

Zurich Community Trust

Sustainability

Grants

2023 - 2024

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# Sustainability Grants 2023 - 2024

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**1. Ovacome – Croydon - £6,838** To: a) create a sustainability strategy, b) run Ecotherapy Webinars with a qualified Eco Therapist, c) run Craft Workshops on re-using items found at home; bringing a project to the group (e.g., something you've been meaning to mend); recycled crafts, d) Cookery Webinars on how to reuse foods and reduce waste, and simple healthy recipes with an interactive cookery session, e) Focus on sustainability in their June 2024 magazine to share their sustainability journey and encourage their community to incorporate sustainability into their lives in ways that support their wellbeing, with stories from their members about how they are doing this, and f) to foster inclusion, they will also send sustainability goody bags to 50 members, prioritising people from underserved groups who face barriers to accessing services (e.g., seeds and environmentally friendly cleaning products).

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**2. Silverline Memories – Newcastle - £10,000** to: develop a second Dementia Activity Centre Charity Shop in an area of Newcastle upon Tyne that the local council is keen to regenerate as part of a local High Street regeneration scheme. The shop will sell donated and recycled Independent Living Aids (Wheelchairs, walking frames, sticks, home alerts and personal trackers etc). These are expensive items to purchase new and are often not used for long. Families are left with items they will either sell or go to landfill. They are keen to be able to offer these items at affordable prices to families that need them - recycling (SDG 12) and the benefits this would bring to the local community link to SDG 3, 8 & 11). They would provide employment and training whilst benefiting the local community by increasing accessibility to products that support them at a time of great need. UPDATE – new shop premises found - next door but one to their current shop that is cheaper and fits their sustainability strategy better.

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**3. Food Cycle – Whiteley - £10,000** to: a) Create a training video for FoodCycle volunteers focused on zero waste tips, to help up-skill volunteers and increase their knowledge of how to reduce food waste when cooking at FoodCycle Projects and at home. The video would be created by BrightCarbon agency with the process overseen by their Head of Programmes and b) Contribute to the salary costs for their Project Support Officer in London, who focuses on securing surplus and other food supply for their 17 Projects, in addition to supporting their growth plans in the city.

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**4. Leeds Older People Forum - Leeds - £10,000** to: undertake a series of roadshows and workshops across the city to raise awareness & promote key messages about the impacts of air pollution on health. Working in partnership with local Neighbourhood Networks, to visit various community groups to effectively engage with their target population: older people living independently in their homes, workforce, & volunteers.

In addition, they will co-produce several resources with simple, effective messaging including:

- 10 top tips
  - Workforce video short created in partnership with LOPF members
  - Leaflets, business cards, and fridge magnets
  - Sourcing air quality monitors to distribute, for people to use within their homes, and providing guidance alongside this
  - The workforce video will be produced in partnership with LOPF members. It will provide key messages to staff and volunteers working directly with the target population to increase knowledge of risk factors, how to reduce exposure to poor indoor and outdoor air quality, and how to reduce contributing to air pollution. The video will be disseminated through various channels to have longevity and a wider population impact and reach.
  - The project will also refer residents to Green Doctor, a voluntary sector organisation supporting people with energy saving measures including: LED light bulbs, reflective radiator panels, power saving devices and providing support with switching energy providers, debt negotiation with energy companies, registering on the Priority Services Register, and also reducing the impact of damp and mould in the home.
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**5. Katharine House Hospice – Chipping Norton: - £9,983** to: cover Step 1-3 of the SDG Compass – (1) Understanding the SDGs, (2) Defining priorities and (3) Setting goals through their Sustainability Research, Engagement and Development Project. Their project will form phase one of a longer-term Sustainability Integration Programme underpinned by the OU course: **Climate Change: Transforming your Organisation for Sustainability.**

a) Research - Audit and understand current activity, assets, strengths, collaboration, integration, behaviour, and attitudes within their charity team

b) Engagement – charity staff, trustees and key partners

c) Development - the creation of a Sustainability Working Group and stakeholder engagement and involvement group:

- Improve wellbeing within hospice buildings by using influence from the natural world. I.e., introduce more plants
  - Biodiversity project in hospice gardens
  - Introduction of the Climate Perks Scheme - encouraging staff and volunteers to use greener ways to travel
  - Sustainable procurement across all areas of their charity
  - Eco friendly cleaning products & Energy use education
  - Create quarterly Sustainability Focus E-Newsletter
  - Create four staff sustainability engagement events (for example, tie into national campaigns like Great Big Green Week)
  - Digital footprint assessment (email, website). Investigation of ways to reduce their digital carbon footprint
  - Assessment of their two major mass participation events (Moonlight Walk and Santa Fun Run) and recommendations for sustainability.
  - Ongoing programme of review/support/collaboration with staff to make changes for sustainability within their area of work and the wider hospice.
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**6. Boomerang Cardiff – Cardiff - £10,000** to: install a 35m hedge around their empowering communities project helping to trap harmful toxins and reducing direct exposure to toxic pollutants, and significantly improving air quality. In addition, the hedge will provide a living wall of multi-species plants. The grant is conditional on getting approved planning permission which has now been successful.

**7. Woman's Trust - London - £9,000** to: support their sustainability aspirations and goals by implementing a comprehensive DEI strategy. This will involve engaging the services of an external DEI Expert to mentor and guide their organisation with a review of its current DEI policies and to amend their documentation accordingly. To also deliver DEI training sessions to various stakeholders, including anti racism training.

**8. The Peoples Kitchen Ltd – Newcastle - £10,000:** towards the purchase of an electric van, which needed to be kitted out with a lift. The cost of the van was circa 61k, with the alterations needed to make it suitable. The cost of purchasing the van was taken out of their reserves as they needed to replace their old van before the Clean Air Zone costs hit Newcastle in 2023. They are now fundraising to replace these monies used from their reserves. The van goes out 5 times a week and is driven by volunteer drivers with a buddy. This enables them to collect food and other goods from their very kind donors around the region.

**9. Teach First – London- £10,000:** to commission external experts to provide embedded anti-racism training. This will consist of training matched to employees' level of responsibility and ownership. Starting with leaders, then line managers, before extending the training to all employees without leadership or management responsibilities.

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**10. Common Wheel,- Glasgow - £7,950:** to create a sustainable garden and a monthly gardener's club. The club will run once a month and bring together a group of participants to share ideas and learn new skills. To be as inclusive as possible we will provide a range of ways to get involved: planting, clearing, maintaining, creating and nurturing a vegetable garden painting and photography and documenting our work. We will also provide a free lunch and an opportunity to socialise.

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**11. The Homeless Project Scotland – Glasgow - £10,000:** towards the installation of a dedicated charging point for HPS's electric van, enabling the streamlining of the charging process and further bolstering their commitment to sustainable transportation. The remaining funding will be used to cover the costs of charging the electric van over the next 12 months.

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Grant number 11 exhausted the remaining monies available in the 2023 funding pot, so our commitment needed to stagger two financial years. The first payment of £6,229 was taken from the 2023 pot, the second payment of £3,771, was taken from the 2024 funding pot.

**Total spend: £100,000 with £3,771 taken from the 2024 pot.**



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## Sustainability Fund 2024 - 6 applications to date

**1. Zest – Health for Life – Leeds - £10,000:** to be used specifically towards developing and delivering ‘Eat Green’ - a training package aimed at upskilling volunteers, community groups, other third sector organisations, schools, and the statutory sector in how to deliver sustainable family cookery sessions.

Last year, through the sustainability fund, we also supported FoodCycle with a sustainable cooking project which included funding the creation of a training video for FoodCycle volunteers focused on zero waste tips – this was to help up-skill their volunteers and increase their knowledge of how to reduce food waste when cooking at FoodCycle Projects and at home. The video was created by the Bright Carbon agency in conjunction with their Head of Programmes. We had permission from FoodCycle to share their video with Zest, Health for Life and any other charitable organisations that may benefit.

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**2. Mindsong – Cheltenham - £10,000:** to be used to help the charity become independent of using paper – their current system of working relies heavily on spreadsheets, paper records, registers and posted referral forms but by investing in a bespoke system that will encompass all their services it will not only make them more sustainable and efficient, it will render them completely paperless.

By investing in CharityLog <https://www.charitylog.co.uk/> they can adopt a system tailored for them. They will become paperless whilst also increasing efficiencies, use fewer resources, and improve on what they can offer. CharityLog should also help future proof them against staff retirement and allow much better and useful reporting (which may help secure more funding too).

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**3. Caring in Bristol– Bristol- £9,970:** to cover their FareShare membership costs for the year (from whom they source around 10 tonnes of surplus food to distribute every year), cooking class venue hire, staff time to deliver cooking sessions, and a contribution to staff time involved in collecting surplus food and running the food club.

The funding would enable Caring in Bristol to distribute more surplus food and launch their cooking sessions- ultimately helping to keep their food clubs sustainable and reach more people facing poverty- providing healthy sustainable food and support. By expanding their food clubs, they can reduce food waste at a greater scale across Bristol. This will include:

- Launching community cooking sessions, teaching people from the food clubs who struggle with cooking how to make new healthy recipes using surplus food from their food club, which are also energy efficient (for sustainability and to help with lowering their bills).
  - Expanding their weekly winter pantry with surplus food.
  - Increase partnerships with more food providers saving food from waste.
  - Partner support/advice to their clients with energy saving, including a partnership with CSE.
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**4. Bristol Dementia Action Alliance (BDAA) – Bristol - £10,000:** Linked to SDG 3 re Good Health & Wellbeing. They would like to expand their YOD working group to include key stakeholders in the local area. They will set up meeting groups in venues around the city for accessibility (and online, where needed). To create an information booklet (or video) for those living with dementia and explore an employer's booklet and training options. Webinars and workshops and peer support groups (coffee and chat or pint and chat). BDAA is very aware of doing its best to support the environment and it's their aim to have local activity groups throughout the city so that people are not forced to travel long distances – this is obviously beneficial to the environment as it helps to reduce car journeys or using public transport which can be fraught for people with dementia (delayed timetables, not turning up or going near the venue etc). It's our hope that some people can get to the activities by walking if able. Our walking groups will incorporate some litter picking as a worthwhile environmental activity and additional exercise.

BDAA works closely with Alive Activities which has two dementia friendly allotments in Bristol now (north and south) – they have regular memory café trips and because of the extra funding, they will be able to extend that to create a YOD group with AA. YOD beneficiaries will have the opportunity to learn about growing their own foods, flowers and easy herbal teas and how many home products can be used around the garden to help reduce waste and support plants to grow.

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## **5. The Harbour Project for Swindon Refugees and Asylum Seekers– Swindon - £8,219:**

To install electric panel heaters in place of existing gas radiators (decommissioning of the gas boiler would follow later). They will install aircon in the entrance hall (units that also operate as heaters). The heaters are controllable via an App - meaning that no room should be heated unnecessarily, and no heater should be left on by mistake. These are far more efficient in energy use - heating up and cooling down almost immediately. They also need additional electrics to allow for fitting of panel heaters. They will also conclude all work to eliminate draft from windows and doors.

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**6. Soup Kitchen – London - £10,000:** They plan on upgrading their kitchen equipment to more energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly appliances. This investment aligns with our sustainability aspirations by reducing our carbon footprint and promoting environmental stewardship. It will help them reduce the biodegradable containers they use and allow them to re-use things like, cups, plates and utensils.

By transitioning to more energy-efficient appliances, they aim to minimise energy consumption and decrease their overall environmental impact. Additionally, these upgrades will be hugely beneficial to the efficiency of their kitchen operations, allowing them to serve more individuals while conserving resources.

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## **6. Cheltenham Open Door – Cheltenham - £9,508.00:**

This will support five immediate projects that align with the elected United Nations Sustainable Development Goals:

1. Compostable bags for our food parcels
  2. Food Waste collection & recycling
  3. Eco-friendly products
  4. Replace all lights in the Centre to LED
  5. Sourcing our meat and dairy locally, thereby reducing our carbon footprint
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**8. TIC+ (Teens in Crisis) - Cheltenham - £7,000:** The funding will be used to invest in an EDI strategy implementation plan by providing an inclusion snapshot report. This will identify the charity's pain points and what the possibilities are, incorporate ideas for next steps and help map their journey. They want to develop a three-year EDI strategy that aligns with their values, vision and strategic priorities. The time and experience of an EDI specialist will be used to guide them in that process so that they know the direction they're moving in is sustainable, viable, realistic and achievable. They want to better understand barriers to accessing support and what more they can do to become more accessible. The experience of young people as they journey with them, particularly those who may regard themselves as marginalised, is of great importance and the charity will use the data to help shape better policy for the future. Working with low or 'non-accessing' groups will help them better understand what barriers they experience to accessing mental health support. They also want to do all they can to remove any potential or perceived bias from their recruitment processes, in order to attract and recruit diverse talent from all backgrounds and levels of experience. They also want to review and revise their recruitment practices and employer brand to show they are an inclusive employer, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, disability or socio-economic background.

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**9. Yellow Door – Whiteley - £10,000:** As part of their sustainability commitments, they would like to provide the Yellow Door staff with further EDI training. This will include in-person CPD accredited Disability Equality Training and working with Laurelle Brown Training & Consultancy on a package of Race and Ethnicity support. This will include training, an audit and data review, and support to develop our EDI Strategic Plan. The Disability Equality Training would be provided by Toucan Diversity, an award-winning user-led organisation based in Portsmouth. Their training is designed and delivered by a team of accredited trainers who all experience a level of disability in their lives. The aim of the training is to look at disability from a human rights angle and to discuss discrimination, isolation, and hate crime.



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**10. The Growing Zone – Leeds - £10,000:** They intend to employ one other person to enable GZ to take this forward. ZCT has already granted GZ funds to help keep them open for the next two years. They also have other ideas to develop environmental projects more, go forward in other directions, on sight and off. As they have two orchards now which provide free fruit for the community, and are used for environmental talks, their next step is to get involved with generating an arboretum locally with Kippax residents. This would be a humungous idea for environment projects for all. They also intend to go solar.

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**Our sustainability fund has been fully allocated and applications are now closed. The new application window will open in December 2024. More detail will be communicated nearer the time.**



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