Catalysing Bank Climate Action Lessons from the Inside

Report Launch
29 June 2022

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Explore the report

Catalysing bank climate action
Insights from the inaugural Climate Safe Lending Fellowship

Available at www.climatesafelending.org/catalysing-bank-climate-action

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‘Banking system map’, Finance Innovation Lab 2022
Climate intrapreneur (n): A banking professional seeking to embed climate action within the core strategy, operations and culture of their institution.
Banking system
What kind of a banking system is fit for purpose in a just and regenerative economy?

Banking institutions
How can banks close the gap between their commitments and where they are today?

Banking professionals
How can climate intrapreneurs help their bank transition more rapidly?

Climate campaigners
How can campaigners and climate intrapreneurs ally for a common goal?

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Banking system

Eutrophication
Poverty
Biodiversity loss
Health
Ecotoxicity
Education
Air pollutants
Inequality
Overconsumption
Resource scarcity
Affordable goods and services

Carbon emissions
Sustainability transition

Adapted from ‘Carbon Tunnel Vision’ by Jan Konietzko

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“As financial services professionals, we often don’t live in our native land or the land of our ancestors. We live and work in cities. And yet, we are trying to make changes from a multi-storey skyscraper for the benefit of something that is separate from us and ‘out there’. How do we rekindle and strengthen that connection?”

CSL Fellow 21/22

Adapted from ‘Carbon Tunnel Vision’ by Jan Konietzko
Banking institutions

Climate as no-one’s job  →  Climate as someone’s job  →  Climate as everyone’s job

‘The climate transformation journey in banks’; Finance Innovation Lab 2022
Climate transformation

Transformation and change management
- Corporate purpose and strategy
- Leadership and governance
- Organisation design and processes
- Behaviour and culture change
- Performance and incentives
- Skills and capability development

Sustainability
- Targets and commitments
- Transition plans
- Measurement, disclosure and reporting
- Fossil fuel divestment
- Client engagement
- Financing innovation anddrawdown

‘Climate transformation in banks’, Finance Innovation Lab 2022
“We are winning awards for ESG but we’re not doing it.”

CSL Fellow 21/22

“Internally, we need to raise awareness about what is actually green. Because there are no overarching standards, organisations feel they can get away with light disclosures.”

CSL Fellow 21/22

“Everyone cares about the upside and doesn’t want to make any tough decisions about leaving industries.”

CSL Fellow 21/22

“Depending on what business a bank is in, finding the new loans is hard. For example, we’re not in the business of wind farms or making the blades for turbines. We don’t have that internal capability.”

CSL Fellow 21/22
Making climate everyone’s job

• Integrate climate into all decision making
• Evolving the role of sustainability teams
• Building the capability of colleagues
Self:
What is within my control to change?
- Identify activities where you can have the greatest impact
- Embrace experimentation over perfection
- Maintain personal wellbeing for long-term effectiveness

Allies:
Who else is working towards the same goal?
- Identify and convene allies
- Facilitate action by and between others
- Listen deeply and ask powerful questions

Influencers:
How can I influence those with decision-making power?
- Cultivate curiosity to build deep understanding
- Use both stories and data
- Bring outside voices in
- Ensure changes are locked in
- Pay attention to timing and context

‘Climate intrapreneurship strategies in banks’, Finance Innovation Lab 2022
How can climate intrapreneurs and campaigners ally for a common goal?
Climate campaigners

**Shame**

“You’re a bad person”
Denies shared humanity
Disempowering
Leads to shutdown

**Accountability**

“You’re not doing your job”
Acknowledges shared humanity
Empowering
Leads to action

‘Shame vs accountability’, Finance Innovation Lab 2022
Opportunities for campaigners

- Change regulation
- Target boards & decision makers
- Share your expertise
Explore & share the report

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What is one thing that has surfaced for you about your role in bank climate action?

Type your answer into the chat.
Join the **Climate Safe Lending Fellowship**
2022/2023

A six-month leadership development programme for banking professionals advancing the climate agenda within their institutions
The Fellowship helped me **make and hold time to think about Climate action from a different perspective** with diverse voices from around the world. Very useful in a busy, fast paced and often stressful space - it was particularly **useful to connect with practitioners also in the trenches** and learn from each other.

**Cllr Rishi Madlani**  
Head of Climate & Sustainable Finance  
NatWest Group

The Fellowship helped me **look deeper and challenge my own responses and way of doing things** so I could become more aware and effective in my interventions. The availability of resources to dip back into and build my own resource library is invaluable.

**Belinda Scott**  
Head of Sustainability  
Gulf International Bank
Apply now
Applications close
Mon 26 Sep

Join a taster
Mon 11 July
Wed 14 Sep

Get in touch
ally@financeinnovationlab.org

Find out more at
climatesafelending.org/fellowship

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What is one thing you’re taking with you from this session?

Type your answer into the chat.