2: Those involved in local community activity are over-stretched and under-resourced and thus likely to ignore or 'tune out' work on issues such as climate change if it does not directly affect their main work.

This work now suggests that both seem to be partially true and therefore two strategies are needed: one to encourage those with an interest to become more active and to take a lead, and one to build interest where little now exists (this may involve direction from above).

Both will benefit from some clear evidence that the government is taking this seriously: there seems to have been a failure to get this message across so far. This might translate into action though

- a) a new funding stream for local communities and
- b) other government departments that have more engagement with local communities (notably the Home Office and ODPM) being seen to take a proactive role on this issue.

5.2 A range of approaches

During the discussions and research for this work it became clear that there are several issues where organisations have quite different approaches.

These include:

- The Policy – Implementation divide
- The difference between NGO and VCS approaches

Policy and Implementation

Most organisations can be placed on a line that connects Policy change and Implementation (work to lower emissions). Most environmental NGOs are at the policy end (but some have projects further down the line) while other environmental organisations such as Global Action Plan are at the other end.

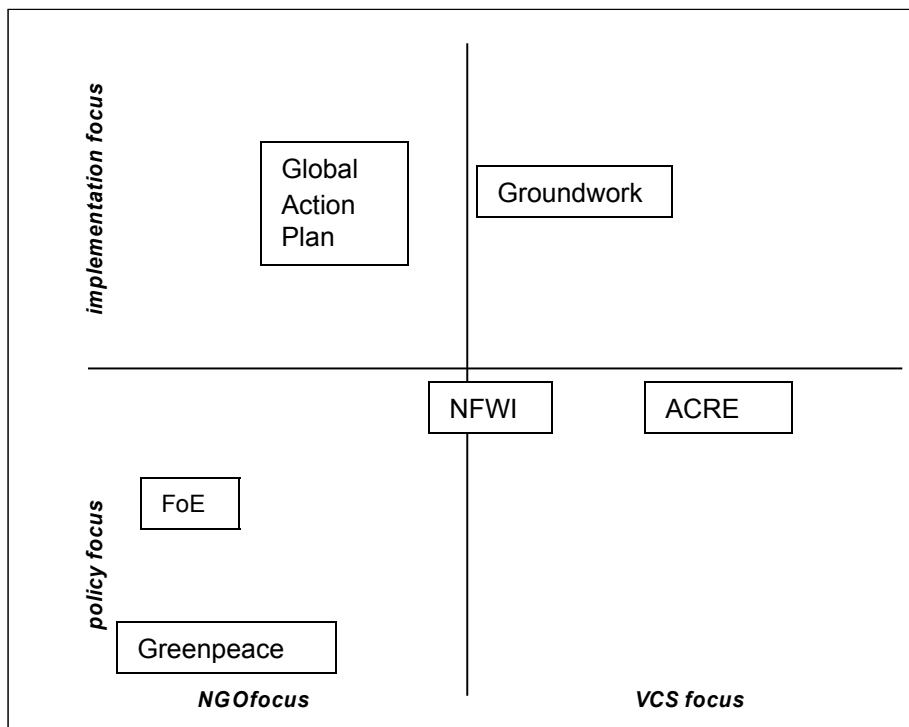
Such a line can be drawn within a range of different sectors. Most local government activity nationally is at the 'action' end, but councils clearly have an interest in policy and their experience should inform it. Industry will clearly have a different profile as will social sector NGOs (if they are engaged).

NGO and VCS approaches

A second dimension for this analysis would be the clear difference between the 'NGO approach' and the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) approach. These can be plotted against each other (as on the chart below).

Thus 'traditional' NGO activity is largely in the bottom left quarter of this chart. The chief focus of this work is to see which organisations are active (or could be encouraged to be active) in the top right quarter (VCS / Implementation).

It will of course also be important to consider those NGOs active on implementation (top left) and where / if there are VCS groups who are engaged on policy work around climate change (bottom right). All the organisations discussed fit within this context: a few obvious ones are included on the figure below as an illustration.



There are other similar 'dividing issues' which could be mapped as above. These include:

- **The Environment / Social spectrum**

Most of those active to date on climate change are at the environmental. Mapping this against the policy / implementation spectrum would draw out even more clearly those social sector bodies that might be key link points for this work.

- **Co-operation with / pressure on the government**

There are clearly some agencies who are working with the government while others see their role as putting pressure on the government. Climate change is something of an uncommon environmental issue in this respect since the government is already very engaged: pressure is to push them further and faster rather than to get them to move or change. This may be an issue which limits public engagement. Clearly environmental NGOs see their role as pressure groups and the new 'climate movement' that is being established will seek to deliver that pressure. There may be some overlap with the NGO / VCS line but the differences may be very relevant.

- **National / community focus**

There are significant variations in both NGOs and VCS bodies as to how they view local activity and the emphasis they place on enabling and empowering community activity. This will be significant in terms of future work in this field.

5.3 Hijacked agendas or a seamless interface?

One of the main foci of this work is to engage on climate change those groups who are already active on other issues. Given that most local organisations spend the vast majority of their time simply keeping going and working on their key purpose any work to engage will have to meet one or more of these requirements:

- Be simple and straightforward (and thus not too time-consuming)
- Be interesting (and even intriguing) to that community
- Be a logical development of work they are doing now
- Have some clear result and impact

Thus organisations such as local football teams were organising collections for tsunami victims: this was simple and with a clear result. Alternatively many local organisations put years of time and effort into LA21 programmes not because it was easy with clear outcomes but because it was intriguing, opening up new contacts and giving new visions of how things could be.

The problem is that work on climate change may not be perceived to be any of these things by some communities. They may indeed see it as boring, time-consuming and/or threatening. This relates in no small part to how the message is put over and this relates in turn to the media and how it is approached locally and nationally. The recent work by Futerra addresses this.

5.4 The VCS overload

It is not just local organisations that spend most of their time just working to keep going and carry out their core work. The same is true at a national level, and several organisations have stressed the recent government flurry of activity that has added to that workload. In the last few weeks there has been the new DWP five year plan and the 'principles on pensions' and the paper on 'opportunity age', the DfES Skills White Paper, the DH vision of adult social care plus work on the White Paper, as well as all material from the Home Office and from the ODPM on sustainable communities. All of these are likely to be higher up the agenda for many social sector bodies.

Developing an understanding of how the broader government agenda is likely to affect this engagement is important, although it should not be done in a way that will deter. Despite the overload there is plenty to build on.

5.5 It's the government....

One of the factors that has regularly come up at community meetings on climate change is that 'sorting this out' is the role of the government.

The government is certainly recognised to be talking about this. The questions that come up are about whether they have the power and / or real desire to influence the behaviour of industry (airlines are often mentioned) and especially the US Government. There is also a question as to how far the focus on getting communities active is about shedding the responsibility on to other people.

Any new community action programme from the government will need to demonstrate real long-term commitment, but more importantly show that the government is taking this issue seriously right across all departments.

National organisations repeatedly pointed out what they saw as inconsistencies in government policy within different departments. Issues identified above include the lack of support for housing initiatives through the Housing Corporation, work on transport strategy and air travel, and the lack of guidance to regeneration work from the ODPM. If the government does believe that climate is an issue of the very highest priority then it needs to show that this belief is being put into action.

5.6 The affluent society

Most funding programmes for community work are targeted at excluded communities and success measures reflect this and community development work has traditionally focused on giving excluded groups a voice.

Any future project on engaging communities on climate issues will need to engage with excluded groups in order to address under-representation, to ensure that their concerns are met and that they are treated equitably by any new measures but it will also need to engage with those with two cars or more living affluent lifestyles.

That is one reason why the net has been cast widely here. There are certainly community groups that would reach richer people, but building links with them will take time and new approaches. This will be complicated by the nature of the issue - climate change is certainly a big issue – but this itself may serve to emphasise that this is a significantly different issue to any other environmental concern.

6. Taking the work forward.

The basic aim of this work can be summed up as ‘empowering communities to take action on climate change’. Within that it is important that what they do is worthwhile, relevant and builds their capacity and desire to do more.

Broadly speaking such activity can be seen to cover two areas:

- Practical action
- Participation in decision-making processes (to set local / regional / national goals and targets)

The first is largely project-based activity leading to longer-term engagement; the second is about participation and groups being enabled to be active. It would be important to identify the borders to this work: the work on participation would avoid overlapping with broader work on governance, while recognising that such work is likely to impact here.

Given the need to tackle this problem thoroughly I think it is arguable that work should proceed on four parallel tracks:

- **A strategic approach to key VCS organisations and networks**
 - **Development of current contacts between environmental work and communities, building on existing commitment and enthusiasm**
 - **Developing ways to provide support to individuals (community workers or local activists) who have already brought in to climate change as an issue and would like to build engagement within their community.**
 - **A specific approach to targeting local communities**
-
- **A strategic approach to key VCS organisations and networks**

As pointed out earlier there are a relatively small number of organisations that can offer targeted access to around 300,000 groups. A strategic approach to national

agencies offers the best long-term chance to develop long-term work to really reach out to local community agencies. This will need nationally-coordinated work through bodies such as the Community Sector Coalition and NCVO to get interest and buy-in at the highest level, along (I would suggest) with the engagement of the Home Office and perhaps ODPM.

- **Development of existing contacts between environmental work and communities**

This will involve using existing networks that have a socio-environmental focus, notably those talked about in the ECS section. These can provide building blocks and also contacts with the wider VCS and might play a key part in developing a consortium project.

Just as there is a need to provide support and training for community workers on sustainable development and climate change, so it is also the case that training and support should be there for environmental workers seeking to work in local communities. Some agreed basic protocols and minimum standards might be desirable: there is plenty of good practice to build on, but it is important to phase out the bad practice. Clarity and guidance on how community work is evaluated might be a useful way in.

- **Supporting engaged individuals**

This idea - of 'energy champions', 'climate change mentors' or something similar - was raised several times and there are relevant practitioner networks within various VCS bodies. This would be an interesting specific project to pursue with perhaps pilot with two or three relevant agencies. The main problem would be the wide focus that would be necessary to cover all those who might be interested and the availability of materials. However a more targeted programme working to specific groups of community workers might be a useful pilot programme.

- **A new specific programme to target and engage with local communities**

CDF and others are discussing this work in more detail.

Appendix: A summary listing of the relevant organisations

1. VCS networks

Those with an active interest

- NFWI
- ACRE
- BASSAC

Those who might be likely to engage with a new initiative:

- NACVS
- Urban forum

Those where some work would be desirable to increase their involvement:

- CENs
- Civic societies
- Resident and tenant groups

2. Environmental / Sustainability work

Those with an active interest

- Centre for Sustainable Energy , Energy 21
- Areas-based sustainability networks (e.g. Mersey Basin, WestDen. London 21)
- Global Action Plan

Those likely to be most interested (at national level) and with networks that can deliver:

- Groundwork
- T2000
- Sustrans

Those where some work would be desirable to increase their involvement:

- BTCV
- Wildlife Trusts (at a national level)
- Federation of City Farms & City Gardens
- National Trust
- CRN

3. Other relevant issues

Those likely to be most interested (at national level):

- fuel poverty (NEA)
- energy efficiency and generation (EEACs nationally through EST)
- community development and related (CDF, Scarman Trust)
- housing (PfA)

4. Other specific types of network

Some organisations likely to be most interested include:

- Faiths (Operation Noah, IFEES)
- Older people (Help the Aged, Age Concern)
- Womens (NFWI)
- BME networks (EMF, ROTA, 1990, CEMVO etc.)
- Sports / Leisure (CCPR at al.)

- Youth (Youth Clubs UK, Envision)