

Ethnic Minority Communities Participation in Environmental projects



About CEMVO Scotland

- Intermediary, Anti-Racist and Network Organisation
- Strategic partner of Scottish Government's Equality, Human Rights and Inclusion Directorate
- Building capacity and sustainability EM voluntary sector & communities.
- Projects include:
 - Race Environmental Equality Programme
 - Ethnic Minority Environmental Network
 - social enterprise support,
 - support young EM individuals into employment
 - Human Rights programme
 - Race equality mainstreaming support to the public and third sectors
- Gather evidence to provide supportive services and strategic input to public, statutory and government bodies.



Bridging the gap between EM communities, organizations and policy makers

1

Advocate for inclusive environmental policies and ensure ethnic minority voices are heard at all levels.

2

Delivering training and tailored support to build capacity and empower communities in climate adaptation and resilience.

3

Encouraging participation in sustainable practices through targeted community initiatives.

4

Organizing workshops and networking events to connect communities with policymakers and environmental organizations.

Environmental Projects at CEMVO

- Race Equality Environment Programme
- Ethnic Minority Environment Programme
- Climate Hubs
- Scottish EM Womens Network Network

Why the focus on the environmental sector?

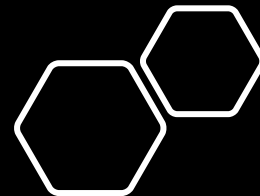
**Environment sector
- 2nd least racially
diverse after
farming/agriculture**

The UK climate sector is very unrepresentative in terms of ethnic diversity

4.81% of 'environment professionals' identify as Black, Asian or from other minority ethnic groups,

In comparison with...

12.64% across all UK professions.



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- ✓ EM Communities are significantly underrepresented in environmental initiatives,
 - ✓ Despite being disproportionately affected by environmental issues such as pollution, climate change, and access to green spaces.

Where does this lack of engagement stem from:

- Systemic question is yet to be answered regarding exclusion from the environmental sector.
- Where they live and work - social divide- less likely to have access to green spaces
- Economic divide- Rising costs of sustainable living. Fuel poverty
- Perception - do EM perceive and engage with climate change differently? - This is a million-dollar question yet to answered

Question of perception



Research: EM are more likely to report personal impact from climate injustice than white respondents.



They perceive climate change as a serious and urgent threat at higher rates. - *watch ants and grasshoppers film*



EM report significantly higher levels of climate anxiety, affecting mental health and wellbeing.



Ethnic Minority
Environmental Network

- ❖ Building capacity of EM community groups to take climate action
- ❖ Over 150 EM groups funded through the climate challenge fund
- ❖ Creating a platform for diverse voices to be heard in response to the climate emergency
- ❖ Fostering discussions between mainstream org and EM
- ❖ Increased rep in the climate justice action

Examples of projects : WWF-UKRSPB-UK National Trust Aviva Changeworks,

- ❑ Facilitate Nature walks and learning experiences for EM communities



Engage in climate action dialogue by bringing EM communities in the same room with environmental organisations social and networking learning events



- **Example of Project : Energy Saving for All**

A partnership between CEMVO Scotland and Changeworks, this project aims to support ethnic minority communities across Scotland by increasing awareness of energy efficiency, achieving affordable energy usage, and reducing carbon footprints. The initiative provides energy advice and organizes events to educate and assist community members.



Energy saving online workshop
 PRESENTED BY KATHLEEN FROM CHANGEWORCS,
 TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY 2024, FROM 01.00-02:30PM

Find ways to create a warmer and energy efficient home with us. Lower your energy bills, learn to keep your home warm and explore more.

Also get a chance to access further support if needed. To make an enquiry, or to secure your place on the workshop please email kvaughn@changeworks.org.uk

Free service : Please note this is a free service fully funded by British Gas Energy Trust aimed to support minoritized ethnic householders.

CHANGEWORCS.  

Skill Development and capacity building

Empowering Our Members: Pathways to Skills & Qualifications

- *Career Progression: Climate Ambassadors Programme (under development by our EMEN Officer)*
- *Our Commitment: Connecting members to opportunities, certifications, and growth*
- *Building confidence, enhancing representation, and unlocking potential.*

Environmental Projects across Scotland

Greener Kirkcaldy: Focused on improving EDI practices, Greener Kirkcaldy works with ethnic minority and faith groups to co-develop inclusive climate action strategies. Their approach includes community consultations, culturally appropriate energy advice, and workshops tailored to diverse audiences.

Glasgow Community Food Network: The network integrates racial and climate justice themes into their food-growing projects, ensuring that marginalized communities have access to healthy, sustainable food options and a voice in climate resilience strategies. Some thought into growing local African food for example

Black Scottish Adventures (BSA) is a community initiative that encourages Black individuals and ethnic minorities in Scotland to explore the outdoors, connect with nature, and engage in adventure activities. BSA aims to break down barriers to outdoor participation by fostering a sense of belonging and representation in outdoor spaces.

Moving Forward

- **Continue to facilitate early and equitable co-creation in decision-making processes involving EM communities and mainstream organisations**
- **Recognizing and celebrating community partnerships.**