

## The World Future Council (WFC)

The World Future Council Initiative was launched in London in October 2004, having first been mooted by Swedish-German writer and activist Jakob von Uexküll in 2000. The idea was to create a global council made up of wise elders, thinkers, pioneers and young leaders who could collectively become a voice of future generations.

The project was developed by Jakob von Uexküll and Herbert Girardet as a response to the apparent inability of global politics to take the necessary steps to secure a liveable world for future generations. It was apparent there was no shortage of good proposals for tackling the problems we face, but that the existing institutions seemed incapable of making the most of these ideas.

In May 2007 the WFC was formally founded in the town hall of Hamburg, Germany. Thirty-four Council members from twenty-two countries solemnly declared that “we will do everything in our power to help sustain life on earth with all its beauty and diversity for future generations.”

There are now 50 councillors. The WFC has offices in four countries and a total staff of 25. It is actively supported by an international Board of Advisors. The WFC aims to match global challenges with appropriate solutions: what are the most effective policies for accelerating renewable energies, for creating sustainable cities, for regulating international financial markets, for assuring justice for future generations? How can best policy solutions be transferred from one country to another?

The most important WFC bodies are its *Expert Commissions* – ‘think-and-do tanks’ – comprised of Council members, external experts and WFC staff. The commissions set up so far focus on Climate and Energy, Cities and Climate Change, Future Justice, Future Finance, and Living Economies.

*The Climate and Energy Commission* aims to spread effective legislation for climate protection. In seminars and websites (such as [www.onlinepact.org](http://www.onlinepact.org)) it offers support to policy-makers keen to introduce appropriate legislation. Since 2006 the WFC has promoted ‘Feed-in Tariffs’ (FITs) which deliver renewable energy faster, cheaper and more equitably than any other policy. Several countries and US states have now introduced FITs, clearly referring to the influence of the WFC.

*The Cities and Climate Change Commission* seeks to improve urban resource efficiency and increased use of renewable energy through suitable policies and improved city planning. As cities consume some 80 percent of global energy resources and emit the largest share of greenhouse gases, a change in the way cities function is of critical importance for a sustainable world.

*The Future Justice Commission* has the goal of protecting the rights of Future Generations through best policy promotion and worst behaviour denunciation. The WFC has developed Future Justice indicators, principles and standards which integrate human rights and security, ecological integrity and peaceful relations, and which guide the work of the Commission.

*The Future Finance Commission* is working on a new vision of the global financial system. It is developing concrete policy proposals on the global challenges of poverty, climate change and the destruction of natural resources. Money should serve people and the planet, and financial markets should assure human security and wellbeing for all – including future generations.

*The Living Economies programme*, closely related to the topics Future Finance and Justice, is working to develop new economic thinking and governance proposals based on respect of and responsibility for natural and social wealth and fundamental human freedoms.

Through its Council members and advisors, the WFC is able to reach national and international decision-makers, and members of the international community, promoting a sustainable, just and peaceful future where the dignity of human beings, and our connectedness to the integrity of life on earth, is universally respected and supported.

For further information please access our website: [www.worldfuturecouncil.org](http://www.worldfuturecouncil.org)

