

A photograph of two people standing in silhouette, looking out a large window at a cityscape. The person on the left is wearing a dark jacket and has a red reflective strip on their back. The person on the right is wearing a dark jacket. The window shows a view of a city with buildings, a river, and a bridge. The text is overlaid on the image.

Moving Beyond

Where we've been, where we're going...

December 2024



2024. What a year!

Feels MovingBeyond truly did move beyond..

Around about this time last year Jamie, Maria and I went into deep hibernation reflecting on our first three years and what we had learnt.

Jamie then hosted Maria and I in the most beautiful home nestled in a beautiful part of the Kent countryside. Only an hour from London but we could have been in rural Cumbria or Devon. The sun was out into the evening as the three of us did a running jump holding hands into a gorgeous fresh water pond nestled up next to the house. Poor Jamie picked up a shocking stomach bug and missed out as Maria and I headed off to Newham for two days. What an adventure. It was a part of London Maria knew well and was largely all new to me. We were beautifully hosted by the Royal Docks Team and I fell in love with the place.

More importantly I also fell in love with Maria. I've always been a slow learner. Ask my girlfriend/wife of nearly 40 years! It was so clear Maria leads MovingBeyond. She is MovingBeyond. Jamie and I knew we were going to do everything we could to support Maria and help get our initiative off the ground. And that meant deep love and support for Maria to be in her magic.

In reality, fundraising was even harder this year than ever before, but we kept the faith. We knew something had happened in Teesside that gave us all a sense we were building something very special. Each year from Findhorn to Wales and to Teesside we are continually learning.

It was clear MovingBeyond had created a way of being and operating that enabled corporates, investors and government to step in and see the real-world challenges we face in new ways. Whether that is around energy, transport, food, health, education, community building, biodiversity ... a deep understanding that to achieve Net Zero 2035 and new sustainable ways of living would require all aspects of how we live and operate to be rethought. At the same time, it helped those active in community and at grassroots see those working for a multinational bank or major oil company beyond an image or personal transaction. To realise that even these large corporations are made up of people who deeply care about the planet, their community and the well-being of future generations.

Maria, Jamie and I also recognised we were no longer on our own. The MB family had grown, and the level of support and love was just extraordinary. Playful ideas we had pre-MovingBeyond Scotland in Wales in 2020 were actually starting to play out. Three years of beautiful relations had turned into tight bonds. Real MB self-run projects had kicked off.

Maria, Jamie and the wider MB design team created three days of utter magic in Newham. 55 Organisations and around 90 odd people attended. But more importantly the quality of the conversations and relationships were extraordinary. And most recently, over the last few months we have reached out to our corporate partners post the event and have realised something has changed. The level of support for MovingBeyond is now quite extraordinary.

It has meant that the three things we wanted to 'fix' from near the outset had become more viable. We wanted to have the funds to better listen and support the corporate partners. We wanted to ensure we don't just walk away from a place like Teesside or Newham but can connect the corporates to the community groups looking for support. We wanted to be able to better serve the MB projects and help them expand. And finally, we wanted to create an 'always-on' initiative rather than just run an annual event.

As we step into 2025, we will be asking our corporate partners and personal members to fund us at the outset of the year and not a few weeks before the event. It has also become clear there will be other revenue streams for us, like training and development, that NatWest helped kick off this year. This is when a corporate or local authority might look for our support. And for the first time we want to explore how we can build on the extraordinary relationships we have built in Newham and step in the wider Just Transition for London. We will explore if MB should be going to the West Country or the Midlands or another industrial hub or Aberdeen or back to Teesside...

With the kind support of Clifford Chance, we will also explore a charity model that will enable MB to scale, and how we do this without losing the intimacy of what we have created. I can only speak for myself, but 2024 has been by the far the best year yet. It has reinforced in me why MovingBeyond was set up and has helped me to learn how to step out of the way of progress.

We talk about the three legs of the stool being critical to success. (Three legs = Jamie, Maria and I. Stool = MB leadership team) And how we pay attention to the health of each leg so each of our uniqueness can shine through and be used in service. But of course MovingBeyond has three much bigger legs ... society, business and government sitting on mother nature, and indeed, all of you. Thank you for all that you are, and all that you do.

Love to all and wishing you a great break,

Simon Milton, Co-Founder MovingBeyond.



What is MovingBeyond?

MovingBeyond ('MB') is a not-for-profit (Company Limited by Guarantee) bringing together business, government, civic society to accelerate the UK's response to climate change and promote more sustainable ways of life. Since 2021, we have been travelling the UK convening, facilitating and catalysing events and projects, whilst growing a community of diverse leaders committed to speeding up the just transition and the journey to NetZero UK.

We are a small core team, but our wider network of 'MB-ers' now spans the four corners of the UK, covering many sectors and topic areas related to sustainable development.

Our annual flagship event, which has so far travelled to Scotland, Wales, Teesside and London, is one carefully designed to take a cohort of attendees on a 3-day journey. Whilst we know this can be tricky to commit to for many, we try to insist on the three days because we know building trust takes time. Here, we convene diverse stakeholders to connect deep into community. Learning through and with our sense of place, we create a space for intimate connection, cultivating fresh perspectives and respect for each of our own place on the journey. Whether you're a senior executive at a multinational firm, or a volunteer on a grassroots project, at MB we are equal. We're creating a forum to see and hear each other more fully, and find ways to help each other.

Reflections on MB Newham 14-16 October 2024

Newham, situated in East London and bordered by the River Thames, is one of the most diverse boroughs in the country. More than 102 languages are spoken in Newham, and its residents come from a rich mix of ethnicities and communities. Newham has played a key role in London's past and present - it hosted the 2012 Summer Olympics, is home to the major commercial and cultural centre of Stratford, and includes the historic 12th century St. Mary's Church and the Abbey Mills Pumping Centre. Newham is also home to the Royal Docks, one of the most significant regeneration projects in the UK and London's only Enterprise Zone. This innovative initiative brings together a wide range of stakeholders and a multi-disciplinary team to deliver an ambitious £314 million investment programme to transform the Royal Docks into a vibrant, mixed-use destination with culture and community at its heart.

Alongside this diversity and vibrancy, Newham Council is also at the forefront of local climate action. In December 2023, Newham Council's Cabinet approved the first Just Transition Plan in the UK. Developed in partnership with Dark Matter Labs and Arup, this plan sets out six key areas of focus and supporting enablers through which Newham can ensure the transition to net zero is done in as fair and inclusive a way as possible.

During this year's event we were able to experience firsthand some of the initiatives which place Newham at the forefront of local climate action and economic regeneration in the country. Local projects are working to deliver a transformation in housing, workplaces, energy systems, and transport across the borough alongside a transition towards a more sustainable way of living. It's clear to see, these types of local initiatives can significantly reduce the cost and accelerate the progress of the transition to Net Zero while ensuring that different communities benefit and that their voices are heard.

Over the course of three days we learned more about the importance of local climate action, how we as individuals and organisations can drive changes in our own communities, and connected and shared experiences with others across a wide range of backgrounds and perspectives. Above all, Moving Beyond 2024 served as a continued reminder that everyone has something to give in support of a just transition, and by taking action together we can achieve more than we could ever hope to alone.



MB Newham '24

Attendees



“

I was unsure what MovingBeyond was and felt so anxious to be in a room with people in such powerful roles. My heart racing, fearing being 'just a nobody'. With some encouragement from the team, I threw myself into the conference and slowly realised how lovely everyone was. So, I went from feeling insignificant to realising I really did move mountains even if it was from a container in E16. I was made to feel like I belonged, which is a foreign feeling for me especially as I am open about my Neurodiversity and mental health.

As an advocate I often feel isolated and in despair. I now feel supported! Josie has helped me with the HMRC paperwork (that I was hiding from), Maria supported me when we lost our essential storage, and Gee managed me find storage in an abandoned pub in my area. Spana's Rekalibrator is on my wall and look at it daily. I will never forget the encouragement I felt "You are a Giant!" Literally WOW! The words from James "you need to stop putting out fires" is my daily mantra and this is enabling me to start to build a team, a support network.

My mindset was genuinely changed over the 3 days and can't thank MB enough for repairing my belief in change being possible. I don't understand a lot of the policies and politics, but I do know how to change people's lives for the better with reusing and recycling.

”

- Daniell Hambrook (Local resident)
Founder of Newham Wellness & Scope3CE project





“

What a fantastic time we had at Moving Beyond 2024 in Newham.

This movement is unique in connecting across industries and systems to co-create a coalition of movers. To nurture radical collaboration, hope and action while learning about what we have to prepare hard for and the steps we must waste no time in taking, in order to bravely do what we can to abate the worst impacts of climate change on our communities and ecosystems, which include us of course! There is no time like now to act. No further pound should be spent in service of an economy which is not sustainable. No job should not understand the part it has to play in reducing emissions and regenerating nature.

If you're waiting for someone else to do this then look in the mirror. And know you are not alone. Start. ”

”

- Judith Irons

Food Systems and Sustainability Director
2 Sisters Food Group

“

Moving Beyond was truly “moving”. It opened my eyes to concepts, movements and policies relating to climate change about which I previously knew little. On a practical level, it provided contacts locally and much further beyond.

It is so reassuring to know that support and encouragement is available within the MB community and motivating to realise the faith and admiration visitors to my home area expressed in what ordinary people in a local community can achieve. I feel very proud and privileged that MB gave me an opportunity to showcase a small part of that through leading a field trip to Beckton Itchycoo Pond, and enlightened by the reports back from the other field trips.

I see the mission of Moving Beyond as promoting more sustainable ways of life and collaborating with those who have the power to accelerate UK Net Zero but, from my perspective, it has a particular role to play in building and empowering local communities to exercise their influence.

”

- Alison McLucas (Local resident)
Schools' Liaison / Education Specialist, Community Gardens
Volunteer





“

It was a pleasure to be able to join Moving Beyond for a second year. The way Moving Beyond manages to bring together such a wide variety of people – from finance and engineering experts, to local residents and community leaders – while ensuring that everyone has a chance to offer their input and learn something new is incredibly impressive and unique.

As someone who works on public policy issues related to net zero and economic regeneration, it was also incredibly valuable to be able to hear directly from the Newham community about why local policymaking is important.

It can be easy to get lost in the high level picture or the numbers sometimes, but this year’s Moving Beyond helped illustrate how climate and regeneration policy actually works at a local level and the substantial benefits it can bring.

”

- Alex Katz

Consultant, Frontier Economics.

“

I found MovingBeyond to be a much needed reflective and inspiring experience – providing me with clarity and support on my journey balancing personal resilience, impact and leadership.

The genuine collaboration (during and post event) between community and corporate attendees was inspiring, demonstrating the MB ‘theory of change’ live. The connections I made feel lasting and am enjoying being part of the MovingBeyond movement.

Thank you and highly recommended. ”

- Becci Taylor

Director (Retrofit at Scale Leader), Arup. Part of the team responsible for developing the UK’s first Just Transition Plan with London Borough of Newham Council.



On the ground in Newham:

Exploring local initiatives

THE LENDLEASE SILVERTOWN PROJECT

Lendlease is transforming East London's historic Silvertown into a vibrant, mixed-use community. Combining residential, commercial, and cultural spaces with waterfront living, it emphasises sustainability, innovation, and connectivity. The development includes modern homes, workspaces, green spaces, and improved transport, celebrating the area's industrial heritage while shaping an inclusive, forward-looking neighbourhood in the Royal Docks.

OUTDOOR PEOPLE (OPAL)

The OPAL project at Gallions Reach School enhances outdoor learning and play, creating an engaging environment for nature-based activities. Through saving items from landfill it gives these to schools to foster active play. This aims to boost creativity, well-being, resilience, teamwork, and a connection to nature beyond the classroom.

THE LINE

The Line is a 1.5-mile public art trail in East London, linking Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park to The O2. Featuring contemporary sculptures and installations by renowned artists, it blends art with the urban landscape. The trail makes art accessible while boosting the area's cultural appeal, inviting exploration and engagement with local landmarks and world-class works.

CODY DOCK

Along East London's River Lea, is a community-led project turning a neglected dock into a hub for arts, culture, and nature. It offers creative spaces, workshops, and trails for walking and cycling. Hosting events like art exhibitions and environmental activities, Cody Dock fosters community and sustainability. Part of the Lea River Park development, it connects people to the area's natural and industrial heritage while promoting creativity and community spirit.

WEST SILVERTOWN FOUNDATION

Offers a full program of activities for all ages, from babies and under-5s to primary-age children and older youth through its Youth Club. Adults can participate in social activities, community events, and wellbeing events. The West Silvertown Foundation creates a vibrant and inclusive hub for the local community, providing essential services for some of the most vulnerable residents.

BECKTON ITCHYCOO POND

This tranquil nature reserve offering a peaceful retreat within the urban setting. Restored by local volunteers, the pond is part of Beckton District Park and supports diverse wildlife, making it a favourite for birdwatching and outdoor activities. With walking trails and green spaces, it invites residents and visitors to connect with nature.

THE RESPACE REINSTATE PROJECT

Newham Council partnered with ReSpace Projects to transform the Tate Institute into a modern, versatile community space. Collaborating with local artists and organisations, it hosts workshops, exhibitions, and events, fostering community engagement.



Key moments

MovingBeyond Newham 2024

Saving the West Silvertown Foundation's Home

As part of the event, we learned about the wonderful work of Helen Fernandes, CEO of West Silvertown Foundation and Minister of Royal Docks Community Church.

We visited her amazing organisation, but it felt bittersweet as she shared she was soon going to have redundancy conversations with her staff the following day, as their landlord had served an eviction notice.

Luckily, a fellow MB attendee, Misty Twigg co-founder of local forest school kin, knew the developer. In a matter of hours, the message got to the right person and Helen received the good news that she didn't have to move her project. This is just one example of the MB magic that came to life beautifully during our event in Newham.

Find out more about [West Silvertown Foundation](https://wsfroyaldocks.org) and how you can support this important community group: <https://wsfroyaldocks.org>

You can also find out about Misty's organisation, [Kinship in Nature](https://www.kinshipinnature.com) or 'Kin', dedicated to promoting well-being for children and adults through connections with nature: <https://www.kinshipinnature.com>



'THIS WAS NOT A LUXURY'

by Kirsten Luckins

15 October 2024.

...Be kind to yourselves, you new throtopian future-facers,
openers of doors, custodians of places,
you time-served tellers of truth, you champions of our youth,
you change-accelerators, you not-yet-too-laters...

Praise you and every micro-beaded beat of your gob-smacked
hearts,
bless the hope you are seeding, the connections you are feeling,
this human-to-human turning in an entangled world.

Listen –

Something wants to happen through you.

Call it future, call it unbroken hope, call it anger, call it spirit,
call it 'call to action' – just, lean close to your heart
and hear it.

An excerpt from the MovingBeyond 2024 conference poem.

[Click here to listen to the full version.](#)





Acknowledgements

MovingBeyond wouldn't be possible without the support of our generous funders and partners. From those who have been with us from the start, to the new supporters who are essential in helping us grow and evolve, your contributions are having a big impact.

We are especially grateful to individuals and smaller organisations, alongside the volunteers and core crew that help bring the MovingBeyond event to life. It is this long-term commitment that allows us to create lasting change. Thank you!

In addition, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our generous Newham hosts, who kindly donated their space and resources at no cost to support MovingBeyond:

RAD London (Days 1 & 3)

RAD London is transforming the Royal Docks into a global innovation hub, blending art, technology, and community to foster growth and connections for creatives, businesses, and residents.

University of East London Royal Docks Centre for Sustainability (Day 2)

RDCS is a research hub that addresses environmental challenges through interdisciplinary collaboration, community engagement, and sustainable solutions.

Good Hotel (Evening and Overnight)

Floating on the water at Royal Victoria Dock, Good Hotel donates its profits to building schools in Guatemala and trains local people in hospitality in partnership with the London Borough of Newham.

We also want to thank all our amazing attendees and speakers, who contributed valuable insights and made the event a success:

Jacob Heitland – Newham Council

Matt Davies – Royal Docks Team

Rawnak Jassm – Royal Docks Team

Joy-Caron Carter – OneNewham

Jamie Arbib – Rethink X

Indy Johar – Dark Matter Labs

Charlotte Blommestijn – Kaluza

Helena Farstad – Climate Majority Project

Karen Downes – Flourish Initiative

Grant Aaron – 3CI

Jane Davidson – Wales Net Zero 2035

Cath Prisk – Outdoor People

Rupert Read – Climate Majority Project

Steve Turner – 3CI

Last but not least, thank you to our corporate membership, donors and supporters. Without your generosity the event simply wouldn't have happened. Bain, bp, Clifford Chance, HSBC, NatWest group, Rethinkx and Shell.

Your support sustains our mission and motivates the team every day. Each of you plays a crucial role in helping us move beyond the challenges of today, towards a more sustainable and hopeful future. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Staying involved

MB Projects & discussion groups

Since 2021, there have been a range of relationships, collaborations and project that have been kickstarted through MovingBeyond. You can see a list of them below. If you want to get involved or to start a new group, let us know and we'll connect you!

This is Agency: This is Agency brings together a wealth of experience and knowledge – from insight, research, brand marketing, advertising, human psychology, deep ecology, systems theory, project delivery and change management. Their mission is to 'mainstream the messages and narratives that will restore the relationship each of us must have with ourselves and with nature, to accelerate the change we need for humanity to survive and thrive.'

MovingBeyond Systems: Chaired by former Welsh Minister Jane Davidson, this new initiative aims to explore the potential for driving climate and nature action by changing the rules, policies, regulations, and laws that currently govern our systems. The group seeks to identify the barriers posed by existing rules and uncover opportunities where new or revised regulations could accelerate efforts toward addressing the climate and nature crises.

MovingBeyond Deal Team: The aim of the MovingBeyond Deal Team is to convene a collaborative working group of financial institutions, local actors, and experts to accelerate ethical, sustainable, and place-based investment. Focused on creating social value alongside financial returns, the team fosters radical collaboration and human-centered design to mobilise resources and drive the transition to net zero.

Woodland Savers: An organisation focused on enabling communities to purchase and manage land for nature recovery, has benefited immensely from its connection with MovingBeyond. Through the MB community, the CEO has formed critical partnerships, leading to collaborations with leading organisations such as Bates Wells, Bain and Company, and Schroders. These relationships, all fostered through MB, have provided Woodland Savers with legal, strategic, and financial expertise, helping accelerate the company's mission.

Changemakers Laboratory: The Changemakers Laboratory is an innovative programme where students tackle global challenges like climate change through hands-on, interdisciplinary projects with businesses, governments, and communities. Combining real-world experience with academic learning, students develop leadership, teamwork, and entrepreneurial skills, earning a degree while creating tangible societal impact.



MB Ambassadors
We're looking to grow a group of MB ambassadors, these are community members who are ready and willing to dedicate time and/or resources to helping grow MovingBeyond's impact. If you want to be a part of this important group, please drop us a note.

Looking ahead

What's next for MB?

Lots of exciting things in the mix for MovingBeyond and the ongoing growth of the movement. So stay tuned for further updates and new ways to engage!

MB 'flagship' events

We have been travelling the UK delivering an innovative 3-day programme bringing together diverse leaders across business, investors, government, and civic society to have brave conversations about the transition and how to build new sustainable ways of living. Want to collaborate on our next one? Have an idea for where we go next? Get it touch!

MBx

We use our expertise and network to design initiatives that will help catalyse radical collaboration in your organisation, for your network or in your community. MB has the capability to step into many different environments or issues.

MB training

From online classrooms to off-site retreats, we can help design meaningful team bonding and leadership workshops to help bring your people into deeper alignment and unlock new depths.

MB membership

Every participant is invited to digital platforms, mailing lists and monthly community calls and ad hoc in-person informal meet ups. Every day the MB community is in contact, sharing, challenging and supporting one another.



