

How to find charities that fit with your ethos

Step 1: Brainstorm the issues you care about

What are the top five problems in the world/ my community right now?

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Of these five problems, which ones make me really angry? (Anger is good! It motivates us.)

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Complete this sentence: In a perfect world...

Step 2: Searching for charities that match your interests

Now that you have an idea about the issues that you feel strongly about, you can use the [Charity Commission](#) website (for charities operating in England & Wales) or the [OSCR](#) website (for charities in Scotland) to find an organisation that appeals to you.

Each website has a search function that allows you to filter the organisations working in the areas, or with the beneficiaries, you're interested in. You can also search by income and expenditure, employee remuneration level, geographic area of operation and various other criteria.

Step 3: Applying the tips from *How to 'Do Good' Well*

After you've run a search on the Commission website, you'll still need to do plenty of narrowing down to find a few organisations that really strike a chord. Using the *How to 'Do Good' Well* guide:

- make sure the charity you've found has posted up-to-date financial information
- look at the income and expenditure of the charity. Is the charity solvent? Is it growing?
- consider the size of the charity - do you want to support a large charity or a smaller one?
- think about where the charity operates and what you know about that area
- examine the charity's governing document (or 'Mission Statement' on the charity's own website). Do their objectives appeal to you? Do they sound realistic?
- look for evidence of an effective strategy, monitoring and reporting
- see if there is documentation on how the charity tries to be sustainable

Remember that if your interests are more global – conservation, providing clean water in the developing world, etc. – you may also need to search for charities registered outside of the UK. But you can use the same principles with these charities as those registered domestically.