

Climate Justice in Action Zine

A summary of the
Climate Justice in Action
podcast by Ruth Norley

Designed by Ellie Shipman



Bristol Climate &
Nature Partnership
Climate and Disability



COMMUNITY
FUND

**Community
Climate Action**

Contents



Introduction	3
Episode 1: What is a just transition?	4
Just transition research	5
Just transition declaration	6
Community climate action	7
Episode 2: Disabled people, climate change and nature loss	8
The Sensing Climate Project	9
Dr Emma Geen	10
Beth Richards	11
Episode 3: Representation matters: global majority climate campaigners	12
Manu Maunganidze	13
Nature Rising - Gnisha Bevan and Elsie Harp	14
Mya-Rose Craig	15
Moestak Hussein	16
Episode 4: Intersections of race, disability and climate change and podcast reflections	18
Rosina Al-Shaater	19
Dr Natalie Hyacinth	20
Ruth Nortey	21
Episode links for more information	22
Jargon buster	24
About the project	27

Introduction

Welcome to the Climate Justice in Action Zine. My name is Ruth Nortey and during the Spring and Summer of 2025, I spoke to people working in climate justice to learn about the work that they are doing to make sure that under-represented groups are included in actions to reduce the impact of climate change and nature loss.

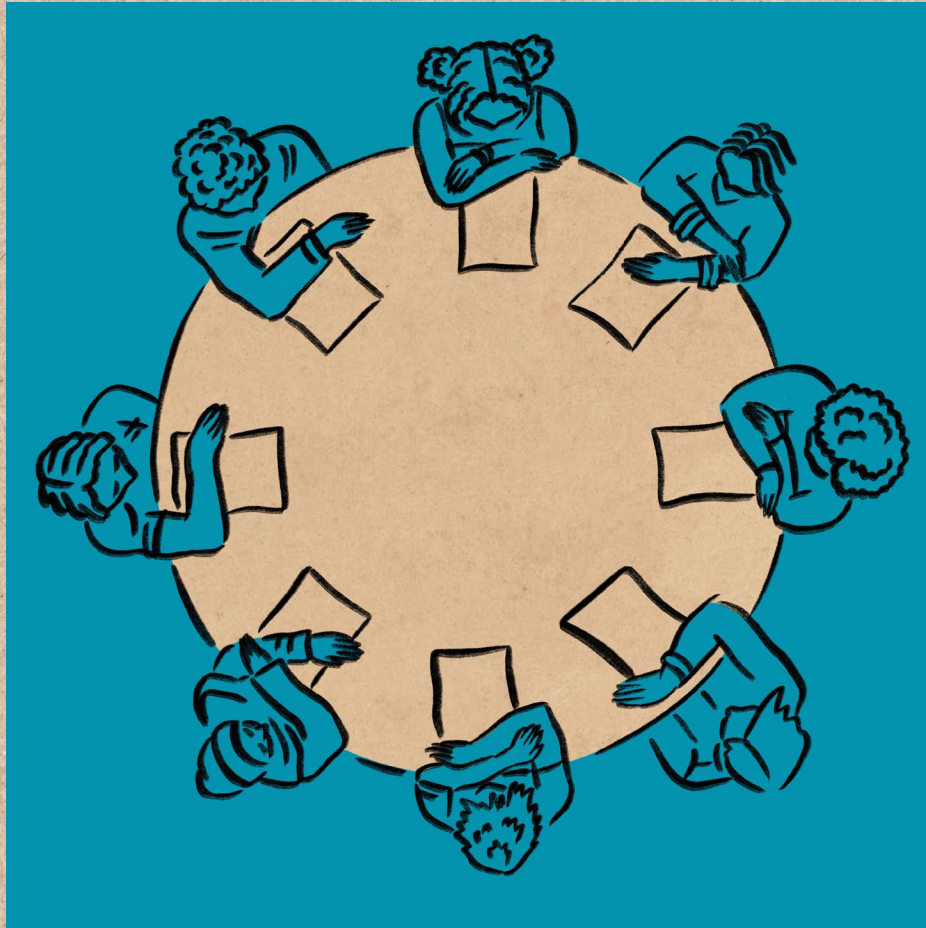


Ruth Nortey stands against a white background. She is looking at the camera with a broad smile.

These conversations can be heard in the podcast series Climate Justice in Action. This zine is a summary of the four podcast episodes.

Keywords are explained in plain English on the [jargon buster on p.24.](#)





Episode 1: What is a just transition?

This episode explored the concept of a just transition and what work is being done to make sure that decision making and actions around climate change and nature loss are more inclusive.

Just transition research

Dr Alice Venn and Dr Alix Dietzel are both Senior Lecturers at the University of Bristol. In 2020 during the Covid pandemic they carried out a research project exploring how decision making about just transition is being made, whether decisions are fair and inclusive, and what it means to different groups of people within Bristol. Through their research they noticed that:

“People aren’t given the space to discuss [...] or to propose different ideas or to radically challenge things that are being put forward.”

Working with Diversity Trust they co-produced training to support organisations to make their decision making more inclusive.



Dr Alice Venn wears a patterned shirt with polka dots and birds, she smiles at the camera.



Dr Alix Dietzel has curly brown hair to her shoulders and smiles at the camera.

Just transition declaration

Rachel Moffat works for Bristol Energy Network and was part of the team that developed the just transition Declaration.

After a climate justice exchange trip to New York in 2022, Rachel, Emma, Olivia and Kirsty felt that the focus on justice was missing from work to reduce the impact of climate change.

The Mayor at the time, Marvin Rees, asked the group to develop a declaration which they co-produced with people from across the city. There are 12 organisations that have signed up to the declaration so far.



Emma Geen, Olivia Sweeney, Rachel Moffat and Kirsty Tait stand in a grand building in front of seating and an American and British flag. Emma Geen speaks into a microphone.

"We felt that Bristol needed to stand up and make this declaration for just transition, the first in the UK."

Rachel Moffat



Community climate action

Emily Fifield works on the Community Climate Action Project in Easton and Lawrence Hill in Bristol, funded by the National Lottery. The project looked at how people in the local community can take action to reduce the impact of climate change.

Working alongside members of the community, Emily developed a community climate action plan, that showed what actions the community wanted to take to reduce the impact of climate change in their area.

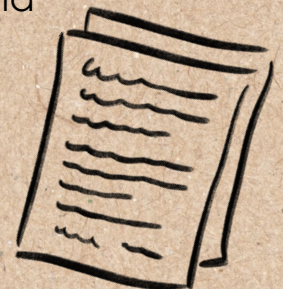
Community voices in this episode included Evie Honkanen and Abiir Shirdoon.

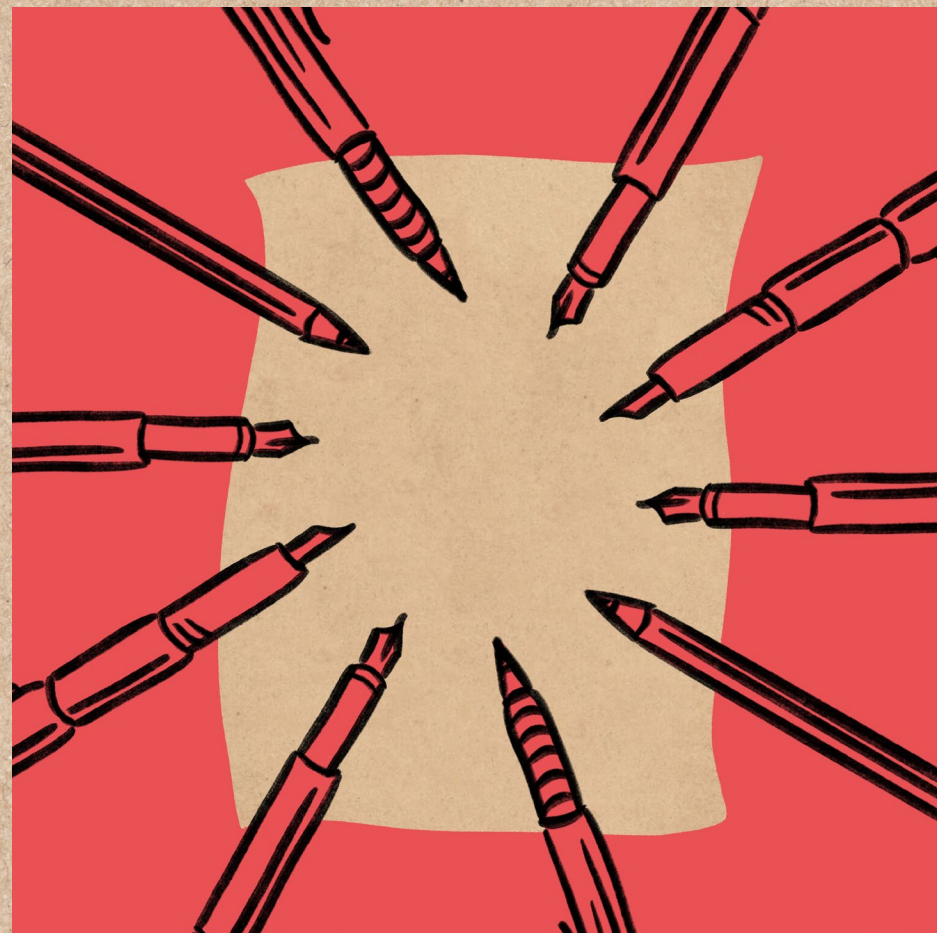


Emily Fifield wears glasses and a green T-shirt. She stands in front of a green bush and is outdoors.

"There is a real risk that with big changes and fast changes at this point, if you don't try to do things in a different way, the people who have already been left out historically will be even more left out."

Emily Fifield





Episode 2: Disabled people and climate change

This episode explores how Disabled people are included in actions to reduce the impact of climate change. Disabled people are one of the groups that will be most affected by climate change and nature loss. However, their voices are often missing from decision making around these themes.

The Sensing Climate Project

Dr Sarah Bell is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Exeter. She is currently working on a five year project called Sensing Climate funded by UK Research and Innovation.



Dr Sarah Bell with dark brown eyes smiles broadly at the camera, she is sitting on a sofa.

The project is looking at how Disabled, Deaf and neurodivergent people's lived experience can be included in decision making to make our towns and cities prepared for the impact of climate change.

"The project has been shaped by lots of brilliant discussions with people who are also thinking and working in this space and thinking that more needed to be done. It's very much a collaborative effort."

Dr Sarah Bell

The project has been co-produced with different groups of people. The project focuses on three cities; Bristol, Glasgow and Dublin, where Disabled people are invited to take part in creative writing workshops and are designing a mural.



Dr Emma Geen

Dr Emma Geen is a Disabled woman and the Climate and Disability Programme Associate at Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership.

Since 2021 Emma has worked with Bristol's community of Disabled people to co-produce the world's first community climate action plan, including in a previous role with Bristol Disability Equality Forum. She also has experience as a climate and Disability activist.

Emma's work ensures that Disabled people's needs are properly considered by politicians and are included in decision making around climate and nature.



Dr Emma Geen has long hair and glasses and stands in front of a white wall smiling.

"A lot of climate change action can be what we call eco-ableist, which means that it's making things worse for Disabled people because we're not being included in the design."

Dr Emma Geen



Beth Richards

Beth Richards is a climate change activist from Bristol. Beth uses film, poetry and theatre to raise awareness of climate issues. She is passionate about improving access to environmental campaigning particularly around language used to talk about the climate crisis and nature loss.

Beth is concerned that the use of jargon and complicated terms in the environmental sector will stop some Disabled people from understanding the risks of climate change and what actions they can take to reduce the risks. She supports the use of plain English and Easy Read documents.



Beth Richards wears a pink top and sits on a planter that contains a blossoming tree.

"Climate change has got a lot of words and a lot of jargon. It's annoying to me. I think it's very bad for people with disabilities who can't understand what they are. And I think they need to change it."

Beth Richards

Community voices in this episode included Ruth Hennell and Oliver Woods.





Episode 3

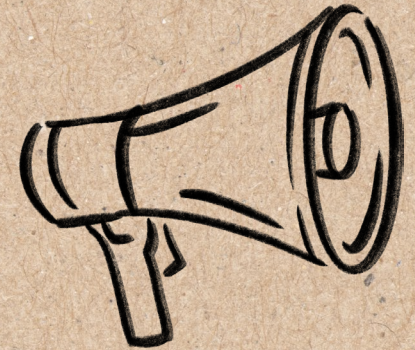
Representation matters: global majority climate campaigners

This episode explores the representation of people of global majority heritage in actions to reduce the impact of climate change and nature loss. The environmental sector is one of the least ethnically diverse sectors

in the UK. Despite people from global majority backgrounds being on average more affected by the impact of climate change and nature loss than white British people. This episode celebrates the work of global majority social justice and environmental justice campaigners.

Manu Maunganidze

Manu is a social and environmental justice campaigner a director of Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership. He founded Nature Youth Connection and Education, an organisation that supports young people to gain skills in the natural environment. Manu discusses the risks of not including a diverse range of voices in our responses to climate change.



"I want to see loads of different types of people in a space: white, Black, rich, poor, and yeah, it's early days I think for a lot of this stuff, but there's a lot of good stuff out there."

Manu Maunganidze

Nature Rising – Gnisha Bevan and Elsie Harp

Gnisha Bevan co-founded Black Seeds Network, a platform for global majority environmentalists to network, share opportunities and celebrate their culture and heritage. Elsie Harp is a Folk Herbalist and Community Organiser. Her work connects people and communities to nature to support mental wellbeing.

Gnisha and Elsie discuss their work within the Nature Rising Consortium, a group of global majority leaders that showcases the knowledge and expertise within global majority communities that can support our responses to climate change and nature loss.



Gnisha Bevan and Elsie Harp stand near a tree and smile. Elsie has a baby in a sling.

"I think the most exciting thing about Nature Rising was our opportunity to solve the problems that we've been asked about for ages and ages."

Gnisha Bevan



Mya-Rose Craig

Mya-Rose Craig also known as Birdgirl, is a bird watcher and environmental campaigner with a focus on intersectionality and improving equity within the environmental movement. She is also the founder of Black2Nature, an organisation aimed at connecting young people from global majority backgrounds, their families and communities to nature.

"Once I started doing environmentalism and environmental campaigning, the sector and the campaigning spaces and the people that I met trying to create change were all mostly white as well and that was something that really stuck out to me..."



Mya-Rose Craig stands in a mossy woodland and wears a pair of binoculars.



I remember I had people saying to me 'there are just certain types of people who just don't really engage with the environment'. And I was like, I know that's not true because I'm one of them."

Mya-Rose Craig

Moestak Hussein

Moestak Hussein is a local activist passionate about tackling inequalities and social justice. She is passionate about connecting with nature through hiking, wild swimming and protecting the environment as part of her Islamic faith.

“My faith has definitely played a part because the core Islamic principles and guide around climate action is really about the concept of stewardship: we are, considered as being guardians of the earth, as humans.”

Moestak Hussein

Community voices in this episode included Abiir Shirdoon.



[IMAGE ABOVE]
Ruth Nortey interviews Oliver Woods (from Episode 2) holding a microphone up to him. Artwork hangs on the walls behind them. Ruth sits on a bench, Oliver in a wheelchair.





Episode 4

Exploring the intersections of race, disability and climate change plus reflections

This episode explores actions Disabled people from global majority backgrounds are taking to reduce the impact of climate change and nature loss. This episode also features reflections from Ruth Nortey and Dr Natalie Hyacinth.

Rosina Al-Shaater

Rosina is a Bristol-based creative, social and environmental justice activist. She uses art as a way to heal, connect, educate and mobilise communities to increase connections with nature and the environment.

As a former Black and Green Ambassador, Rosina's work specialises in intersectional climate justice.



Rosina Al-Shaater has her dreadlocks tied up and passion flowers behind her.

"With the projects that I lead on, I like to see myself as only one leader within the room, because we are all leaders. I like to catalyse projects that don't really have a hierarchy and it's all about us learning together."

Rosina Al-Shaater



Dr Natalie Hyacinth

Dr Natalie Hyacinth is an academic and artist whose work explores the intersection of technology, climate justice and Black life.

Natalie produced the Climate Justice in Action podcast including the creation of original sound pieces.

“My Dad’s community in Dominica is on the verge of basically becoming extinct because of climate change. And for me, that was a really striking realisation that made me think:

I have to do something.”

Dr Natalie Hyacinth

Community voices in this episode include Liam Cooper-King, Tamla, Priyanca and Nat.



Dr Natalie Hyacinth sits in a large field with long grass stretching into the distance behind her.



Ruth Nortey

Ruth is a researcher, social justice and environmental justice activist. A former Black and Green Ambassador, Ruth is interested in how different communities are involved in actions to reduce the impact of climate change.

As a Black, Disabled woman she is interested in taking an intersectional approach to address social and environmental issues.

“I would love to get to a point where we can be involved in the environmental sector just for the knowledge that we have that might not necessarily be to do with our personal characteristics.”

Ruth Nortey



Ruth Nortey stands against a white background. She is looking at the camera with a broad smile.



Episode links for more information



Episode 1: Links

If viewing this document online, click on the boxes.

Explore Dr Alice Venn's research

Explore Dr Alice Venn's research
bristol.ac.uk/people/person/Alice-Venn-3bb91446-28d7-46b3-81cb-aa84c262282f/

Explore Dr Alix Dietzel's research

Explore Dr Alix Dietzel's research
bristol.ac.uk/people/person/Alix-Dietzel-de568c8f-8312-4465-a8e3-be4d44d607dc/

Read the
Just Transition Declaration

Read the Just Transition Declaration
bristolclimatehub.org/just-transition/

Eastside Community Trust's
Community Climate Action Plan

Read Eastside Community Trust's
Community Climate Action Plan
eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk/news/climate-action-plan-happy-people-healthy-planet/

Watch the
Changing Nature films on YouTube

Watch the Changing Nature films on
equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in
the environmental sector
[youtube.com/
playlist?list=PLsOc7LEtGjcNI108d-
Nv2SDgAVWx-j6SR](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLsOc7LEtGjcNI108d-Nv2SDgAVWx-j6SR)

Episode 2: Links

The Sensing Climate Project

Find out more about Dr Sarah Bell's
Sensing Climate project
sensing-climate.com

Explore the
climate and Disability programme

Find out more about the climate
and Disability programme
[bristolclimatenature.org/projects/
community-climate-action/climate-
and-disability/](https://bristolclimatenature.org/projects/community-climate-action/climate-and-disability/)

Watch Beth Richards' YouTube

Watch Beth Richards' climate action
videos on YouTube
[youtube.com/channel/
UC2LWpbekK6py9Whq7LXOrfg/videos](https://youtube.com/channel/UC2LWpbekK6py9Whq7LXOrfg/videos)



Episode 3: Links

Nature Rising

Learn more about Nature Rising
creativeconnex.org/nature-rising/

Black Seeds Network

Find out about Black Seeds Network
[creativeconnex.org/black-seeds-
network/](https://creativeconnex.org/black-seeds-network/)

Divina Botanica

Keep up to date with Divina Botanica
instagram.com/divinabotanica

Black2Nature

Find out more about Black2Nature
black2nature.org

Nature Youth Connection
and Education

Nature Youth Connection and Education
nyce.org.uk

Episode 4: Links

Ujima Radio

Listen to Ujima Radio
ujimaradio.com

Dr Natalie Hyacinth

Dr Natalie Hyacinth's research
bristol.academia.edu/DrNatalieHyacinth

Jargon buster

1. **Accessible:** When a Disabled person can use or take part in something because their needs have been met.
2. **Affecting:** Making changes for something for someone.
3. **Associate:** Someone who isn't part of an organisation but does work for them.
4. **Climate change:** A long term change in how hot the world is and the weather conditions. It is caused by humans and our use of dirty fuels like oil and gas. The heat means that lots more dangerous weather is happening. For example, in Bristol it means there will be more floods, extreme heat and more chaotic weather.
5. **Climate justice:** finding solutions to reduce the impact of climate change that are fair to the natural world and equal to people as well.
6. **Collaborative:** Work with other people to do something.
7. **Commission:** When people are asked to do a piece of work.
8. **Community climate action plans:** This is when a community plans what to do about climate change. The aim is to make the community better for the people in that community by action that also benefits the planet and nature.
9. **Decision making:** When people decide on something. Here we are talking about people with power deciding what to do.

10. **Declaration:** Something that is said to show how someone thinks and feels about something. It is a promise to act in a certain way.
11. **Disproportionally:** Causing more change to one group than others.
12. **Diverse:** When a group is made up of lots of different types of people, including the people who are normally left out.
13. **Environmental justice:** Making sure that all people have healthy places to live, work and play in. And are able to contribute to decisions to keep these areas healthy.
14. **Equity:** Everyone having the same chance to do what they can. Some people may need extra support to get the same chances.
15. **Inclusive:** Making sure that a range of people can be included in things.
16. **Intersectionality:** Talks about how different parts of a person's identity are all important to how that person experiences the world.
17. **Global majority:** A term used to describe people of Africa, Asian, Indigenous, Latin American or mixed heritage backgrounds.
18. **Jargon buster:** A list that explains the words that might not be accessible to everyone.



19. Just transition: When changes to a place that are made for the planet and nature are fair for all the people who live there too.

20. Lived experience: Having experience of something because it has happened to you and is part of your life.

21. Nature loss: The loss of nature that is taking place across the planet.

22. Neurodivergent: When people think in ways that society thinks of as being different from many people.

23. Opportunity: A chance to make something good happen.

24. Partnership: Working together on something.

25. Research: Looking at something to understand it better.

26. Social justice: The same rights and opportunities for all people.

With thanks



About the project

I'd like to thank everyone who gave their time to share their knowledge and experience.

This zine and podcast series was written by Ruth Nortey [TOP IMAGE].

The podcast was produced by Dr Natalie Hyacinth [MIDDLE IMAGE] who also created original music for the series.

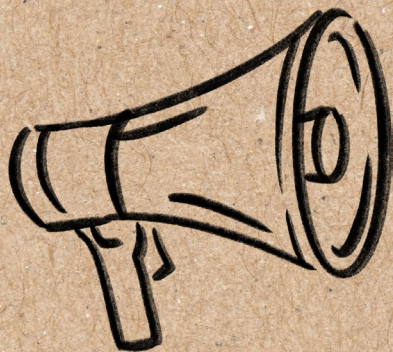
The zine was illustrated and designed by Ellie Shipman [BOTTOM IMAGE].

This creative commission was produced for Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership as part of the National Lottery funded Community Climate Action Project.

For more information on this project please head to Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership's website:

bristolclimatenature.org





This podcast and zine were commissioned
by Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership
as part of the National Lottery funded
Community Climate Action Project



Bristol Climate &
Nature Partnership
Climate and Disability



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