

# 'Together for implementation'

## – could this be the way to net zero?



Blog

**COP27**  
SHARM EL-SHEIKH  
2022 EGYPT

Continuing this train of thought on the strengths of our leaders, another article I read recently came to mind. [Paul Battye's blog](#) discusses leadership styles as being transformational or visionary. Charlotte (Pensions for Purpose's CEO) and I talked about our leadership approaches and agreed that, while I was more in the transformational camp, she had both visionary and transformational leadership skills. Her visionary skills are valuable and necessary to us, as we grow Pensions for Purpose. Yet I wonder whether our COP meetings have become too heavy on vision. Is now the time to focus on transformation? My guess is this was the desire underpinning the strap line 'Together for implementation'.

### The press

My final observation is about the press coverage. When I think back to the past few weeks, the national press wrote far more about Rishi Sunak not attending COP 27, and him 'forbidding' King Charles to attend, than they wrote about what he actually said when he was there. Even some of the commentaries on his speech divert from his content, with inflammatory headlines such as: "Rishi Sunak has just been rushed out of the room by his aides during the middle of the launch for forests partnership", "Rishi Sunak blasted for 'tepid' COP27 speech as world on 'highway to climate hell'" ... and let's face it, the press swiftly moved on to Matt Hancock's appearance in 'I'm a celebrity'. Let's get our priorities right, after all!

There are some passionate, committed and well-informed environmental journalists who continue to focus on the right things, and I thank those of you who write so eloquently and persuasively on this agenda. But the bottom line is we need the rest of the press to put more emphasis on the real need to implement climate action measures, to transform our world to make it sustainable, and to

encourage readers so that "everybody, everywhere in the world, every single day, (is) doing everything they possibly can to address the climate crisis."

I'd like to ask you all to reflect on this: what is your personal contribution to that goal likely to be?

● **Karen Shackleton is the Chair and Founder of Pensions for Purpose.**

investment approaches!

Following an interesting discussion at Resonance, about the strengths of the team and how this could feed into the future growth of the business, led me to consider the Clifton Strengths leaders may have exhibited at COP27.

My hypothesis is they would be overwhelmingly strong on strategic thinking, and hopefully high on influencer and relationship building strengths too... but my assertion is we would find them weaker in the executing domain.

Certainly, when we look at the outcomes of COP26, there were important influencing domain outcomes including the Glasgow Climate Pact and the completion of the Paris Alignment Rulebook... and four executing domain goals were agreed:

- Accelerate the phase-out of coal.
- Curtail deforestation.
- Speed up the switch to electric vehicles.
- Encourage investment in renewables.

But how did we actually fare in terms of progress? I recommend this [BBC article](#) which addresses this question in detail, so I shan't repeat it here... but the bottom line is that global emissions are still expected to increase 10.6% by 2030 compared to 2010, rather than the IPCC's estimate that temperatures need to fall by 45% by 2030 to keep us on track for a 1.5 degree world.

“The heart of implementation is everybody, everywhere in the world, every single day, doing everything they possibly can to address the climate crisis.”  
**Simon Stiell**

## By Karen Shackleton

This blog reflects on the importance of COP27 and how it can, ultimately, lead to net zero by 2050, if everyone stops 'suggesting' and starts 'acting'



The slogan for COP27 has been well publicised: **'Together for implementation'**. Indeed, at the opening ceremony of COP27, UN Climate Change Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell, observed "The heart of implementation is everybody, everywhere in the world, every single day, doing everything they possibly can to address the climate crisis."

Who wouldn't agree with this? Yet over the course of my career, I have sat in many meetings where the conversation has run along the lines of 'what we should do is...' The more senior the individuals in the room are, the more likely this phrase seems to pop up, and the longer the discussion around 'what we should do is...' seems to take. I'll be perfectly honest; this drives me absolutely nuts. I'm a self-confessed doer, I like people who come to me with solutions, with an action plan on how to move forward. I tend to surround myself with people who are prepared to roll up their sleeves and quite simply just get on with the task in hand. Not simply sitting around and talking about what needs to be done.

But that's my personal perspective, and I've trying to reflect in a more balanced way on the value of COP27 and how it can, ultimately, lead to tangible outcomes towards our global goal of net zero by 2050.

### Strengths and traits

I chair the Board of [Resonance](#), an impact manager finding housing solutions for people facing crisis. At our recent board meeting, we had a discussion about the organisation-wide [Clifton Strengths](#) analysis. Clifton Strengths asserts there are four domains in organisations:

- Executing.
- Influencing.
- Relationship building.
- Strategic thinking.

An effective organisation needs a balance of strengths across these four domains but individuals in different roles are likely to exhibit different strengths. For example, I score highly on the 'Influencing' domain. That's probably a good thing given Pensions for Purpose is encouraging the pensions sector to move towards more purposeful