

Climate Change Day – Speaker Biographies



Polly Cook, Chief Officer for Sustainable Energy and Air Quality with Leeds City Council. Since December 2015 Polly has led the council's breakthrough programme for cutting carbon and improving air quality. The team she manages work across a whole range of schemes such as housing energy efficiency, solar, deep dive energy audits, clean air zone implementation etc.

Richard Charlton is an actuary at Deloitte who has over 25 years' financial services experience across the pensions and life insurance sectors. He has performed senior roles across all three lines of defence and has focused on Risk oversight and management over the past 10 years. Richard has built an understanding of the implications that climate change may have on the insurance sector and has spoken at various industry events on the topic. He also works with a team at Deloitte that develops models in relation to the financial impacts of climate change.



Martin Watson is a Director in Deloitte's financial services practice, focused on the insurance sector. He moved up to Leeds a few years ago, having spent the last 10 years in the London practice. An accountant by background, Martin has assisted numerous clients in thinking through what future developments in the insurance industry mean for the risks their businesses face and the impact on their financial and regulatory reporting. More recently this has included what they can do to try and reduce their climate impact.

Becky Talbot is an experienced Mental Health First Aid trainer, counsellor and coach with a passion for improving the wellbeing of individuals and organisations. She joined Oakwood Training in 2018 and for the past 10 years has worked for the University of Leicester as their Senior Mental Wellbeing Facilitator and Coach whilst also providing one to one mental health support to students. Becky also sits on the National Training Team for Mental Health First Aid England and is also an associate trainer with Student Minds. Becky has a wealth of personal and professional experience that allows her to bring learning to life.



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Yasmine Svan is a member of the Sustainability & Responsible Investment Team at Legal and General Investment Management. She project manages LGIM's climate change engagements with portfolio companies, producing research on sustainability themes and contributing to the integration of Ethical and Sustainable goals in mainstream investment processes.

Chris Sharp is Assistant Community Curator at the Leeds Industrial Museum at Armley Mills and Thwaite Mills. Having worked at the Leeds Industrial Museum for around 18 months the 'Flood Response' exhibition was Chris' 1st Major exhibition at this site. Prior to working at Armley Mills Chris was based at Abbey House Museum next to Kirkstall Abbey.



Professor Stephen Bottoms who will be performing 'Too Much of Water' for us is 'Professor of Contemporary Theatre and Performance' at the University of Manchester. Prior to being based in Manchester Stephen was a Professor of Drama and Theatre Studies for 7 years at the University of Leeds. He has a specific interest in developing performances in contexts of environmental change which led to the creation of 'Too much water' and a further series 'After the Flood'.