



Report on BWCE Fund Progress under the Funder Commitment on Climate Change

March 2022

In May 2021, the [BWCE Fund](#) became a new signatory to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change. As a signatory, we recognise the severity of the climate emergency and we aim to do everything we can to address the causes of climate change and support adaptation to its effects. We have signed up to the [commitment](#) in full and, from now on, our publicly available BWCE Fund Annual Reports will include details of our progress on the five goals listed below. We are committed to continuing to develop our practice, learning from others and sharing our learning.

The Bath & West Low Carbon Community Fund Charitable Incorporated Organisation, known as the BWCE Fund for short, was set up in 2014 with the following aims:

- The promotion of the advancement of environmental protection or improvement and the prudent use of resources
- The relief of poverty, including but not limited to the improvement of the conditions of life in socially and economically disadvantaged communities

for the benefit of the public within Bath and the surrounding area.

Our income derives predominantly from an annual grant from [Bath & West Community Energy \(BWCE\)](#), an Industrial and Provident Society established to develop and promote renewable and low carbon energy in the Bath and surrounding area. As a Community Benefit Society, BWCE donates surplus income generated from its development to the fund each year for community benefit.

Progress to date against the five goals of the Funder Commitment on Climate Change

This interim report demonstrates our progress to date on the five key goals below. We will report further in our 2021-22 Annual Report.

1. Educate and learn

The first goal involves making opportunities for our trustees and stakeholders to learn more about the key causes and solutions of climate change. All of our nine trustees are committed to continuously learning about and acting on climate change and they also work professionally in climate, environment or another aspect of sustainability in addition to their contribution to the BWCE Fund.

We aim to educate stakeholders about climate change through our publicity and public engagement around our annual funding round, which supports local projects that target carbon reduction and/or fuel poverty. We engage with local organisations on climate issues

and work with the local authority and other local funders to try to support one another and maximise our impact. For example, in September 2021 we spoke at and participated in an event on environmental funding that was organised by Bath-based third sector charity 3SG.

2. Commit Resources

The second goal is to commit resources to accelerate work that addresses the causes and impacts of climate change. Each year we receive an annual grant from BWCE and we use this grant to fund local projects. To be eligible for funding, project proposals must demonstrate that they promote environmental sustainability, low or zero use of energy and/or alleviate fuel poverty in a way that also includes environmental efficiency and/or environmental measures.

In the most recent funding round in 2021-22, we received £35,000 from BWCE and handed out 11 grants totalling £31,706. We have no paid staff and our trustees run the BWCE Fund with the help of Quartet Community Foundation, which administers the grant programme on our behalf. Our funding approach means that, each year, we commit all of our available resources to tackling climate change.

The grants that we provided in 2022 are as follows:

- £1,800 to First Steps (Bath) for work toward the replacement of a boiler heating system with a sustainable alternative.
- £1,725 to FACE - Families Acting on Climate Emergency toward building the FACE community in schools and other settings across the B&NES area, and researching needs, opportunities, barriers and triggers for climate action amongst local families.
- £4,000 to Carers Centre B&NES (Care Network) to create a food garden for carers to learn to grow food and to provide food for carers to increase sustainability and food security.
- £1,500 to Zero Carbon Compton for Energy Efficiency surveys for households in Compton Dando, including social housing tenants.
- £1,801 to Bath Share & Repair toward the Carbon Footprint Project which will help younger children to understand how they can repair, reduce and reuse to reduce carbon emissions.
- £1,000 to Percy Community Centre for additional insulation to enclose the parts of the community centre's boiler room infrastructure that are currently uninsulated.
- £5,000 to Bath City Farm towards an air source heat pump and ventilation system for the new purpose-built community hub and cafe.
- £4,000 to Middle Ground Growers CIC toward the cost of building a solar-powered barn to power the group's farm - charging tools, delivery bikes and cold storage for crops.



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- £5,000 to Freshford Village Memorial Hall to replace the hall's old oil-fired boiler, oil tank and controls with a highly thermally efficient air conditioning system.
- £4,000 to Trowbridge Environmental Community Group toward the cost of delivering four repair-and-reuse cafe community events during 2022, to encourage members of the public to become more engaged with their lifestyle choices and learn how they can live more sustainably.
- £1,880 to Corston Community Orchard & Garden to establish a rainwater harvesting, storage and distribution system to ensure there is a sustainable and sufficient water supply so that the newly planted trees and hedging can thrive.

3. Integrate

The third goal is that, within all our existing programmes, priorities and processes, we will seek opportunities to contribute to a fair and lasting transition to a post carbon society, and to support adaptation to climate change impacts. Our income is provided by renewable energy cooperative BWCE and its members and the entire purpose of our fund is to support carbon reduction and climate education and awareness. As such, climate is integrated into how we are funded and everything that we do as an organisation.

4. Steward our investments for a post-carbon future

The fourth goal of the Funder Commitment on Climate Change is to steward investments. The BWCE Fund has no investments as we redistribute the funding that we receive each year from BWCE. We bank with Triodos Bank, a leader in ethical banking and sustainability and unspent grant funds are held by our administrator, Quartet Community Foundation, a fellow signatory to the Funder Commitment on Climate Change.

5. Decarbonise our operations

The fifth goal is to decarbonise our own operations. The BWCE Fund is a small, virtual organisation with no offices. We minimise printing and our meetings have been predominantly online in the past year. Our trustees, who run the fund, seek to minimise their own carbon emissions.