



Foundation

Invitation to tender (ITT)

Research on just transition and young people

1. Invitation to tender background

1.1. Introduction

Co-op Foundation and Co-op are looking to commission research into just transition and young people. The research is closely linked to the Co-op Foundation's strategy of building communities of the future together and the Co-op's Climate Justice campaign.

In particular, the research will explore the impact of the journey to Net Zero on young people, to set out the opportunities and challenges in enabling a just transition and how best to ensure their voices are heard so they are included in decision-making.

The primary audience for this research is policymakers at national and local government levels across all political parties. The research findings will be presented during dedicated fringe events at the 2023 Political Party conferences. The research is also expected to be relevant across different stakeholders in the UK, including young people, communities and businesses.

1.2. Co-op Foundation's strategy and Co-op's Climate Justice campaign

Co-op Foundation is the Co-op's charity, and we're co-operating for a fairer world. We believe co-operation is at the heart of strong communities, and this makes us a different kind of funder. We work closely with communities, we listen, and we learn. We unlock communities' power by focusing on those who have most at stake.

Co-op Foundation, under its new strategy, has a vision of future communities that are fair and built on co-operative values in ten years' time. Our vision has been shaped by 94 young people who participated in our visioning study, which resulted in our six strategic priorities. Three of our key priorities are:

- creating diverse, equitable and inclusive communities,
- creating sustainable communities
- creating communities that prioritise youth activism, shared power and transparent governance.

The research on just transition will look to produce evidence linked to these key strategic priorities. The study will look at the pathway to net zero (i.e. creating more sustainable communities) in relation to young people (how can the transition be fair and inclusive to all young people) and how young people can make their voices heard (youth activism and shared power).

Co-op has long recognised the scale and challenge of climate change, and we have been taking action both to address our contribution to climate change and being vocal about the need for others to do the same. Our Climate Plan sets out how we will do that – a crucial part of which is ensuring that we don't leave others behind on this journey.



To date, the main focus of Co-op’s work in this area has been around supporting our producers on the front line of the climate crisis, working in partnership with our Fairtrade producer communities and partners, and urging the government and other businesses to invest more in climate resilience in their own supply chains.

But we see the impacts of climate change happening much closer to home - not just through physical changes to our climate, but through a wide range of impacts, including rises in prices of food and other consumables, changes in energy markets, and employment opportunities. And it’s increasingly apparent that these changes disproportionately impact particular groups, e.g. those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and vulnerable individuals.

There are several opportunities for us to contribute to the work on a just transition and climate justice. We know that our members and customers are keen to be involved in this. Also, importantly, Co-op has an ongoing Climate Justice campaign dating back to May 2021, comprising three themes: Taking Action, People and Planet and Renewable Energy. The Just transition research is linked to the People and Planet thematic area. One of our measures of success of the Climate Justice campaign is related to influencing the political agenda to secure legislative change: using our voice to develop constructive proposals on how Government can close the rhetoric vs reality gap and achieve Net Zero by 2050. Our commitment is that we will work for a just transition.

1.3. Just transition and climate justice

There are two concepts closely linked to the focus of this research, just transition and climate justice.

The need for a ‘just transition’ has been gaining prominence in treaties and international forums, including the 2015 Paris Agreement and COP26. In the 70s, the term was linked to the efforts of labour unions to reconcile emerging environmental imperatives with achieving justice for workers. Since then, there have been efforts to reconceptualise just transition beyond its labour-union origins and adopt a more inclusive definition encompassing climate, environmental, and energy justice perspectives with a view to achieve a just, holistic societal transition ([Abram et al., 2022](#)). A just transition seeks ‘... to ensure that the substantial benefits of a green economy transition are shared widely, while also supporting those who stand to lose economically - be they countries, regions, industries, communities, workers or consumers’ ([EBDR, 2020](#)). It describes the need to balance global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and ensure that vulnerable stakeholders are not disproportionately impacted (e.g. through loss of livelihoods). There is also an intergenerational emphasis on just transition. By ‘just’, we mean: ‘some chance of a safe climate for future generations; an equal distribution of the remaining global carbon budget between countries; and a transition in the UK in which the costs are distributed progressively and where everyone’s essential needs for housing, transport and energy use are met’ (Childs, M, 2011).

The concept of climate justice focuses on the just division, fair sharing, and equitable distribution of the benefits and burdens of climate change and the responsibilities to deal with climate change. It asks questions about which stakeholders stand to lose/gain, the risks and opportunities they face, and what can be done to address them ([ClimateJust, no date](#)).

Climate justice has been defined as ‘ensuring that collectively and individually, we have the ability to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate change impacts - and the



policies to mitigate or adapt to them – by considering existing vulnerabilities, resources and capabilities’ ([Preston et al., 2014](#)).

1.4. Young people and just transition

Young people have an important role to play in just transition. The transition will affect their future, and their needs, opinions, fears and hopes should be part of the dialogue. It is crucial to meaningfully engage young people in the decision-making process and get their buy-in in just transition implementation. Young people have the right to participate in decision-making that impacts their future. This is particularly relevant in the climate change context, where they, more than any other generation, will bear the greatest costs of its impacts. Young people can provide valuable insights for diagnosing problems relevant to the transition, and they have unique knowledge and skills, with the potential to offer creative solutions to the challenges of the transition. Young people can play a key role in fostering intergenerational dialogue by becoming a bridge in raising awareness about the transition, its reasons and consequences. A successful transition will offer opportunities and hope for the future to communities; this will include the availability of alternative jobs for young people so as to overcome the challenges of high out-migration of young people occurring in many deindustrialised communities ([EU, 2021](#)).

Outside the UK, e.g. in the EU, there is some limited activity related to just transition and young people, but this has received some criticism as not being meaningful because it only involves young people giving external feedback on already consolidated just transition plans (see [Bascone, 2022](#)). It has been reported that youth engagement in the development of Territorial Just Transition plans (TJTPs) was successful only in regions where the local civil society had the capacity to mobilise and represent the voice of youth ([Generation Climate Europe and CEE Bankwatch Network, 2022](#)). More recently, funding calls have been dedicated to young people and just transition, such as the EU Teens4Green ([2022](#)), an open call to fund youth-led actions advancing the green transition in EU carbon-intensive regions. Moreover, The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have dedicated funds to African and Asian countries through the Youth Green Skills Accelerator Challenge Call; the overarching goal of the call is to promote youth participation and skills for green jobs for a just transition (ILO and IsDB, [2022](#)).

In the UK, at the policy level, there are several government initiatives relevant to just transition and young people, including the sustainability and climate change strategy for the education and children’s services systems ([DfE, 2022](#)), the [Net Zero Strategy](#), the Environment Act (2021), the cross-government 25 Year Environment Plan and The Green Jobs Task Force.

There are limited examples of efforts to raise young people’s voices and opinions in the UK just transition policymaking. For example, in Scotland, the Just Transition Commission and Young Scot partnered to explore through workshops young people’s insights and ideas for potential solutions to the transition to Net Zero to inform their ministerial report (Just Transition Commission, 2020). Some local authorities have also started to announce their plans to involve young people in local decision-making and just transition. The [Newcastle City Council \(no date\)](#) explain that they will involve young people to contribute to delivering a Net Zero Newcastle. Their plans include getting young people to participate in the Citizen’s Assembly, Climate Change Summits, in Net Zero research projects, and developing a network of Student Climate Change Champions to deliver sessions on the impact of climate change and the role of young people in solving the issues.



Studies on the topic of just transition and young people are also limited and have a narrow focus. For example, some studies focus on young people and green skills (e.g. [White et al., 2022](#), [Friends of the Earth, 2021](#)), showing that young people are committed to sustainability and pursuing a green career, but they have low levels of awareness and understanding of green skills.

[Salter \(2022\)](#) observes a change in how young people in the UK organise themselves in relation to climate issues. Whilst the climate strikes were a complex coalition of children allied around their age and the tactic of striking, young people across the country are now building movements around radical policies or clear political campaigns such as [Stop Jackdaw](#) and [Just Stop Oil](#). There are organised groups of youth that have an explicit focus on just transition. The more recently launched Green New Deal Rising organises young people in the UK to challenge politicians and spread awareness of a just transition to a more sustainable future. The group [calls for](#) a fast decarbonisation of the economy, public ownership of key sectors, the creation of unionised jobs in sustainable industries, conservation of nature and promotion of global justice. [Gayle \(2022\)](#) reported that Green New Deal Rising’s political pressure and ideas influenced Labour’s green new deal bill. Within this context and after consultation with experts on just transition and desk-based research, Co-op Foundation and Co-op decided to focus our just transition research on young people. We learned that in climate justice discussions, it is rarely considered how young people will enter a changing world after the transition to Net zero. Moreover, other groups in society have their own representatives talking directly to and looking to influence the government, e.g. through the unions and other bodies, whilst the young people lack an organised forum and structure to influence policy making.

2. Aim of the research and research questions

The aim of the research is to explore the impact of the journey to Net Zero on young people in order to set out the opportunities and challenges in enabling a just transition, and how best to ensure their voices are heard and included in decision-making. Some key research questions for this study to explore are described below. We are open for the questions to be reviewed and revised in collaboration with the commissioned researcher/consultancy as part of the set-up phase of this study.

Research questions

Impact of Just transition on young people and support

- What are young people’s perceptions and understanding of just transition, and how do they think their future will differ as a result?
- How will the journey to Net Zero impact young people, and what steps are necessary to deliver a just transition for all young people?
- What are the challenges and opportunities ahead through the journey to Net Zero for young people, and how can they be best supported?
- What role should communities, businesses and each level of government across the UK be playing to deliver a just transition for young people?

Young people being part of just transition policymaking

- How can young people be represented and influence policymaking in relation to just transition?



- What are the barriers to turning young people’s voices and recommendations about climate change into action for a just transition?

3. Scope of Requirements

3.1. Project methodology

A detailed methodology for the work is open for researchers/consultants to propose.

As this study has a strong focus on young people, suggestions on how young people could be involved throughout the study are welcome. For example, how will the supplier work with young people to co-design the methodology; what participatory or peer methods may the supplier use to involve young people in the different phases of the research? We understand that involving young people in research takes time and resources, and we anticipate the potential involvement of young people to consider the time restrictions for completing the study.

We expect the study to include desk-based research on current evidence and activities related to the research questions.

We anticipate the research also to include a form of public/community and stakeholder engagement using potentially deliberation or other appropriate methods. We are aware that there is an overemphasis on citizen assemblies/citizen juries in just transition studies; hence we are open to other creative methods.

We are particularly interested in methods that will ensure they capture the opinions of less heard or more vulnerable communities.

We expect principles of equity, diversity and inclusion to be embedded in how the research will be designed, conducted and disseminated.

The primary aim of this research is to create actionable recommendations rather than produce new knowledge, which should be reflected in the proposed methodology.

3.2. Other requirements

We expect the study to be delivered in collaboration with the Co-op Foundation and Co-op. We are looking for a researcher/consultancy who has the following:

- Good understanding of the issues around youth involvement in policy making
- A good understanding of just transition policies and practice in the UK
- Expertise in social science research methods/deliberative methods and conducting evidence reviews
- Expertise in engaging young people in dialogue in meaningful ways
- Facilitation skills

We also expect the supplier’s team to be diverse in membership and inclusive in practice.

4. Deliverables

We are open for the supplier to recommend the format of the deliverables that will maximise the impact of the research in influencing policymakers.

We will expect the following deliverables in accordance with the timetable as a minimum:

Deliverable	Deadline
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1-page update report identifying progress of the consultancy’s work and outlining challenges and concerns	Monthly (throughout the contract)
Draft structure of just transition and young people report	End of July 2023
Presentation to Co-op and Co-op Foundation staff of the research findings	Mid-August 2023
Draft research report 50pp. including recommendations for policymakers, businesses and communities and policy briefs.	Mid-August 2023
Final report	End of August 2023
Presentation and further input of the researchers during dedicated session to just transition and young people at the Labour & Conservative Party conferences	1-4 October 2023 (Conservative) 8-11 October 2023 (Labour)

The final deliverable i.e. research report needs to answer the key questions and have the following characteristics: compelling, actionable and shareable. This could include a range of visual outputs and written outputs - detailing the findings, strategic recommendations, methodology and any raw data.

We expect Co-op, Co-op Foundation and the commissioned researcher/consultancy to collaborate on the publication of the report. Co-op Foundation will be responsible for printing the final report.

5. Budget

The budget available for the work, including all expenses and VAT, is £100,000. Any costs to support participation in the research, for example, participant expenses, incentives or meeting room costs should be included and clearly specified within the budget. The budget should also cover all costs associated with quality assurance, proof-reading and design of the final outputs. An appropriate allowance for expenses and management time should be included. In presenting your budget, please indicate VAT where this applies.

6. Ethics

We expect the research to adhere to the Social Research Association (SRA) [research ethics guidance](#) and the British Education Research Association (BERA)’s [Ethical Guidelines](#).

7. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) is one of Co-op Foundation’s strategic priorities and we are committed to cultivating a fair and healthy environment for the people who work here and those we work with. As we learn more about barriers that disadvantage certain groups from progressing in our workplace, we will remove them. We would like to partner with suppliers who share our commitment to DEI. We will ask you questions related to DEI as part of our commissioning processes.

8. Time allocation and parameters

ITT Timetable



#	Activity	Responsibility	Date
1	ITT issue to Suppliers	Co-op Foundation	13 th February 2023
2	Submission of Supplier Q&A to Co-op Foundation Contact	Supplier	27 th February 2023
3	Return of Supplier Q&A to Suppliers	Co-op Foundation	2 nd March 2023
4	Submission of research proposals	Supplier	5pm 13 th March 2023
5	ITT Evaluation Period	Co-op Foundation/Co-op	14 th - 21 st March
6	Clarification meetings may be held with shortlisted consultants	Co-op Foundation/Co-op	24 th March 2023
7	Notification of Contract Award	Co-op Foundation/Co-op	27 th March 2023
8	Contract Start Date	Co-op Foundation/Co-op	3 rd April 2023

9. Response submission and format

Please submit your proposal by 5pm on the 13th March 2023 through an email to Co-op Foundation’s Head of Learning and Impact, Asimina Vergou: asimina.vergou@coop.co.uk

We would expect to see in the submitted proposal the following:

1. Description of your understanding of the project’s purpose and context.
2. Explanation of how your work and output format will fulfil the aim and answer the research questions of this study and complete the deliverables as they are described in the ITT.
3. Detailed methodology for undertaking the study, appropriate to answer the research questions.
4. Description of anticipated risks and challenges and ways to mitigate them and quality assurance for your work.
5. Details of staff allocated to the project, together with experience of the contractor and staff members in carrying out similar projects. The project manager / lead contact should be identified.
6. A detailed budget including all costs, expenses and VAT, specifying all day rates of individuals involved, the allocation of days between members of the team; and the cost of particular activities.
7. A timeline for the work, including key milestones and deliverables against each of these.



8. Contact details of two previous or current clients with direct knowledge or experience of your work relevant to this ITT. Please specify how the referees know your work and if they can be contacted by us straight away.
9. Examples of similar types of work. These could be sent as a separate document/ appendix to the proposal.

A proposal for undertaking the work should be **no more than 10 pages**. Submitting a proposal more than 10 pages will automatically result in the rejection of the proposal.

We recognise one individual or organisation may not feel equally able to deliver all strands of this work and are therefore happy to accept applications from a group of individuals or partner organisations. We will want one of these individuals or organisations to be identified as the lead contact.

10. Supplier Q&A

Prior to the submission of your ITT response, suppliers are provided with the opportunity to submit any questions they have about the work and the requirement. All questions are to be submitted to the Co-op Foundation by e-mail to Asimina Vergou (asimina.vergou@coop.co.uk) in accordance with the ITT timetable (27th February).

11. Scoring

Your proposal will be scored out of 100%. 90% of the marks will be awarded to quality, and 10% of the marks will be awarded to price.

The proposal will be assessed against the following Quality Questions (90% of the total score):

Quality criteria & questions	Weighting
1. To what extent does the ITT response demonstrate a clear understanding of the aim, key questions, and main issues related to this study?	Weighting 10%
2. To what extent is the proposed methodology robust and appropriate to fulfil the aim of this work and answer the key questions?	Weighting 20%
3. To what extent does the ITT response demonstrate the supplier has research expertise in the areas of just transition and youth involvement in policymaking, and expertise in evidence reviews?	Weighting 20%
4. To what extent does the ITT response demonstrate the supplier has facilitation skills and expertise in engaging young people in dialogue through deliberation methods and/or social science research methods?	Weighting 20%
5. To what extent does the tender response demonstrate a clear and realistic project plan, to successfully deliver the work to the budget and timetable required and a well-structured, inclusive membership team with clear roles and responsibilities?	Weighting 20%

The evaluation of price will be carried out on the schedule of charges you provide in response to Table A.

Table A - Schedule of Charges

Please show in your proposal submission, the number of staff and the amount of time that will be scheduled to work on the contract with the daily charging rate.



Please complete the table below providing a detailed breakdown of costs against each description. Suppliers may extend the tables to detail additional elements/costs if required.

If VAT is chargeable on the services to be provided, this should be taken into account in the overall cost of this contract so please make sure to include that clearly in the budget.

Suppliers should complete the schedule below, estimating the number of days, travel and subsistence costs associated with their proposal submission.

TABLE A: (firm and fixed costs)

Cost	Post 1 cost per day (No of days) e.g. Project Manager/ Director @ £2	Post 2 cost per day (No of days) e.g. Senior Consultant/manager/researcher @£1.5	Post 3 cost per day (No of days) Junior Consultant /equivalent e.g. £1	Total days	Total fees
Inception meeting to agree plans and finalise requirements	Example 0.5	1	1.5	3	£4
[Add as necessary]					
[Add as necessary]					

12. Accessibility

Co-op Foundation is committed to ensuring that our ITT exercises are accessible to everyone. If you have a disability or a chronic health condition, we can offer adjustments to the response format e.g. submitting your response in an alternate format. For support during the ITT exercise, contact Dr Asimina Vergou: asimina.vergou@coop.co.uk.

If, within the proposed outputs of this ITT exercise, specific adjustments are required by you or your team which incur additional cost then outline them clearly within your commercial response. Co-op Foundation is committed to evaluating all proposals fairly and will ensure any proposed adjustment costs sit outside the commercial evaluation.

13. References

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Invitation to tender for research on “just transition and young people”



Foundation

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