

Disability Rights and Climate Justice: A Funders Guide

Research consultant opportunity

Contract Type: Fixed-term contract - 15 days between September and November 2024

Location: Remote

Closing date: 11 August 2024

Introduction

We are planning to develop a guide for philanthropic funders on how disability rights and climate justice intersect. The guide will aim to increase grantmakers' understanding of why disability inclusion is central to effective climate action and encourage disability-inclusive policies and practices in climate funding. Although aimed primarily at funders, we anticipate it will also support organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs) to increase their understanding and framing of the linkages between disability and climate change. We are commissioning a consultant to lead the research and writing of this guide.

This project is a collaboration between Impatience Earth, Impatience Wellbeing and the Disability Rights Fund. Impatience Earth (IE) is a non-profit climate philanthropy consultancy that educates, challenges and inspires wealth holders to take bolder funding decisions to address the climate emergency. Impatience Wellbeing (IW) is an organisation fighting for disability justice in different areas, from politics to corporate boardrooms and climate change advocacy. The Disability Rights Fund (DRF) supports the disability rights movement around the world by resourcing OPDs to advocate for equal rights and full participation in society. The Disability Rights Advocacy Fund (DRAF), DRF's sister organization, supports advocacy for legislative change.

Background

Although there is a growing interest in the intersections between disability rights and climate justice, there are not enough research outputs and resources available, particularly in the philanthropic sector. Not enough climate funders are considering disability as part of their philanthropic giving, and have a long way to go before they can systematically support climate action with a disability lens. Similarly, funders who support disability rights are slow at integrating climate considerations into their work.

In 2023, together with the Climate Justice-Just Transition Donor Collaborative (CJ-JT), IE and IW co-organised a [webinar](#) on disability inclusion to explore how people with disabilities are impacted by climate change; how to take an intersectional lens when talking about climate policy and designing solutions; and what role philanthropy can play in addressing both climate justice and disability rights issues.

Building on the insights of that webinar, we want to go further and develop a resource tailored for funders that can offer practical advice on why and how to add a disability justice lens to their climate giving, and help them develop their understanding of, and involvement in, anti-ableist grantmaking. This guide has the potential to transform climate funders' approaches to grantmaking by encouraging them to put a greater

emphasis on disability inclusion, which in turn makes their funding more effective. It also seeks to facilitate dialogue between donors involved in disability justice and those focusing on climate justice.

We anticipate that OPDs will also gain from the context of this guide by helping them to better understand how their work closely links to climate justice, and be able to advocate for their rights within climate spaces.

We envision this guide to strike a balance between the conciseness and influence of the EDGE Funders Alliance's report [*Beyond 2%: From Climate Philanthropy to Climate Justice Philanthropy*](#), and the comprehensiveness and practicality of the [*Climate Justice Funders Guide*](#), to ensure it is as impactful as possible in putting disability justice at the forefront of climate philanthropy efforts.

Brief

We expect the consultant to research, develop and write up the content of the guide, which would include:

- Links between climate justice and disability, key facts and figures, definitions, and the rights-based approach to disability
- Exploring the intersections of disability and other identities such as indigeneity, gender, and race
- How funders could meaningfully support collaboration between the climate justice and disability rights movements
- Key areas where philanthropic support is needed to support both disability rights and climate justice
- Best practices for inclusive grantmaking, including practical advice and checklists for funders in developing inclusive and accessible funding calls and processes
- Case studies of funders and grantees integrating climate and disability well
- Further readings, resources and tools

In order to develop the content for this guide, we expect the consultant to undertake a combination of the following:

- a) Review existing literature on the intersection of disability rights and climate change
- b) Map existing funder and NGO initiatives that bring together disability rights and climate justice, while also identifying the gaps
- c) Design and Undertake a stakeholder consultation process including:
 - OPD representatives¹ in different regions to understand what their challenges are in relation to climate change; their experience and engagement with climate fora (if any); and their recommendations to funders
 - Existing climate funders and existing disability funders who are not funding this intersection to understand the obstacles and opportunities for acting on both
 - Existing climate and disability funders and their lessons learned and advice for others

¹ DRF is already partnered with OPDs in Africa, Asia Pacific and the Caribbean

Deliverables

1. A summary report (2-4 pages) primarily directed at funders, with a concise summary of the case studies and actions they can take to act on both climate justice and disability rights
2. A longer report with more background information, case studies and detailed recommendations (no more than 20-25 pages) that can be used by OPDs and others in the climate and disability sectors

Skills and experience required

We are looking for a skilled researcher and writer who has a track record of working on complex projects independently. They must have:

- Strong interpersonal and communication skills to engage with a variety of stakeholders across the Global North and Global South, and to keep project stakeholders informed and up to date
- Excellent primary and secondary qualitative research skills
- Strong organisational and time management skills, able to deliver quality work on time
- Experience of writing and presenting complex information in easily understandable and accessible language for a diverse audience
- In-depth knowledge of climate justice or disability justice, and ideally both. A good understanding of the needs of both funders and grantees is desired.

Information requested

Please provide information, a maximum of 5 pages, outlining your experience of this type of work; examples of similar delivery, and how you might approach developing this guide. Please send this information to yasmin@impatience.earth by 11 August 2024.

Evaluation criteria

- Relevant experience and skills: 50%
- Understanding of brief and strength of approach outlined: 20%
- Value for money: 30%