

Day One Manifesto, RSA Fellowship

HOW GOVERNMENTS ACROSS THE GLOBE can develop new societal contracts to prioritise regeneration, education and sustainability.



Foreword

DAY ONE is the RSA's first Fellow-led manifesto in its 270-year history. The project has been developed by our global Fellowship who sought to define a manifesto for change in their collective pursuit of a better world.

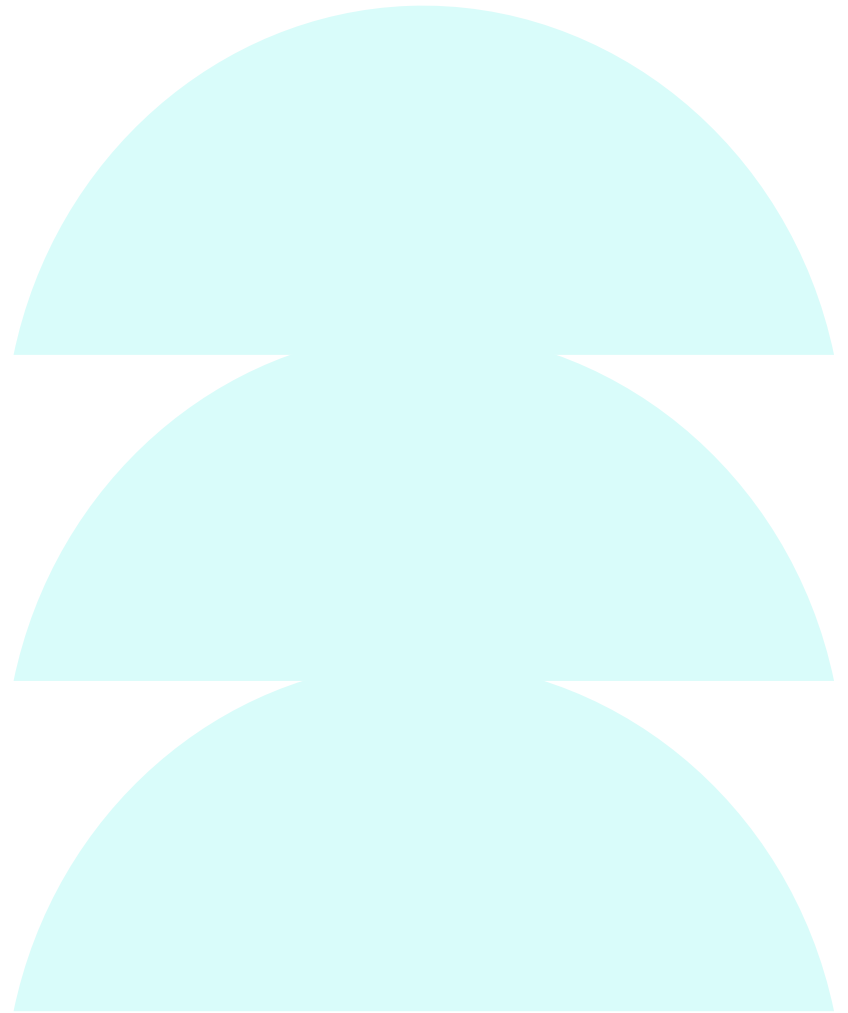
This year is one of elections globally, with people voting in 64 countries around the world. Roughly 49% of people across the world will vote in national elections with the results of those elections proving consequential for millions for many years to come. This is a landmark moment in shaping global policy with populations voting with their feet on the most important policies for improved global futures.

That makes this the perfect moment to inject into the global debate the ideas of our Fellows as part of a Day One Manifesto. I hope these ideas provide food not just for thought among our Fellows and beyond, but for action.



Andy Haldane
RSA Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Haldane', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.



IN DECEMBER 2023, an expert panel reviewed over 300 Day One submissions from RSA Fellows across the globe, following a direct call from the RSA. The ask of Fellows was: what would they like to see prioritised in 2024 election manifestos?

The submissions were carefully narrowed down to 12 submissions by our expert panel, which included RSA Chief Executive Andy Haldane, the Chair of Fellowship Council Neil Beagrie and Director of Fellowship Line Kristensen. The many and varied submissions were all compelling and our panel of experts realised three strong themes had evolved: regeneration, environment and education.

Theme One: Society, reimagined

Society, reimagined outlines the establishment of a new social contract to prioritise regeneration and sustainability. The RSA Sustainability Network submission seeks to lay out long-term strategies for societal advancement. Restoring manufacturing also plays a crucial role in this theme, as it involves rethinking production processes to align with principles of sustainability and regeneration, thus contributing to the larger goal of reimagining society.

Theme Two: Environment, restored

Nurturing and restoring the natural world to enhance biodiversity and life systems is essential to our future. Rewilding and the integration of wild animals play a pivotal role in stabilising the global climate by restoring ecosystems to their natural states. Tree planting initiatives contribute to this goal by replenishing forests and green spaces, fostering biodiversity, and sequestering carbon. Additionally, addressing dead spaces presents an opportunity across the country for transforming neglected land into thriving habitats that support biodiversity and ecosystem health. Overall, this theme emphasises the importance of proactive measures to restore and sustainably manage rural and urban landscapes for the benefit of both human and non-human inhabitants.

Theme Three: Education and youth, redefined

Redefining the approach to education and young people underscores the need to reimagine education systems to better serve children and young people, while addressing spatial inequalities that affect wellbeing and opportunities. By redefining education, we aim to create inclusive and equitable learning environments that cater for the diverse needs and aspirations of youth. Additionally, advocating for spatial justice ensures that young people have access to safe, accessible and empowering spaces that facilitate their development and participation in society. Together, these initiatives strive to empower youth, promote social justice and foster inclusive communities.

THE DAY ONE MANIFESTO has been grouped together into clear themes aligning with the RSA's Design for Life mission.

The RSA's vision is for a world where everyone can fulfil their potential and contribute to more resilient, rebalanced and regenerative futures. These core themes are seen throughout the submissions from our global Fellowship.

People:

- Redefining education
- Leaders for regeneration
- A new social contract

Place:

- A manifesto for the long term
- Restore manufacturing
- Spatial justice for children and young people
- Community growth and evolution

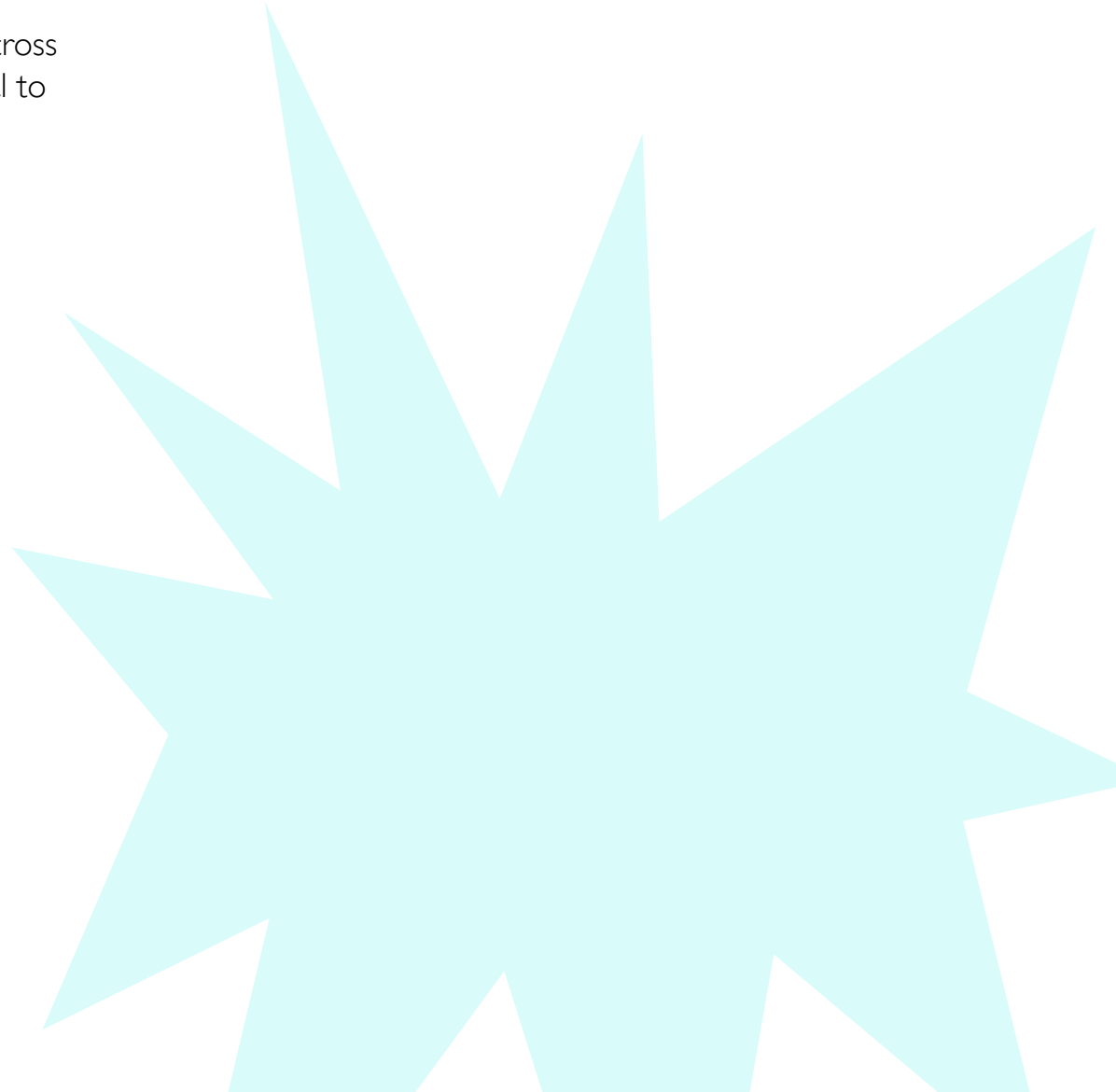
Planet:

- The stabilising impact of rewilding on the climate
- The natural, living world: tending biodiversity and life systems
- Tree planting
- Dead spaces
- Ensuring access to green spaces for children and young people



RSA Fellowship contributions to Day One

THE STRENGTH of Fellowship submissions was outstanding across the board, with key submissions from global contributors essential to highlight. Here we will share these impactful contributions.



Section 1:

People

Saskia Listle

Redefining education

When we listen to policy and changemakers it seems the solution to our current problems is fairly simple: education. But when we look further into it, we define education as a narrow set of skills to be acquired: literary skills, mathematical skills, formal university and vocational education. What this mindset is proposing is a focus on technical skills. So people in Africa have to be taught how to read and write, women have to be taught STEM skills, and so on.

The problem with that approach is that, even though we have a lot of people who already have those skills, we see that this is not enough to tackle our current problems. Those technical skills have to be combined with what we would conventionally call soft skills. How do we communicate? How do we solve complex problems? How do we deal with wicked problems? How do we build community for successful collaboration? Those skills, though very much needed, are highly neglected in the field of formal education, not just by subject matter (meaning that we don't actively teach them as a subject), but also on the meta-level. Children in schools and university are encouraged to work alone, because they will also be tested individually. We encourage competition over collaboration.

At the same time, we also know that our technical skills will become less and less important with the development of machines and high technology. The skills we require through formal vocational training are the skills that are volatile and perishable. Those perishable skills, combined with the narrative of the need for constant upskilling, fosters

an environment of stress and fear about the future and how long will I be able to keep up.

So the question then is how can we actually teach the skills we will need in the future and that are durable? My appeal for a Day One vision would be to include the call for redefining education from an individual technical skills-based model to a more collaborative and behavioural skills-based approach.

Not only would that take pressure away from the competition between machines and humans, it would acknowledge that there are different skill sets that are inherent to one or the other and thus could be performed more efficiently by one or the other. It would also help to break down stereotypes and boundaries within diversity, equity and inclusion discussions.

Trevor Davis

Leaders for regeneration

Looking again at Design for Life and thinking about what Day One might mean, I suggest the following:

Establishing 'Innovation Hubs' in communities

On Day One, we begin by setting up the first series of 'Innovation Hubs' in diverse communities globally. These hubs can be collaborative spaces equipped with resources and tools for learning, creativity and sustainable development. They serve as incubators for ideas and projects that contribute to economic, social and environmental regeneration.

Launching a global 'Leaders for Regeneration' programme

We simultaneously launch an ambitious programme aimed at identifying and nurturing leaders across society with a focus on young innovators. This programme could offer training, mentorship and support for developing projects and initiatives that align with our regenerative goals.

Kickstarting a 'Regenerative Projects Fund'

On Day One, we also announce the creation of a dedicated fund to support innovative, community-led projects focused on sustainability and regeneration. This fund is open for immediate applications, with the aim of disbursing the first round of grants within a short timeframe.

Guy Dauncey

A new social contract

In Britain before the pandemic 22% of the population lived in poverty and half the nations families had less than £1,500 in savings or none at all. In 2022, more than a million children experienced destitution: their families could not afford to adequately feed them, clothe them or keep them warm. With energy bills and private rents rising rapidly and real wages falling, how do people cope? For many, it's a choice between paying to eat or paying to heat.

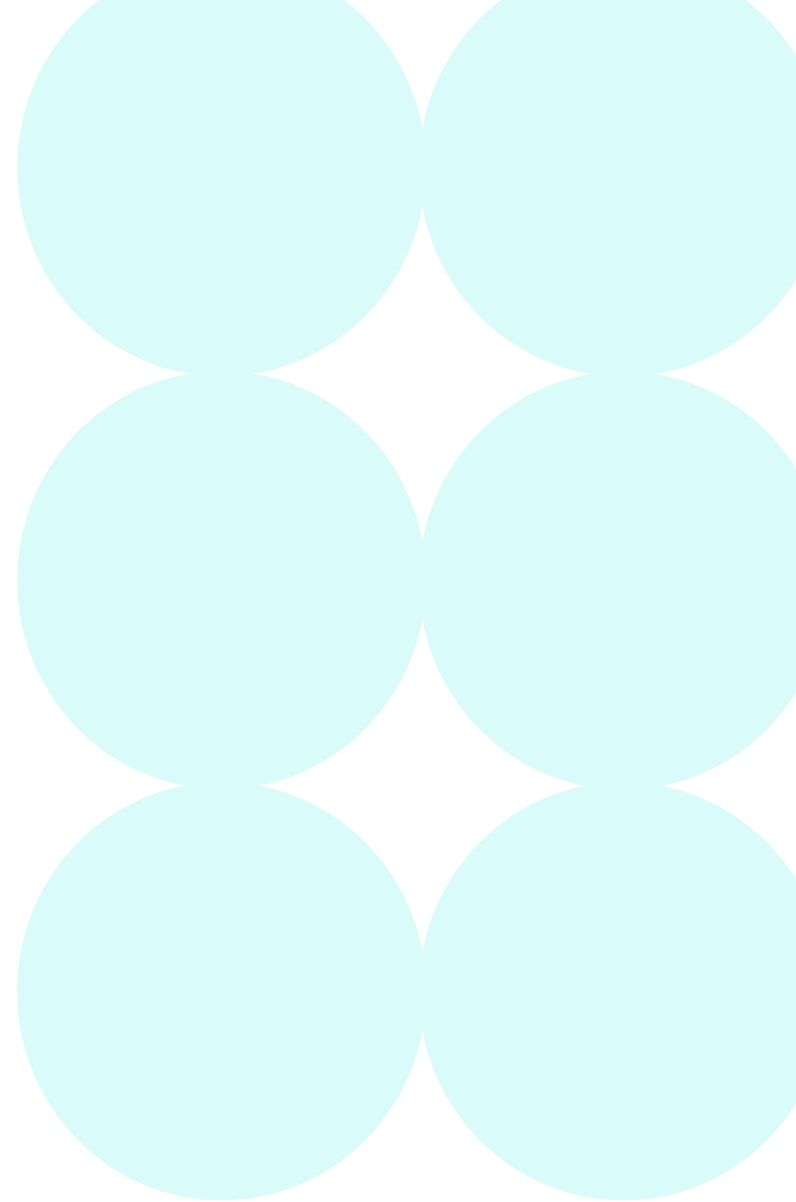
We urgently need a new social contract that will reduce such gross inequality, guarantee that everyone is able to meet their basic needs, and ensure that everyone has the opportunity to lead a meaningful life. A new social contract which will ensure that no-one is left behind. In crafting such a contract, we will need to address the root causes of inequality, which lie within the processes of money-creation, ownership, and inheritance.

Finland has made a great start. In *Finntopia: What We Can Learn from the Worlds Happiest Nation*, Danny Dorling and Annika Koljonen describe how the Finns have built a country that has risen to the top of almost every international rating by using a combination of political struggle, land reform, redistributive taxation, social democracy, public education, a mixed economy and a high level of government engagement. To these, I would add cooperative economics.

A new social contract needs to include:

- Social purpose charters for all businesses and banks
- The establishment of public and community banks
- Affordable housing for all, and the phasing out of rent
- Fair work for all, with employee ownership, labour union inclusion, and democracy at work
- A living wage for all
- Free public healthcare for all
- Community wealth for all
- Free college education for all
- Paid sick leave, family medical leave, and parental leave for all
- Prison and criminal law reform for all
- Fair taxation
- Universal basic services
- A debt jubilee
- Social inheritance bonds
- A social wealth fund

Excerpt from my upcoming book, *The Economics of Kindness*.



Section 2:

Place

Phillip Ward

A manifesto for the long term

Phillip leads the Sustainability Network on the RSA's digital Fellows platform, Circle, and called for a greater focus on long-termism in government policies, private sector investment and public procurement.

Current UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, in his party conference slogan and in the words he put into the King's Speech, is promising a long-term decision for a brighter future. The crises facing the world through climate change, biodiversity loss and inequality (domestic and international) are certainly crying out for long-term decisions: but will we get them?

As we approach a general election, all the signs are that politics is playing its usual part in ensuring that in the UK we will get policy announcements aimed at short-term electoral advantage, although they may also have long-term implications. This behaviour is not particular to the UK, but our first-past-the-post voting system drives an essentially two-party system and narrows the range of options put before the electorate.

This is compounded by endless polling, demographic segmenting and focus groups all driving the search for short-term tactical advantage.

Shareholder short-termism

Short-termism is not the preserve of the politicians. The primacy of shareholder value means that immediate profit is prioritised over long-term growth and this dominates corporate and financial market behaviour. This was evidenced by a 2020 report from the European Securities and Markets Authority, which identified the misalignment of

investment horizons in financial markets and the remuneration of fund managers and executives that rewards short-term profit-seeking, as a source of short-termism.

Misalignment of investment horizons does not have to be profit-driven. It is a feature of public infrastructure investment too. Discounted cash flow calculations can mean, depending on the discount rate, benefits accruing more than seven or eight years ahead are largely ignored. That doesn't help investment in tidal barrages even though they offer predictable renewable energy for generations or, for that matter, barriers against sea level rise in 30 years' time, even though it is inevitable.

These are difficult nuts to crack. The RSA's Sustainability Network and group of Fellows in Oceania networks ran a successful series of events on long-termism, which attracted participation across the whole Fellowship from Seattle to Sydney. We established that there is plenty of good and challenging thinking on how we change mindsets from short to long term.

How do we get people, but more particularly governments, institutions and businesses, to understand the need to move from short-termism and create an environment that requires longer-term costs and benefits (economic, social and environmental) to be important in their decision-making?

Since the UK's Prime Minister has made long-term decision-making his campaign slogan, the RSA's Sustainability Network is suggesting that one element of the manifesto should include a measure to make that real.

Another contributor to the long-termism theme was RSA Fellow Jane Davidson who, as a former Welsh Environment Minister, oversaw The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. This pioneering act, built on the requirement in The Government of Wales Act (S79),

the Welsh Constitution, which states that Welsh Ministers must, in the exercise of their functions, make appropriate arrangements to promote sustainable development.

The 2015 Act identifies seven pillars of wellbeing that align well with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The act applies to all public bodies. It creates a commissioner to monitor performance and increases the possibility of legal challenge for failure to follow the requirements of sustainable development.

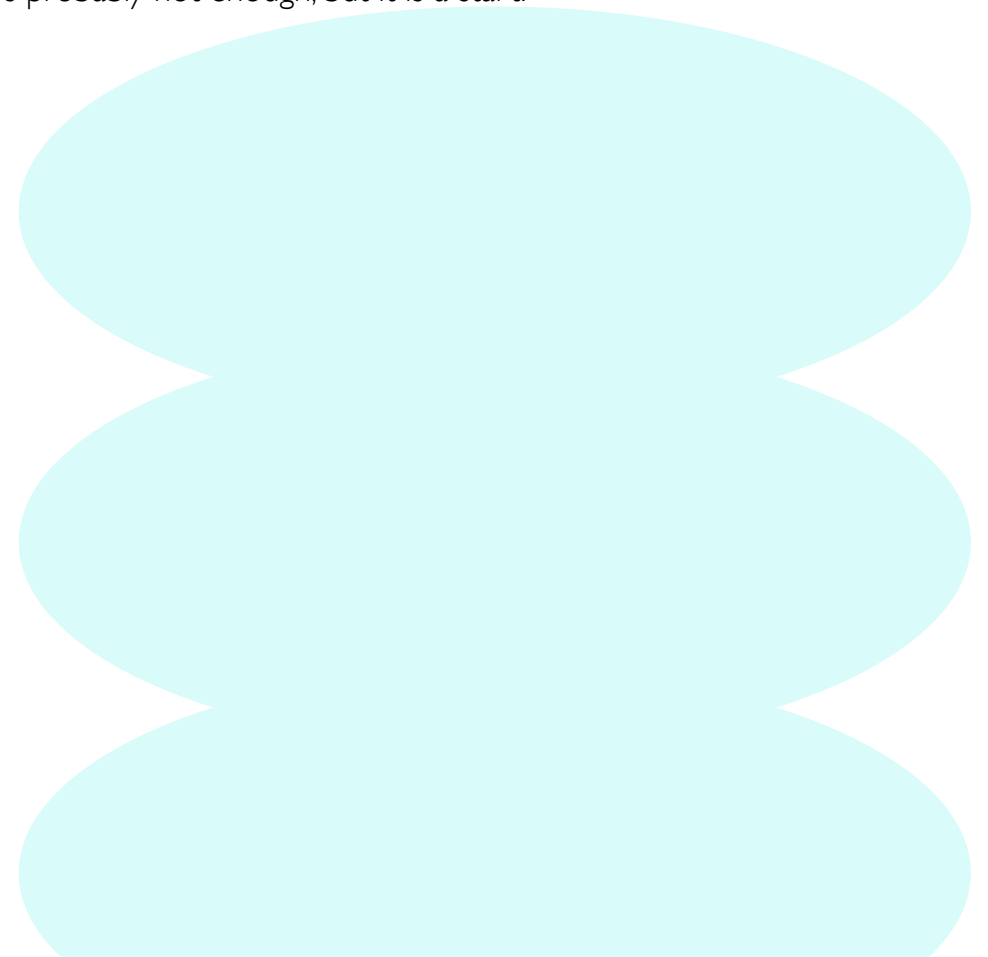
The act has some shortcomings (most acts do). One is that it applies only to Wales. Surely, it is time to press for this approach to be adopted across the UK. We do have experience of legislation of this sort in the UK. The Climate Change Act is a current example. The reports of the Climate Change Committee, an independent body formed under the Climate Change Act, are influential and provide independent evidence with which to challenge, but not overrule, government decisions. This has been the case currently with proposals on oil and gas licensing.

But the act is focused on carbon budgets as the government has removed the provisions on waste reduction. It does not provide a platform for a regenerative economy or attempt to impose duties on all public bodies that will change their decision-making processes.

The Public Services (Social Value) Act of 2012 is another example. It requires relevant authorities when buying goods or services to consider how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant areas. The requirement is supported by guidance from the Treasury on how this should be done.

While welcome, the scope of the legislation is limited, not least because it came from a private members bill and the requirement is focused on the immediate not the long-term impact of the procurement. It does not require the procurement of goods or services that will bring long-term benefits.

Neither these acts nor the Welsh act address the shortcomings of financial markets or business practices generally. A duty on government to promote the wellbeing of future generations, however, should affect the way businesses and markets are regulated and how they report to shareholders and the public. The European Commission has an action plan on Sustainable Finance which relies heavily on greater transparency. It's probably not enough, but it is a start.



Guy Dauncey

Restore manufacturing

Neoliberal market ideology tells governments not to worry about the collapse of manufacturing and just leave it to the market. However, a nation with little manufacturing has to import everything it needs, creating all kinds of dangerous vulnerabilities. What will it take to rebuild a strong, resilient manufacturing sector?

Manufacturing and heavy industry are essential components of any economy, but Britain has lost 6 million manufacturing jobs since the 1960s.

Yes, China is part of the story, Germany has held onto its manufacturing sector; and in Spain, Mondragon expanded its industrial and manufacturing capacity to create 84,000 jobs, most of which are in manufacturing. What are the wisdoms that enabled these successes, while other regions have seen their factories padlocked, their workers discarded, and their machinery shipped off to Mexico or China?

1. A cooperative mindset

The first is the importance of adopting a cooperative approach, building community wealth for all, not just for a few. This is what led to Mondragon's success; this is why Germany, where labour unions have a solid relationship with owners and managers, has held onto its manufacturing. In both cases the workers either own the companies directly or have strong unions through which they participate in decision-making and healthy partnerships.

2. Employee ownership

In industrial operations, workers know more about the plant than the management or owners. Furthermore, worker-owners are unlikely to offshore their own means of livelihood. American manufacturing did not evaporate of its own accord. Much of it was destroyed by private equity and hedge fund investors who used buyouts to extract value and enrich their shareholders, with no resistance from complacent governments. The MBA rule of thumb is to start with \$5m, borrow \$95m, dump the debt on the company, skimp capital spending, outsource production, ramp up earnings, extract as much cash as you can for the shareholders, sell for a profit and make the earliest possible exit. The workers, with no legal right to their workplace, are like lambs to the slaughter.

To transform manufacturing, we must give workers and communities the legal right to be first in line to buy a company if an owner plans to sell, shutter or ship it offshore, with legal advice and financing to close the deal. The American non-profit Fifty-by-Fifty is working to achieve just this, pursuing the goal of 50 million employee-owners by 2050.

3. Industrial training

Mondragon began in a technical college in 1947 and went on to develop a comprehensive training and apprenticeship programme that laid the foundation for its massive success. In Germany, half of all workers start their working lives in apprenticeships, and there are 1,500 part-time vocational schools. 20% of German companies participate, and 60% of apprentices are taken on as employees.

4. The industrial commons

The industrial commons is the closely-woven, mutually supportive network of technical schools, apprenticeships, skilled workers, machine-parts suppliers, research laboratories, science and engineering universities, community-oriented banks, family traditions, and friendships that enable people to be fascinated by nerdy conversations because they are so immersed in manufacturing. In Mondragon, 2,000 researchers work in 15 research centres at the University of Mondragon and within each industrial cooperative, coming up with innovations to improve productivity and developing new product ideas, some of which are used and some stored for the future. The industrial commons is strong in Mondragon, in Silicon Valley, in Italy's Emilia Romagna region, and in DeZhou, China's hub city for solar hot water.

5. The entrepreneurial state

Neoclassical economics preaches minimal government intervention, and right-wing think tanks cast shade on the role of government, claiming that regulations and investments are obstacles to free enterprise. None of this is true. Mariana Mazzucato, author of *The Entrepreneurial State: Debunking Public vs. Private Sector Myths*, and head of the Institute for Innovation and Public Purpose at University College London, reminds us that companies like Facebook and Google could never have succeeded without government investments in research and development, long before the venture capitalists were willing to venture out. If manufacturers are to increase their innovation and productivity, she argues, governments must invest in research and development, focusing on critical areas such as advanced manufacturing, the circular economy, renewable energy, and affordable housing. Governments should re-embrace good industrial policy, which enabled South Korea to make the leap from poverty after World War 2 to being a relatively wealthy country. Tools that can be used, include procurement contracts which

support breakthrough products in their early years, through to taking a stake in companies that succeed.

6. Regenerative manufacturing

All manufacturing and industry needs to become ecologically regenerative. Can a company notorious for its pollution really regenerate nature? Unilever is a multinational consumer goods company that produces a vast variety of food, beauty and healthcare products. It's the largest soap producer in the world, owns 400 brands, and its products are sold in 190 countries. When Paul Polman was CEO from 2009 to 2019 he developed a Sustainable Living Plan to decouple Unilever's growth from its environmental footprint and reduce its ecological impact by 50% by 2030. Unilever is now working to become carbon positive in all its manufacturing, to halve its use of virgin plastic by 2025, to become a circular economy, to have 100% sustainable sourcing for all agricultural raw materials by 2020, and to achieve zero waste, while working to improve health and hygiene for more than a billion people.

7. Global fair trade

The final need is for a global system of fair trade that will incentivise socially and ecologically responsible manufacturing, support regional supply chain resilience, and penalise the laggards and abusers with high tariffs. We must plan for a future in which all industrial and manufacturing companies adopt a social purpose charter, and form alliances to achieve climate, biodiversity and social justice goals. A future in which there is no contradiction between industry and manufacturing, and a new ecological civilisation.

In conclusion, Britain needs a Sustainable Manufacturing Act, to pull all the pieces together.

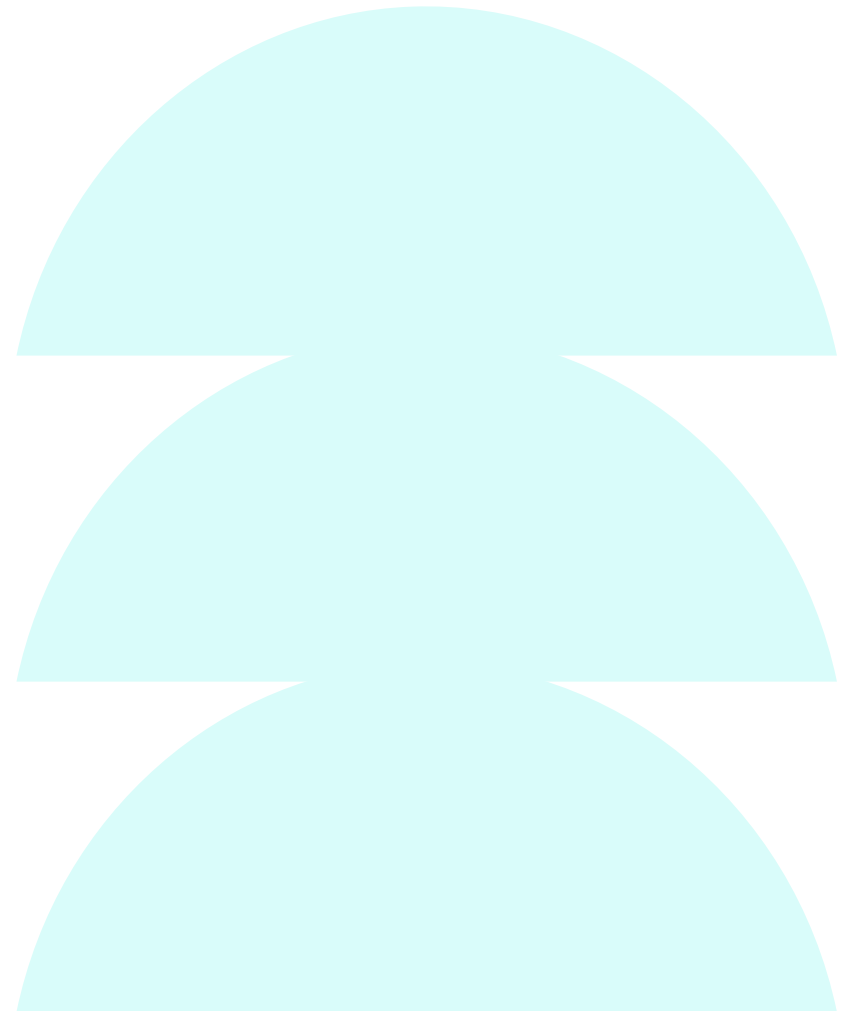
Excerpt from my upcoming book, *The Economics of Kindness*.

Wendy Russell

Spatial justice for children and young people

My idea is to work towards spatial justice for children and young people. This would fit with the Design for Life 'Places for Change' strand, which currently says nothing explicitly about children and young people as citizens in the here and now. When it does talk about children and young people, Design for Life focuses on education. Working at hyperlocal level, I would like to see children and young people being able to move freely around and play out in their neighbourhoods. This is not some rose-tinted nostalgia, and of course there will always be disagreements about use of public space, but children would be seen as potentially contributing towards the production of neighbourhoods through their participation in everyday life in public space.

The benefits of this for children, communities and places is well documented. It also fits very well with agendas for built environment sustainability, for example low-traffic neighbourhoods. It could feed into the design of new housing settlements where cars (moving and parked) would no longer have priority in residential streets. Day One might see creative, hyperlocal research with children and young people to map how they feel about their neighbourhoods and work to improve their access to the common wealth of public space at neighbourhood level.



Guy Dauncey

Community growth and evolution

Community wealth

Let us consider the communities where we live. What makes them thrive, stagnate or decline? The presence or absence of a shared kindness called community wealth, which contains or fails to contain aspects of nature's economy, the social economy, the community economy, the market economy and the public economy, all within your village, town or city.

In Britain, the Lambeth Study on participatory culture discovered that successful community wealth-building needs regular engagement by 10-15% of the residents. With this in mind, members of Participatory City in the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham are working to engage 25,000 residents in networks of friendship, to grow 250 new community projects and 100 new businesses, all with the goal of kicking their community into a higher gear.

There are many ways to build community wealth. The Transition Town Movement, started in Totnes in 2006 by Rob Hopkins, has inspired tens of thousands of people to form transition towns from Bologna to Brazil. In Auckland, New Zealand, the Grey Lynn Transition Community started by forming a farmers market, then a waste away group, a street garden, a traffic calming group, a business association, a choir, a car boot market, a RePurpose community recycling centre, a repair cafe, Sew Grey Lynn, and local discussion forums. They are just one of a thousand similar

transition town initiatives. In Britain, every year on the first weekend in June, the Eden Project's Big Lunch initiative assists people across the country to share friendship, food, and fun with their neighbours, knowing that this will build stronger, more resilient communities.

Build your local economy

How does community wealth contribute to the local economy? In Barcelona, the city's cooperative economy has grown immensely since the outpouring of protest in May 2011 and the 100-day occupation of the Plaza del Sol. By 2016, Barcelona had 5,000 community wealth initiatives including 2,400 social organisations, 1,200 worker-owned enterprises, 861 cooperatives and 260 community economic initiatives. Some 500,000 people had become members of a consumer cooperative, and 2,000 homes had been built by housing cooperatives. They had 19 education cooperatives, 13 free schools, seven ethical finance organisations, 23 citizen-managed facilities, 59 agro-ecological consumer groups, 13 skills exchange markets, 21 time banks, 20 community market gardens and at least 50 soccer clubs. In total, 53,000 paid workers and 100,000 volunteers work in these initiatives.

In Paris, in 2017, Patrick Bernard invited some neighbours to a restaurant in the 14th arrondissement. He had in mind an initiative to boost conviviality, to have his neighbours say "hello" not five but 50 times a day and see how it impacted community life and the local economy.

They established the République des HyperVoisins (the Republic of Super Neighbours) in an area of 50 streets, with 15,000 residents. By 2022 2,000 people were attending weekly brunches and aperitifs in local restaurants, and joining cultural outings, memory exchanges and children's activities, including an annual Mouse Carnival Parade with children in fancy dress. They collaborated with a non-profit to install organic waste bins in former parking spaces, launched a community health clinic and enrolled volunteers to support caregivers. To reduce traffic, they are buying electric bikes with trailers. They transformed a boring road junction into a public square where people now gather to share food, enjoy live music and have time to talk. To extend the idea to other arrondissements, they are developing a three-year apprenticeship programme that will train people with project management skills, giving them the ability to bring local initiatives to life, and to become an interface between residents and the city's services.

Preston, Lancashire, used to be one of England's poorest towns. Guided by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, anchor institutions including the hospitals, airport, colleges, university, police, housing associations and local government, are allocating more of their procurement pounds to Preston suppliers and producers. They have increased their local purchasing fourfold and doubled it in the wider Lancashire area. The council's food budget, instead of going to agribusiness conglomerates, now goes to local farmers. They have established several new cooperatives, and a credit union. In the 2021 local elections, when Labour councillors around Britain lost a quarter of their seats, Preston's councillors retained all ten of their seats, showing that the pursuit of community wealth creates a winnable political platform. In America, the Democracy Collaborative has published a Community Wealth Building Action Guide to help people adopt this approach.

In the market economy, the death of a business is considered a natural part of life. But what if that business was your only pub, garage or hardware store? In Britain, Community Right to Bid legislation allows communities to nominate a building or piece of land for listing as an asset of community value. If it comes up to be sold, a six months moratorium can be invoked, giving community groups the chance to raise the finance, develop a business plan and assemble a bid to buy it.

This is also how things work in Massachusetts, where the residents of a mobile home park whose owner wants to sell have first right of refusal to buy the park. In Scotland, the Community Empowerment Act gives all communities the right to buy land they deem important, or that has been abandoned or neglected, as long as it's in the public interest, even if the owner is unwilling to sell. The Democracy Collaborative has proposed that governments establish Local Economy Preservation Funds to enable community equity investments, placing a business in a holding company while a community organisation seeks an exit strategy leading to ownership by the employees, rather than see it snapped up by a private equity firm.

Invest locally

Investing locally is essential to community wealth. In Britain, Community Shares have enabled 104,000 people to buy £155m worth of shares in 450 community enterprises, ranging from football clubs to wind farms.

In Maine, Coastal Enterprises has invested over \$1bn and created 33,000 full time jobs since 1977, combining community organising with action research, technical mentoring and financing, all focused on rural revitalisation. In Nova Scotia, provincial equity tax credits focused on community benefit have enabled local people to invest \$100m through a host of Community Economic Development Investment Funds, including in food, renewable energy and a range of co-operative and social enterprises.

Community regeneration

Mulhouse, in eastern France, just across the border from Germany and Switzerland, used to be one of the bleakest towns in the region. Industrial decline had led to closed factories, poverty, youth unemployment, gangs and boarded-up shops. “Grey, grim, austere and unsafe” was how people described it. That’s difficult to believe if you visit Mulhouse today. The city’s mayor worked with non-profits, community groups, residents’ committees and investors to conjure up a \$40m investment plan to support the facelift of 170 grimy buildings, increase community policing and invest in a new tram system, bike schemes, shuttle buses, wider pavements, tree-planting, gardening and green space. The goal was to encourage independent businesses to set up and to restore the town centre as a place where people would want to gather. And it worked. By 2019, 470 new shops and businesses had opened, 75% of which are locally owned. The wealth restored is more than personal: it is community wealth.

Roads that are safe for pedestrians and cyclists are an essential component of community wealth. Chris and Melissa Bruntlett are cycling advocates with two teenage children. In 2019, when they moved from Vancouver to Delft, just north of Rotterdam, they found themselves in a cycling and walking paradise, “a city of quaint canals, cobbled streets and historic squares.” In the 1960s, Delft was full of cars, and the city engineers wanted to demolish parts of the city to make way for wide roads, big bridges and acres of parking. The residents were already distressed by the danger that fast cars posed to their children, so this led to a total rethink. Today, people still own cars, but 80% of trips within the city are by foot, bicycle or public transit. On local streets, pedestrians and cyclists have priority, and cars move very slowly. Children feel safe to cycle around on their own. Neighbourly trust has been restored, and community wealth increased.

In Brittany, France, Rennes city councillors have adopted a procurement policy to help people who struggle with long-term unemployment, requiring companies that bid on a contract to form a partnership with a social enterprise to include the long-term unemployed. This has helped between 500 and 1,000 unemployed people to find work. In all these initiatives, people come together regardless of their political leaning to support local businesses and create stronger, more resilient economies.

Crime is another problem that causes grief and distress. In Chicago, the homicide rate is terrible, and gun violence is the leading cause of death among young African American men, costing the city \$3.5bn a year in medical, prosecution, and incarceration costs. What most young people want is simply a first chance, to be able to break the cycle of violence and create a new life. With limited access to trauma-informed counselling, life coaching or a secure job in the legal economy, they often see no alternative to the world of drugs and crime. The non-profit Chicago CRED has adopted an approach that combines street outreach, one-to-one trauma and stress counselling, training, and the offer of a permanent paid job to provide a steady income, bringing self-respect. Its goal is to reduce gun violence by 80% by 2025. In 2017 and 2018 homicides fell by 15%; in 2019 they fell by 13%. It’s not enough, but they’re on the right track.

Local government

In some communities, local councils respond positively to people’s ideas. In others, less so. In the rural English town of Buckfastleigh, south Devon, when people were fed up with the laziness of their elected politicians, nine independents ran for office. All were elected. Finding themselves holding the reins of power, and realising how much needed to be done, they proposed a parish tax increase of 97%, explaining that the average household tax would increase from £1 to £1.97 a week.

In the Somerset town of Frome, ten independent candidates were elected in 2011, kicking out the party-based councillors. Once elected, they adopted a cooperative approach to governance and invited people to become involved. Together, they invested in non-profits, set up a Citizens Climate Assembly, created a £30,000 Citizens Budget, and invited people to present ideas at a public Dragons Den, and to vote for their favourites. They turned a raft of ambitious ideas into reality, creating a publicly funded food bank, a car-sharing scheme, and a new social gathering spot, The Cheese & Grain. They used Community Interest shares to buy a field for allotments; launched Fair Frome to address chronic poverty issues; launched an electric car club; formed the Frome Renewable Energy Co-op; developed a climate emergency strategy; and engaged volunteers to tackle the pandemic. Their health clinic is training people to become Community Connectors. In the 2019 elections all 17 independents were elected in a heavily contested election.

Scaling up to reach every community

What would it take to build community wealth across an entire nation? There are three main frameworks that communities are using:

- The Doughnut Economy framework has been embraced by many cities including Birmingham, Berlin, Frankfurt, Amsterdam, Brussels, Paris, Copenhagen, Philadelphia, Portland, Sydney, Melbourne, Cali, and Nanaimo; by organised collectives in California, Costa Rica, Malaysia, Ireland, Barbados and Spain; and in the English counties of Cornwall and Devon, backed by a 7,000-person strong community of supporters and practitioners. In Holland, the Amsterdam Doughnut Coalition has grown into a network of 650 people, 41 organisations, and 89 projects. Together, they aim to turn Amsterdam into a doughnut-proof region.

- The Community Wealth Building framework, developed by the Centre for Local Economic Strategies, has been embraced by various communities and regions in Britain including Birmingham, Brighton, Darlington, Fife, Islington, Leeds, Lewes, Luton, Manchester, Newham, North Ayrshire, Preston, Salford, Southampton, Wigan and the Wirral, and by Hamburg, Germany.

- Christian Felber's Economy for the Common Good framework has also been embraced by many cities and businesses, especially in Austria and Germany. It has 145 chapters in Europe and 27 chapters around the world.

The urgency of the times means that bottom-up initiatives like this are not enough. Governments could help towns and cities by passing a Community Wealth Act, enabling any community to apply for funding to pay for 100 local people to join community wealth study circles, where they would learn about the general concepts, and about skills needed to launch (for instance) a local investment fund, or a community currency. Study circles played a critical role in Sweden at the end of the 19th century, when they transformed their rural peasant society into a modern nation. They had a similar positive impact in Black communities in America in the 19th and 20th centuries, and in Nova Scotia in the 1930s.

Government could back this up with a Community Wealth Fund, to co-invest with local people in community regeneration. They could create a legal framework for community investment funds, and incentives to persuade municipalities to use procurement budgets to support mutual aid initiatives, cooperatives, employee-owned businesses and social enterprises.

Excerpt from my upcoming book, The Economics of Kindness.

Section 3:

Planet

Alister Hamilton

The stabilising impact of rewilding on the climate

At the Global Rewilding Alliance we are commissioning and convening top-quality research, published in top journals like *Nature Climate Change*, that is showing that reinstated populations of wild animals can transform the ability of whole landscapes to absorb carbon. Our recent study into just nine species showed that they alone could produce carbon drawdown equating to or surpassing each of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's top five options for climate mitigation.

Yet rewilding is mostly overlooked. It is the bridge between the climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis. Not only that, it also brings hope, joy and beauty, helping to address climate anxiety - the third crisis that prevents action because people turn away in despair.

I'm happy to provide more detail, briefings, academic papers etc. Having been a Fellow for 15 years, I'm so happy about your new agenda; this gives you a practical way to bring the natural world into the regenerative agenda.

Thank you for all you're doing.

Harriet Fraser

The natural living world: tending biodiversity and life systems

If we as a society, as many different communities within that society, are to better care for the natural living world we must be able to feel it, and feel connected to it. We need to nurture a generation of people who develop sensitivity to the natural world, a delight in it, and love. These qualities should not be underestimated. From these come curiosity and a drive to learn more, to understand, and to imagine and implement actions that support effective shifts in our own lifestyles that impact both carbon sequestration and enrichment of biodiverse habitats.

For this manifesto, why not include: funding to train teachers to empower them to confidently take children and young people into parks, onto farms and into rural spaces beyond cities; funding for schools to provide transport, cover teaching and extra support for residential school trips; embedding creative and artistic reflection on nature into the school days. And let's not stop with schools. MPs, civil servants and policy-makers often work at a distance from the natural world they are charged with caring for through legislation - let's get every MP out for a weekend 'under the stars' in the company of ecologists, artists, poets, farmers and foresters. The living world on which we depend needs our love and our attention: could a manifesto put that at the centre of decisions, rather than adding it on as a second thought?

Benson Ferrari Tree planting

A really simple one, but for the RSA to have a specific commitment to encouraging and enabling the planting of native trees up and down the land, particularly in urban areas and new developments. Species should be chosen for aesthetic benefits, ease of management and support for biodiversity. Developers make a token commitment with saplings on new housing estates, however many die because they are not cared for in early life - each house owner or tenant could be asked to take responsibility for a particular tree or area on communal but private estates. Councils should have an obligation to plant a particular number of trees each year. Yet they have removed so many from towns and cities purely to eliminate maintenance costs. New motorways and dual carriageways should also have a cast-iron guarantee of a proper planting scheme with follow-up to ensure saplings thrive, as well as better screening of the existing road network, to reduce noise and greenhouse gasses.

Mark Phillips Dead spaces

In the UK we have around 4,000-5,000 council-owned spaces that are not in regular use. Many are simply empty or 'dead'. We also have a need to create sharing libraries and to repair and reuse our things to reduce consumption and waste. They need space. Around 1000-1200 of the 'dead spaces' could be suitable for repair, reuse, and sharing libraries. If we created those, we could reduce waste, save councils money, help with cost of living, support the high street and build communities. This is one example of how joined up approaches can help solve problems and create a more sustainable economy. We already have solutions.

Mary Jackson

Ensuring access to green spaces for children and young people

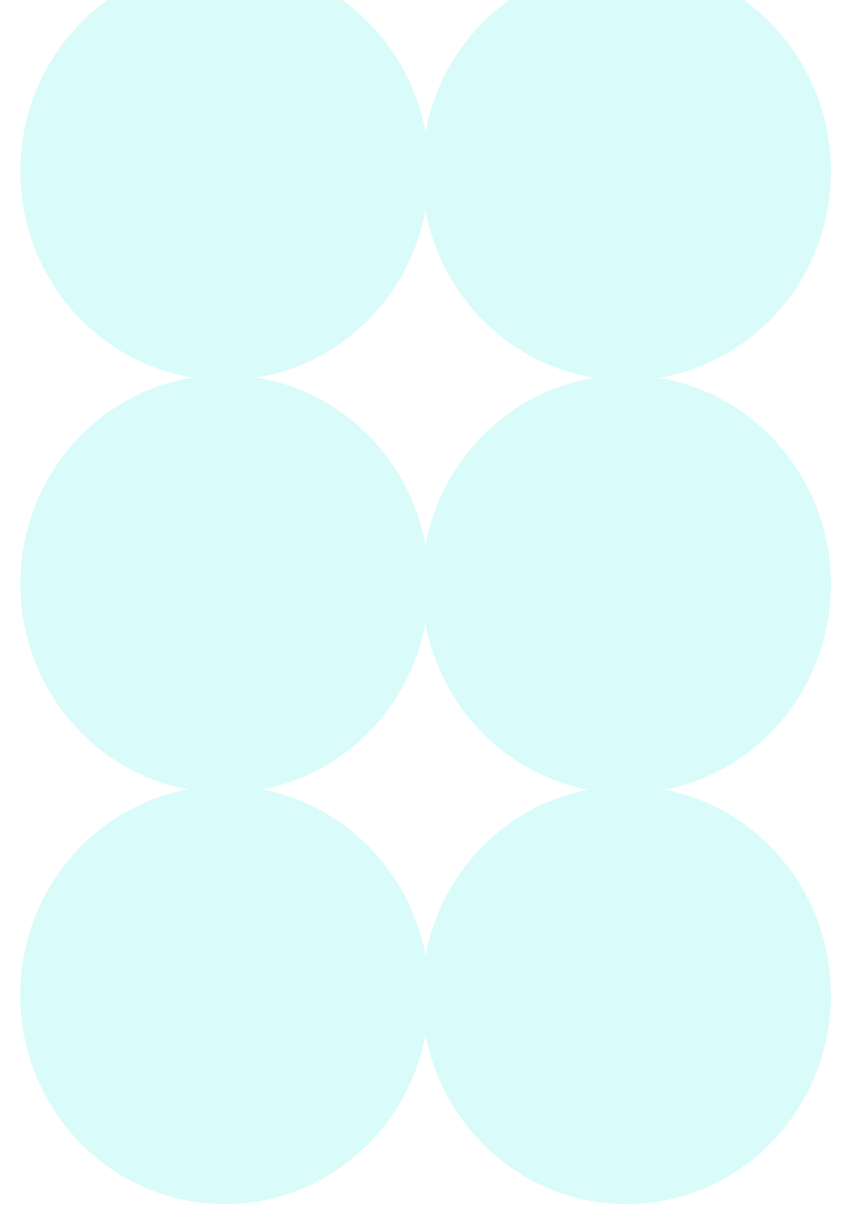
It is important that children and young people have a voice and are able to learn and play outdoors throughout their education, including learning about sustainability and climate change whilst learning new skills to enable them to make a practical difference.

As children and young people should be able to access nature every day the first thing that needs to happen is that every school should HAVE to have school grounds, which new schools in England do not have to have.

Secondly all those grounds should be designed for the needs of children and for the planet and existing school grounds should also have funding to develop these aspects too. So this should include spaces to access nature, spaces to play outside, spaces to learn outside across the curriculum from the early years through to the top of secondary schools and sixth form colleges.

Children and young people should also learn skills about caring for the environment and responding to climate change through nature-based solutions.

Finally, teachers need to be given training and support in climate change and sustainability education whatever age and whatever subject they teach so that pupils learn about the issue whatever subject they favour.



So, what's next?

AT THE RSA, we unite people and ideas in collective action to create opportunities to regenerate our world. This is also our intention with the Fellow-led Day One Manifesto.

We know that when our community comes together, with Fellows sharing their expertise, what they can offer, and the social impact they wish to see, we can achieve greater social impact at local, regional, national and even global levels.

Join the conversation today, collaborate with Fellows, and take us one step closer to economic, social and environmental change.
#RSADayOne

We invite you to join our new 'Day One' space on [Circle](#) – share your ideas, connect with like-minded Fellows, and collaborate on social causes you believe in. All of the authors of the submissions are on Circle and can be contacted directly.



Day One Manifesto, RSA Fellowship