



# INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS: DESIGNING A FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Professor Chantal Davies, Dr Eghosa Ekhator, Dr Kim Ross and Dr Holly White

## INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS WORKSHOP AGENDA

Welcome: Professor Julieanna Powell-Turner The Work of the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission and the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Strategy (Melissa Crellin, Enterprise Cheshire and Warrington)

What is Environmental Justice (Dr Eghosa Ekhator, University of Derby) Introducing the Inclusive Environments Research and Framework (Professor Chantal Davies)

Utilising the Local Voices Framework for Inclusive Environments (Dr Kim Ross/Dr Holly White)

Refreshments

Workshop activities

Refreshments

Consultation on the Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Strategy





## THE WORK OF THE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH COMMISSION AND THE SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC STRATEGY

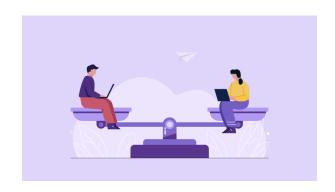
#### **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT STRATEGY**

Vision: To be the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy in the UK by 2045

## Sustainable and Inclusive Econor Warrington Strategy

We want your views on our plan for the future:

- Build a strong economy
- Make it greener and healthier
- Ensure it works for everyone





#### Our 2045 Vision



By 2045, Cheshire and Warrington will be:

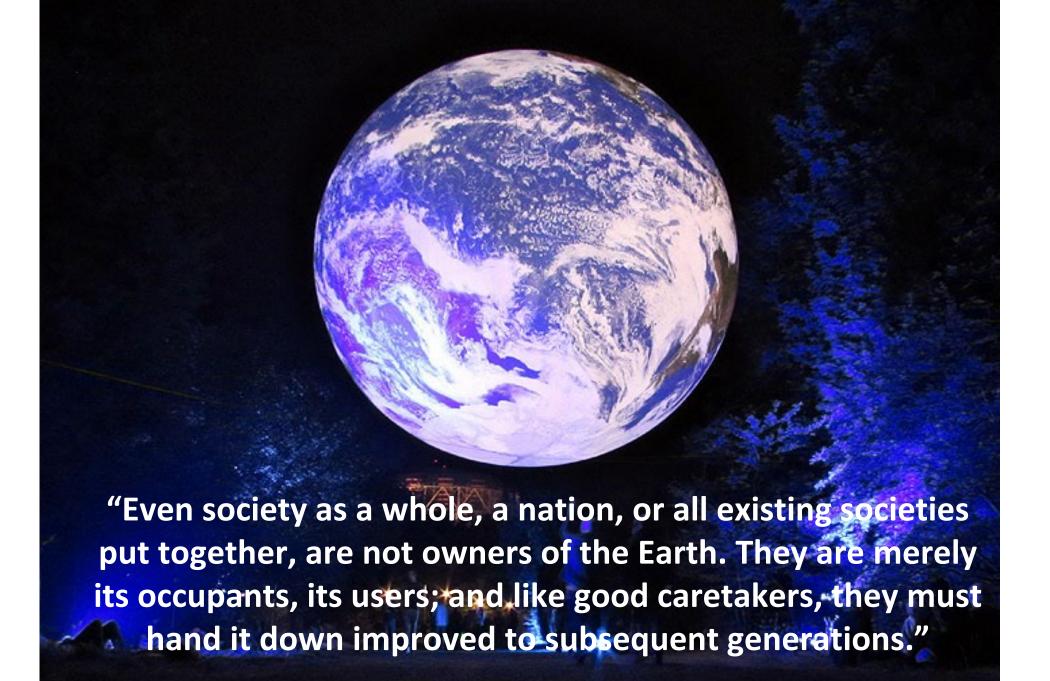
"the healthiest, most sustainable, inclusive and growing economy in the UK"

- The healthiest economy in the UK
- The most inclusive where no one is left behind
- A leader in green jobs and clean growth

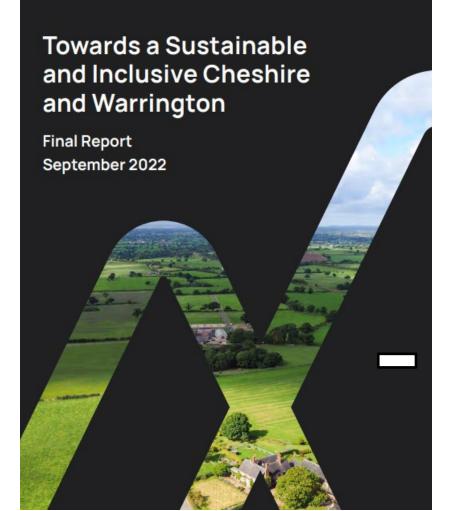
#### How we got here

- Partners started working on this plan in 2022
- Based on research and local priorities
- Building on the work of the Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission
- We've talked with councils, businesses and local people
- Now we want your feedback



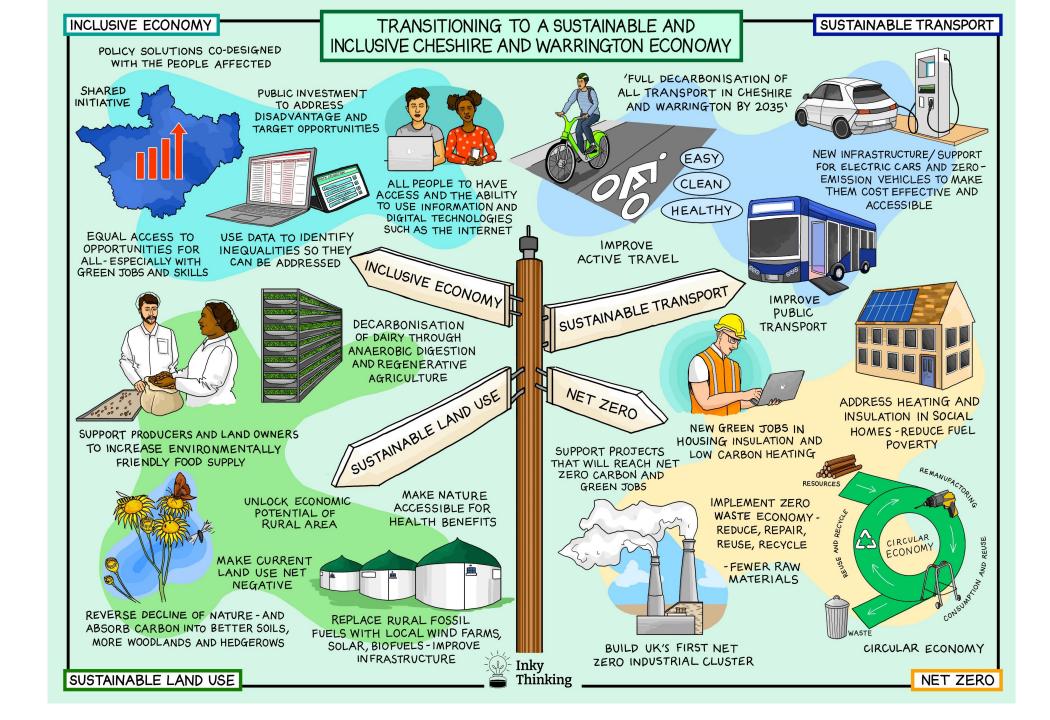






## The Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission

- Independent Commission set up by the C&W LEP and sub-regional Leaders Board to act as a catalyst towards sustainable & inclusive growth in Cheshire & Warrington
- The SIGC ran for 2 years in 4 phases: collate (Nov 20-June 21), plan (July-Dec 21), engage (Jan 22-Jul 22) and promote (Jul-Dec 22)
- The Commission worked on four themes: Inclusive Economy, Sustainable Transport, Sustainable Land Use, and Net Zero with a supporting Finance and Funding theme
- Final Report based on evidence base with key priorities and recommendations



## The Sustainable and Inclusive Economic Strategy – Overview

Cheshire+ Warrington Joint Committee

## What's Strong Now

- Economy worth £37.7 billion
- Productivity 10% above UK average, and per head 50% higher than Liverpool City Region and 25% higher than Greater Manchester
- Strong diverse industries: manufacturing, science, energy, logistics, finance, digital
- Beautiful countryside and strong food sector

#### What Needs Work

- Growth is slowing
- Too many low-paid jobs
- Not enough people have good qualifications
- Big health gaps between rich and poor areas



## Our Opportunities

- Clean energy (e.g. HyNet, nuclear expansion)
- Science and innovation (Cheshire Science Corridor)
- Strong digital and green sectors
- Bringing production back to the UK





### Our Challenges

- Not enough workers, especially older people and young people who need support
- Poor public transport links
- Falling business investment in research
- Ageing population
- High carbon emissions in rural areas



Cheshire+ Warrington Joint Committee

### Our Themes

- Sustainable
- Inclusive and Healthy
- Growing
- Enabling Infrastructure

More details in the workshop!



## How We'll Know It's Working

#### By 2035–2045 we aim to:

- Cut carbon emissions to zero
- Have no young people not in employment, education or training
- End fuel and child poverty
- Improve life expectancy across all areas
- Make every job a fair one



Consultation Session 3.15pm – 4pm

Please join us at 3.15pm to hear more and give us your views

## What is Environmental Justice?

Dr Eghosa Ekhator



### What is Environmental Justice?

In different parts of the world, some people enjoy prosperity, good life, well-being and a plethora of benefits accruing from living in a good environment.

On the other hand, 'while for others the environment is a source of threat and risk, and access to resources such as energy, water and greenspace is limited or curtailed.' (Walker 2012, p 1).

Environmental justice encapsulates the concerns around environmental inequality, environmental injustices and power dynamics in environmental decision-making amongst others.

Thus, environmental justice 'have been used in many different ways – as a campaigning slogan, as a description of a field of academic research, as a policy principle, as an agenda and as a name given to a political movement. ' (Walker 2012, p 1).



The earliest academic reflections on environmental justice originally focused on the existence of inequity in the distribution of environmental bads. The concept was used to illustrate that some communities received more environmental risks than others". (Schlosberg, p 38, 2013)

Environmental justice is a new paradigm for achieving healthy and sustainable environment or communities.

The usage of the term environmental justice can be traced to the USA in the 1980s. (Coolsaet 2021, p 2)



## **Defining Environmental Justice**

- Defining environmental justice is not a straightforward or an easy task. EJ means different things to different people.
- There are multiple definitions of environmental justice
- The significance of the doctrine varies depending on the context or the country in focus.
- As highlighted in earlier slides, Environmental Justice originated from the movement to prevent people of colour in the United States from becoming victims of industrial pollution.
- However, it is now applied to a widening spectrum of serious social concerns, particularly those related to communities that suffer from social inequity attributed to environmental inequalities. (Ako 2009, p 291).

## Theoretical models of dimensions of environmental justice

There are different theoretical models or dimensions of environmental justice conceptualized by scholars and NGOs. According to Walker (2012, p 10), the three recurrent themes consist of EJ consists of distributive, procedural, and recognition elements are referred as the "three concepts of justice". Distributive justice is when 'justice is conceived in terms of the distribution or sharing out of goods (resources) and bads (harm and risk).' (Walker 2012, p 10).

Procedural justice is when 'justice is conceived in terms of the ways in which decisions are made, who is involved and has influence.' (Walker 2012, p 10).

Recognition justice is when 'justice is conceived in terms of who is given respect and who is and isn't valued. (Walker 2012, p 10).



On the other hand, Gonzalez (2012, p 78-79) adopts a four-part categorisation of 'environmental justice consisting of distributive justice, procedural justice, corrective and social justice. Distributive justice calls for the fair allocation of the benefits and burdens of natural resource exploitation among and within nations. Procedural justice requires open, informed, and inclusive decision-making processes. Corrective justice imposes an obligation to provide compensation for historic inequities and to refrain from repeating the conduct that caused harm. Social justice, the fourth and most nebulous aspect of environmental justice, recognises that environmental struggles are inextricably intertwined with struggles for social and economic justice.'



#### **Environmental Justice in the UK**

There have been numerous studies conducted showing the injustices that British citizens have to face, be that nationally with the stereotypical north-south divide' to the almost internal issues inside counties and even cities.

Environmental Justice in the United Kingdom is relatively new compared to the United States.

This trend has however changed in recent times as increasingly; environmental injustice has been shown to exist in Britain more deeply and frequently than previously assumed.

According to Agyeman, it has been shown to be happening in many different ways from disproportionate pollution loadings to fuel poverty from transportation inequalities to lack of countryside because of rural racism, in response to this, calls for greater environmental justice has become louder. This has led to greater policy awareness for environmental justice in the UK.

Environmental justice is a tool or framework that can used to mitigate injustices. Thus, the environmental justice toolkit we developed is can be tool to improve access to environmental justice in environmental impact assessment in the UK

## Introducing the Inclusive Environments Research and Framework

**Professor Chantal Davies** 



## INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS: THE RESEARCH

Why?

- ➤ Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission Report 2022 recommendations
- > Embedded environmental inequalities
- ➤ Inconsistent approaches towards environmental sustainability decision making

Where?

> Cheshire and Warrington Subregion

Who for?

- **≻**Communities
- > Public sector organisations
- > Private sector organisations
- >Community stakeholders

Who with?

- > Marginalised community voices
- > Public and private sector decision makers



#### RESEARCH FINDINGS



- Environmental sustainability difficult to define clearly
- Limited media coverage & public awareness around local environmental challenges

## Impacts on Marginalised Communities

- Environmental inequalities difficult to define clearly
- Greater exposure to environmental risks
- Barriers to sustainable living (e.g. cost, access)



- Localised, community-led solutions
- Treat communities as partners
- Invest in education, access & resilience
- Align sustainability with social equity

## Inclusive Environments: core recommendations

Development of a community engagement hub to help facilitate better public/private sector engagement with community voices

Development of an accessible and interactive environmental impacts map to help raise awareness of environmental justice and related issues.

Use of findings to inform wider national policy.

Development of a range of resources that public and private sector organisations can use to help embed co-production in environmental decision making.

## Inclusive Environments Framework: overriding purpose

To centre communities in providing expertise on environmental impacts and suggesting just solutions.

To ensure that environmental sustainability decisions and policy do not exacerbate existing inequalities.



Introducing the **Inclusive Environments** Framework and the **Environmental Justice Cycle** 



## The Lived Experience Lead



- Role of a Lived Experience Lead: A person with lived experience of social marginalisation and co-production, recommended to co-lead all stages of the Environmental Justice Framework for meaningful community involvement.
- Value in Co-Production: Lived Experience Leads bring unique insights and practical knowledge, enhancing co-production efforts across public, private, and community sectors.
- Support and Resources: Organisations like Cheshire West Voluntary Action offer access to Lived Experience Leads through initiatives like the Local Voices Network.

## **Educate & Empower**



- Community Collaboration: Encourage organisations to partner with communities to build shared understanding of environmental sustainability, especially engaging those with lived experience of social vulnerabilities.
- Mutual Learning & Trust: Promote two-way knowledge exchange to foster trust, support fairer solutions, and enable transparent, just environmental decision-making.
- Engagement Activities: Use tools like workshops, school partnerships, community events, and social media to spread awareness and drive participation.

## **Explore**



- Foster Inclusive Collaboration: Deepen partnerships with communities—especially marginalised groups—to understand environmental impacts and co-create sustainability solutions.
- Centre Community Voices: Use inclusive engagement methods (e.g., workshops, liaison groups, online hubs) to ensure community perspectives shape environmental decision-making.
- Adopt Co-Production & Adaptation: Build on existing networks and apply co-production principles to develop responsive initiatives, with ongoing review and community input.

## Scoping



- Early Impact Assessment: Scoping is an initial review to evaluate the potential effects—positive or negative—of a proposed environmental sustainability measure.
- Focus on Equity: It ensures that the impact on marginalised communities is considered from the outset.
- Decision-Making Tool: Especially useful when multiple options are on the table, helping organisations choose the most effective and equitable path forward.

## Information Gathering



- Purpose of Information Gathering: Conducted when initial scoping suggests potential impacts—positive or negative—on different community groups.
- Focus on Inclusion: Prioritises understanding effects on marginalised or underrepresented communities.
- Supports Impact Assessment: Provides essential insights to evaluate how proposed sustainability measures affect people.

## Conversations



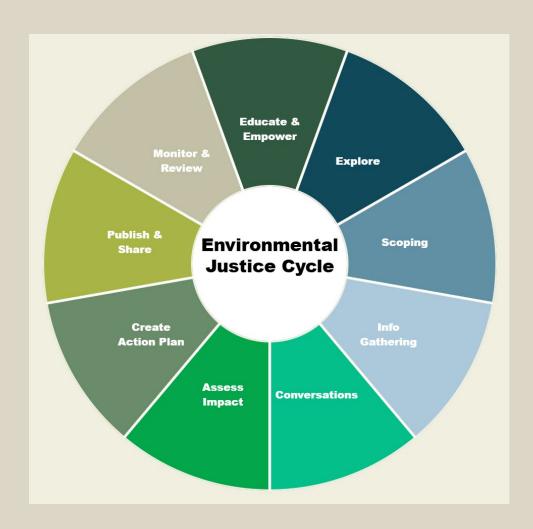
- Inclusive Engagement: Conversations are led by a Lived Experience Lead or organisation to involve marginalised communities in environmental sustainability planning.
- Community-Centered Approach: Focuses on listening to those most affected, especially underrepresented voices.
- Informed Decision-Making: Ensures realworld impacts are understood and no one is left behind in sustainability efforts.

## **Assess Impact**



- Collaborative Evaluation: Involves joint assessment between the Lived Experience Lead and the organisation.
- Impact Focus: Determines whether the sustainability measure affects marginalised communities positively, negatively, or neutrally.
- Informed Decision-Making: Builds on prior research and conversations to guide inclusive and equitable outcomes.

## **Action Plan**



- Collaborative Planning: The Lived Experience Lead and the organisation codevelop a clear and inclusive plan.
- Accountability & Clarity: The plan outlines specific steps to implement the proposed environmental change.
- Informed by Impact Assessment: Builds on insights from evaluating effects on marginalised communities.

## **Publish & Share**



- Final Approval & Communication: Senior management approves the sustainability measure, followed by transparent communication with affected communities about its impacts.
- Public Sharing & Trust Building: The measure and its development process are shared publicly to foster trust, accountability, and promote best practices.
- Reflection & Documentation: Lessons learned are reviewed and all actions are recorded in the Environmental Justice Template for future reference.

### **Monitor & Review**



- Ensures Ongoing Effectiveness:
  Continuously evaluates the relevance and impact of sustainability measures.
- Adapts to Change: Monitors evolving environmental and social impacts over time.
- Promotes Continuous Improvement: Emphasizes that monitoring is an ongoing process, not a final step.

# THE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENTS WEBSITE

# www.inclusive-environments.org

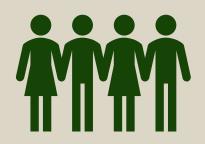


# Utilising the Local Voices Framework for Inclusive Environments

Dr Kim Ross and Dr Holly White



# Local Voices Framework: a research-informed framework for co-production



<u>Systematic literature review of academic databases:</u> clear logical stages with an emphasis on rigour.

<u>Review of Local Voices Stakeholder Team Seminal Guides:</u> drawing together existing knowledge and practice

<u>15 x 1.5-hour semi-structured interviews – 9 with experts by experience and 6</u> with practitioners: detailed reflections on co-production experiences

2 x 2.5 hour workshops with experts by experience and practitioners: collective developments of key ideas and language around co-production

# Local Voices Framework Co-production Definition

Co-production is the building of respectful and empowering relationships alongside the sharing of ideas between those with living or lived experience and other stakeholders.

Both contribute their knowledge, skills and experiences to co-create actionable change.



### **Power-Sharing**

- Participation as a continuum
- Towards a movement of equal partners

#### Contributions of citizens to inclusive environments

"innovators"	"citizens know things that many professionals don't know"
"resources"	citizens "have time, information and financial resources that they
	are willing to invest to improve their own quality of life and into
	helping others"
"asset-holders"	citizens "have diverse capabilities and talents which they can share
	with professionals and other citizens"
"community-developers"	citizens "can engage in collaborative rather than paternalistic relationships
	with staff and can collaborate with other service users and with other
	members of the public to bring out the best in them"

(adapted from Boviard and Loeffler, 2013, p.23).



# Aspirations

Co-production is a challenging process that requires reflection and dedication to ongoing collective learning.

"trying to maintain all principles of coproduction within the real-world of structural inequalities and uneven distribution of resources is a constant challenge, often remaining for now in the realm of aspiration" (Farr et al, 2021, p. 1).

### **Principles of Co-production**

- **Embed co-production** Co-production should be embedded from the beginning to the end of the project when possible.
- • Plan appropriate infrastructure and support coproduction needs to be rooted in the structure of organisations.
- Promote equality, diversity and inclusion coproduction should be an accessible opportunity, where difference between people is valued and respected, and practices are inclusive.
- Build empowering and equal relationships coproduction should be underpinned by trusting, respectful, and empowering relationships.
- Foster open and transparent communication coproduction should be based on honesty and transparency.
- **Provide ongoing support** support should be made available for those with lived experience and other stakeholders who are involved with coproduction.
- Learn, reflect, adapt with partners coproduction should be an ongoing and collaborative learning process.
- Share a vision of meaningful change coproduction should be recognised as a social movement



### 3. Promote Equality, Diversity & Inclusion

Co-production should be an accessible opportunity, where difference between people is valued and respected, and practices are inclusive.

• Community groups emphasised the need for diverse engagement opportunities.

• Some groups that are significantly impacted by environmental policy may find engagement challenging.



# 5. Foster Open & Transparent Communication

Co-production should be based on honesty and transparency.

 Community groups identified mistrust as a key issue to be overcome with regards to environmental policies.

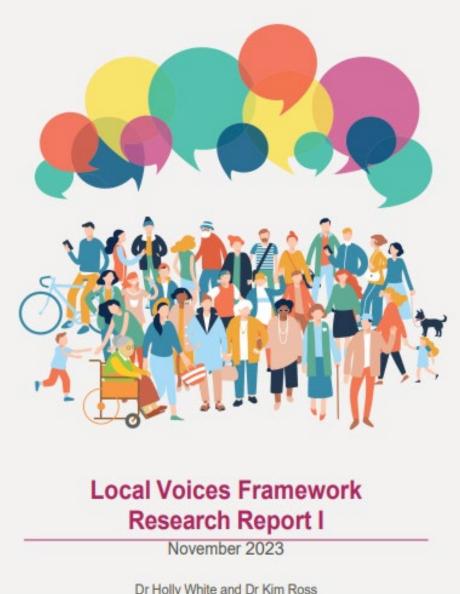
 Education and co-production was seen as being crucial to this in order to help communities understand why certain actions may need to be taken.

### 7. Learn, Reflect & Adapt with Partners

Co-production should be an ongoing and collaborative learning process.

➤ Reflexivity was seen as a key in helping to ensure that communities understand how their feedback is being used.

Setting up infrastructure that allows for ongoing collaboration was identified by the community groups as being a key priority.



Dr Holly White and Dr Kim Ross











# WORKSHOP





# Applying the Environmental Justice Framework to hypothetical scenarios





# Quick sharing of your group scenario



### **Educate & Empower**



- Community Collaboration: Encourage organisations to partner with communities to build shared understanding of environmental sustainability, especially engaging those with lived experience of social vulnerabilities.
- Mutual Learning & Trust: Promote two-way knowledge exchange to foster trust, support fairer solutions, and enable transparent, just environmental decision-making.
- Engagement Activities: Use tools like workshops, school partnerships, community events, and social media to spread awareness and drive participation.

## **Explore**



- Foster Inclusive Collaboration: Deepen partnerships with communities—especially marginalised groups—to understand environmental impacts and co-create sustainability solutions.
- Centre Community Voices: Use inclusive engagement methods (e.g., workshops, liaison groups, online hubs) to ensure community perspectives shape environmental decision-making.
- Adopt Co-Production & Adaptation: Build on existing networks and apply co-production principles to develop responsive initiatives, with ongoing review and community input.

# EDUCATE AND EMPOWER

#### **EXPLORE**



✓ What knowledge sharing and confidence building may have already happened around the issues underpinning your hypothetical scenario?

✓ What topics may have already been explored with communities leading to this hypothetical initiative?

## Scoping



- Early Impact Assessment: Scoping is an initial review to evaluate the potential effects—positive or negative—of a proposed environmental sustainability measure.
- Focus on Equity: It ensures that the impact on marginalised communities is considered from the outset.
- **Decision-Making Tool**: Especially useful when multiple options are on the table, helping organisations choose the most effective and equitable path forward.

### Information Gathering



- Purpose of Information Gathering: Conducted when initial scoping suggests potential impacts—positive or negative—on different community groups.
- Focus on Inclusion: Prioritises understanding effects on marginalised or underrepresented communities.
- **Supports Impact Assessment**: Provides essential insights to evaluate how proposed sustainability measures affect people.



- ✓ Is there initial evidence of potential positive or negative impacts on specific groups?
- ✓ Who might benefit or be harmed?
- ✓ Do you need to consider the impacts of the initiative further?

# INFORMATION GATHERING



- ✓ What do you already know?
- ✓ What do you need to find out?
- How can access further information?

### Conversations



- Inclusive Engagement: Conversations are led by a Lived Experience Lead or organisation to involve marginalised communities in environmental sustainability planning.
- Community-Centered Approach: Focuses on listening to those most affected, especially underrepresented voices.
- Informed Decision-Making: Ensures realworld impacts are understood and no one is left behind in sustainability efforts.



#### **CONVERSATIONS**

- ✓ How will you ensure all impacted voices are heard?
- ✓ What methods will you use to hold these conversations?
- ✓ What do you need to be cautious about?

### **Assess Impact**



- Collaborative Evaluation: Involves joint assessment between the Lived Experience Lead and the organisation.
- Impact Focus: Determines whether the sustainability measure affects marginalised communities positively, negatively, or neutrally.
- Informed Decision-Making: Builds on prior research and conversations to guide inclusive and equitable outcomes.

### **Action Plan**



- Collaborative Planning: The Lived Experience Lead and the organisation codevelop a clear and inclusive plan.
- Accountability & Clarity: The plan outlines specific steps to implement the proposed environmental change.
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#### **ASSESS IMPACT**

- ✓ What are the likely effects of this initiative on different groups?
- ✓ Are the impacts positive, negative, or neutral?
- ✓ Might there be unintended consequences?

#### **ACTION PLAN**

- ✓ What adaptations might be needed to the initiative?
- ✓ How can you reduce harm and maximise benefits?

### **Publish & Share**



- Final Approval & Communication: Senior management approves the sustainability measure, followed by transparent communication with affected communities about its impacts.
- Public Sharing & Trust Building: The measure and its development process are shared publicly to foster trust, accountability, and promote best practices.
- Reflection & Documentation: Lessons learned are reviewed and all actions are recorded in the Environmental Justice Template for future reference.

### **Monitor & Review**



- Ensures Ongoing Effectiveness:
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- Promotes Continuous Improvement: Emphasizes that monitoring is an ongoing process, not a final step.

# PUBLISH AND SHARE

- ✓ How will you share the initiative and any impact assessment with the community?
- ✓ Can you foresee any difficulties with this?

# MONITOR AND REVIEW



- ✓ How will you track the impacts of the initiative over time?
- ✓ Who will be responsible for monitoring this?

# Group Feedback





#### Hypothetical Scenario 1: Green Streets for All

How will you ensure coproduction is central to the decision-making process?

The local council of a mid-sized town is planning to implement a "Green Streets" initiative. The project involves converting several car-dominated streets into pedestrian-friendly green corridors with trees, seating, bike lanes, and community gardens. The goal is to reduce air pollution, encourage active travel, and improve public health.

The proposed streets run through a diverse, low-income neighbourhood with a high proportion of elderly residents, disabled individuals, and ethnic minority communities.

**HINT:** Concerns have been raised about:

- Reduced car access for those with mobility issues
- Gentrification and rising rents
- Lack of consultation with local residents



# Hypothetical Scenario 2: Solar for All – Rural Energy Equity Project

How will you ensure coproduction is central to the decision-making process?

A regional energy provider is partnering with the local council to roll out a "Solar for All" initiative. The project aims to install solar panels on homes in rural communities to reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills. The pilot area includes several villages with high fuel poverty rates, limited public transport, and aging populations.

#### **HINT:** Early feedback reveals concerns:

- Some residents fear the upfront costs or disruption during installation.
- There's limited digital access to apply for the scheme.
- Migrant agricultural workers and renters may be excluded.
- There's mistrust due to past infrastructure projects that didn't deliver promised benefits.



# Hypothetical Scenario 3: Resilient Riverside – Flood Adaptation with Equity

How will you ensure coproduction is central to the decision-making process?

A city council is launching the "Resilient Riverside" project to address increasing flood risks along a river that runs through a densely populated urban area. The plan includes constructing new flood barriers, creating green buffer zones, relocating some homes and businesses from high-risk zones.

#### The area includes:

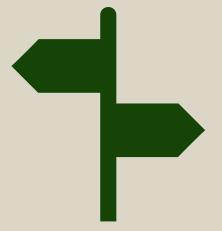
- •A large population of low-income renters
- Several small, family-run businesses
- •A long-established immigrant community
- •A public housing estate with limited mobility access

#### **HINT:** Concerns raised include:

- Displacement without adequate compensation
- Loss of cultural and community spaces
- Lack of accessible information about the project
- Fear of "green gentrification" pricing out current residents



# FEEDBACK AND NEXT STEPS





# Next steps

The Inclusive Environments

Framework in practice

• Sharing of Inclusive Environments

Framework

Follow up of impact





#### Useful links and contact

### Inclusive Environments Website

Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Commission

#### Local Voices Framework

- Professor Chantal Davies (Chantal.davies@chester.ac.uk)
- Dr Eghosa Ekhator (E.Ekhator @derby.ac.uk)
- Dr Kim Ross (kim.ross@chester.ac.uk)
- Dr Holly White (h.white@chester.ac.uk)

