



Where Climate Meets Race

Introduction

V4CE is a national membership organisation for the Black and Minoritised Ethnic (BME) Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) with a vision to build a stronger and more inclusive civil society to meet the needs of Black and Minoritised Ethnic (BME) Communities.

We Drive Change By

- Creating a networked, resilient, and resourced BME civil society that can act and learn as a collective and organise around shared visions for equity and inclusion
- Enabling voluntary and community groups who are too often overlooked and under resourced to gain influence, build capacity, and secure sustained funding
- Promoting the full value of the sector for its work around advocacy, community welfare, and addressing critical gaps or barriers in public services
- Enhancing the ability for BME civil society to shape and contribute to public/grant making policy formulation



Our current global economic model is one that rests on past and renewed systems of racial and colonial violence, extraction, and exploitation.

Our hope is to further evidence and make clear that Black, racialised, and frontline communities are disproportionately affected and made vulnerable to the climate crisis through no accident but as yet another manifestation of structural racism and systemic neglect.

We want to work towards an environmental strategy that sees our communities better supported, well resourced, and empowered to bring about climate solutions of their own.



Our Aim is to *(i)*

- Centre the voices and wisdom of Black and marginalised communities in the fight for a fairer, liveable future
- Create a convening opportunity for the Sector to come together to act on climate justice as a critical part of anti-racism
- Create accessible avenues for members to learn and engage with the environmental movement through shared educational, strategic, and network resources
- Bridge the gap between mainstream environmental groups and the BME VCS sector to bolster inclusion and representation in wider campaigns, decision making processes, and policy forums

Our Aim is to *(ii)*

- Engage with key local, national, and global climate campaigns and initiatives to build political pressure to deliver on stronger and fairer climate measures
- Empower BME charities and communities to articulate their visions for a fair and just transition
- Enable members to educate, spread awareness, build capacities, and develop innovative projects within their own communities



Our Key Areas of Focus

- Where Climate and Race intersect: Pursuing a race-conscious, decolonial approach to climate action
- Climate Education: Improving awareness and literacy on climate
- Health and Housing: Air pollution, resilience to extreme weather events, fuel poverty, access to safe, secure, and affordable housing free from unacceptable conditions of mould
- Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) in the environmental sector and access to the jobs of tomorrow
- Dismantling extractive and exploitative systems that disproportionately harm Black and marginalised communities
- Protecting our civil liberties and reasonable right to dissent

Our Approach

Collaborative

We need a diversity of voices to forge solutions representative of every community's needs and aspirations.

Shared Power

None of this work can be done alone. Working as a collective will determine our success.

Experimental

This area of work is new to us and a challenge we're embracing. We will be sharing our learnings and struggles as we go.

Global Solidarity and Global Justice

Harnessing our proximity to power for good to affect change; refusing to be complicit in a violent, extractivist capitalist system that allows the few to afford their privileges and comforts at the expense of expropriation and exploitation elsewhere.

What will this look like?

- Workshop series and webinars on climate and race, intersectional environmentalism, degrowth, community climate action, community energy, conservation and more
- Sharing educational resources, toolkits, and ecosystem mapping to support in-depth learning
- Surveying the BME VCS Sector to understand barriers to participation in the climate movement and assess ways of supporting members to deliver on the climate justice agenda
- Climate Cafes as informal spaces for members to come together and brainstorm, discuss, and share experiences and stories around climate justice





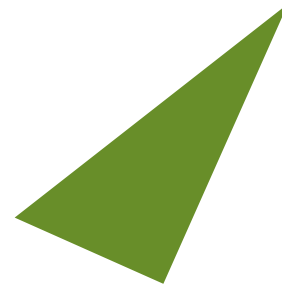
What will this look like?

- Climate Roundtables bringing together key stakeholders to create consensus and collective commitments, as well as demands, for climate action
- Nature-based activities and events to share skills, promote the joy and value of being in nature, and make tangible what is at stake if we do not act now
- Film screenings, panel discussions, and community art exhibitions to share creative perspectives on climate that inspire action, learning, and unlearning - creating spaces for members to engage, connect, and have meaningful input in the transition to a greener, fairer society.

All the above, wherever possible, will be achieved in partnership with Voluntary, Community, Faith, and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) organisations, civic groups, and a range of environmental and conservation groups who share our ambitions for racial equity and are able to impart their knowledge and expertise.

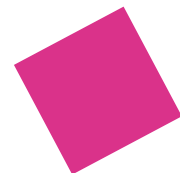
We're looking to support learning on the following and more

- Climate literacy and awareness building
- Intersectional and justice-based approaches to climate action
- Establishing an organisational environmental strategy
- Climate campaigning and activism
- Right to Roam/Land Access
- Engaging with local climate action groups and networks
- Financing and resourcing climate action work
- Conservation, care, and stewardship
- Voting for climate
- Degrowth and exploring other alternative social/political imaginaries



If you're interested in partnering with us on any aspects of the work mentioned, please reach out:

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