



NAVCA Anti-Racist Group and Climate Network Combined Session

Tuesday 4th March 2025, 11am-12:30pm

The NAVCA Climate Network and the NAVCA Anti-Racist Group met to work through the intersectionality between climate and racial justice, and what we need to consider when tackling both of these issues. During this meeting, led by Judi Dumont-Barter from NAVCA member Inclusion Barnet, we used a set of provocations to guide the conversation, discussing members' thoughts, experiences and future intentions for this space. We will come back to this conversation later in the year, to explore our progress and further actions we can take as a network.

The set of provocations that were brought to the group included:

- how to make climate spaces inclusive, and act to combat institutional racism;
- challenging global climate related issues that oppress people from the global majority - for example, resource extraction in the Democratic Republic of Congo for phone batteries fuels wars and insurgency, and climate breakdown is driving migration.
- Understanding and challenging the intersection between race and climate locally. For example, Black and racially minoritised people in the UK are more likely to live in poor housing and suffer from pollution-related respiratory disease.
- That 25% of the behaviour change needed around climate change might come from individuals, but the remaining 75% needs to come from influencing government locally and nationally, highlighting the intersections with race
- Involving young people to drive change, amplifying and appreciating more informal networks.

By creating a safe space open to constructive challenge, we worked through issues from individual and community action, to the global context and the role we can play.

Some of us thought that we can make change by drawing a line from the small things we can do locally to the big global challenges – e.g. if we keep our phones longer there's less demand for minerals that drive conflicts and nature breakdown in the Global South. This could help to make conversations around climate action less overwhelming, whilst also being aware of the 'bigger picture' impact.

We were sure that a good starting point is identifying the common ground that makes life better for us in our communities – often this is food or enjoying nature. We had many examples of food as a way to bring people together and drive change.

We enthused and supported each other to “say it and it will be so” – to keep going in the face of slow change.



We recognised:

- Incremental changes are needed to address complex challenges faced as global majority communities are disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis, but are not the major contributors to it.
- Ensuring diverse voices can influence decisions is key. Without that voice, the needs of all communities will not be heard or met. As a sector, we need to do more to ensure that we deliver meaningful engagement with marginalised communities that leads to change in the projects we deliver and that we use our influence to ensure that our statutory partners take listening and acting seriously.
- Perhaps the most immediate (and long term) action is to build trust between different groups and communities, to work together. Cohesion is at the heart of the climate movement.
- We need to develop our language, to be confident to talk about these issues, and confident to make mistakes and accept them with humility.
- Actions which address climate change aren't always labelled as such. Problem solving and actions in community to save money often also save the planet. This could be recognised more explicitly and shared more widely.
- The intergenerational aspects of climate change matter, we need to support and recognise young people's action, which might be more informal.

The group started to tackle some big questions where we didn't feel we have a lot of answers:

- How can NAVCA members be better allies to challenge the white and middle classness of the climate movement (perhaps of our own climate projects too?)
- If about 75% of the changes that we need to make to limit climate change are national or international scale policy changes what can and should LIOs do to influence change?
- If one way to influence change is to get involved in campaigning what can and should LIOs do? (NAVCA members aren't campaigning organisations and probably shouldn't be?)

We ended with a commitment to personal action. That might be "just keep going"; an affirmation that we're not perfect, nor will we take perfect action, but we can continue to drive change and inspire others to do so.

Action you can take

We will come back the intersectionality of racism and climate change at future meetings of both networks.



We would love to hear any answers you have to our big unanswered questions, to hear your experiences, to explore issues we have considered yet and understand more about what you are doing to build common ground. Send us an email at comms@navca.org.uk