



A year on the journey to a Zero Carbon Cumbria

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A word from the chair



It is now 25 years since the first-ever international agreement on climate change was negotiated in Rio de Janeiro. Today, all the evidence shows that, if we continue with business as usual, catastrophic climate change will become irreversible within the next 25 years. But, we still have an opportunity to turn this around.

If you read the latest climate science, there is hope. We have the technology we need. There are three key things that we believe will make the difference between success and failure in the next decade:

1. strong, effective leadership on climate change from politicians;
2. immense, constant pressure from the public to make climate change the key issue for the next decade;
3. for technology and thinking that is currently considered 'innovative' to become the norm – part of everyday life.

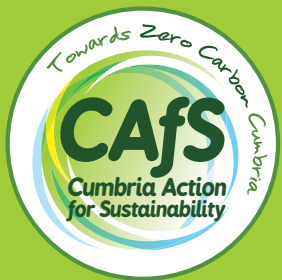
Everything we do at CAfS aims to drive a shift to a Zero Carbon Cumbria. As you'll read, we have delivered almost 30 diverse and high-impact projects in 2016-17, all driving towards this goal of a county with no carbon footprint.

We still have a way to go. Our five-year business plan sets out clear priorities for new areas of work and new audiences we wish to reach. We are currently developing our vision of the social, environmental and economic benefits this would create for individuals, communities, businesses and the natural environment.

The CAfS team's total commitment to driving forward so many strong projects and a clear strategic funding plan has allowed us to thrive at a time when many other local climate change organisations have been forced to cease operating through financial pressures.

We have a huge range of very exciting projects planned in the coming year and I look forward to telling you about those in our next annual report!

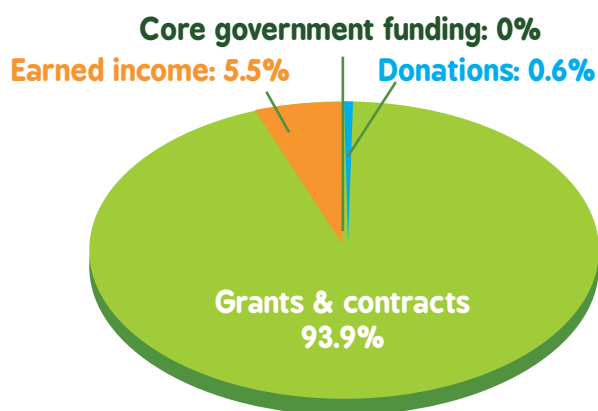
David Horn
 David Horn | Chair of Trustees



Our Board of Trustees 2016-17

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 Collette Butterworth
- Company Secretary
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- Karen Bentley-Brown
 David Beuzeval
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How we're funded



CAfS receives no government or other unrestricted statutory funding – we exist only because of our ability to secure grants, earn income through services like training, and attract donations.

Why donations make a huge difference

Almost all our funds (93.9%) come from grants and contracts to deliver specific projects, earmarked for that work.

It's always a challenge to fund all the other things that help us reduce Cumbria's carbon footprint – from events like film nights to improving vital tools like our website. That's why donations are so important to CAfS. Please donate if you can.

Visit cafs.org.uk/donate for more information

Get involved

1. Take advantage of our services, schemes and job opportunities. Keep an eye on our website and social media and sign up for our newsletter.
2. Join us as a volunteer if you could lend a hand with projects or events.
3. Become a trustee and help steer what we do.

A force for change in 2016-17

OUR VISION: A Zero Carbon Cumbria – a county with no carbon footprint

OUR MISSION: Promoting low-carbon living, energy saving and reduced use of fossil fuels throughout Cumbria.

- As you'll see overleaf, we dedicated most of our efforts to helping households use less energy and supporting communities to reduce their carbon footprint. Despite our limited resources, we also used our voice and expertise to drive change in lots of other ways:
- + presenting the case to Government for community-owned hydro electricity;
 - + delivering a series of films and discussions on the themes of sustainability and climate change;
 - + lecturing to second year architecture students at the University of Manchester on designing places with pro-environmental behaviour in mind;
 - + delivering presentations across the county to communities aspiring to generate their own renewable energy;
 - + engaging with national politicians from a range of parties, including meeting with Natalie Bennett, former Green Party leader, and arranging for Rory Stewart MP to join us on a home-energy advice visit, to learn about the impact of our energy efficiency work;
 - + assessing projects as part of the Solway, Borders and Eden LEADER panel on EU rural funding;
 - + continuing our membership of several advisory panels for Electricity North West and supporting them to improve their approach to sustainability;
 - + leading tours of Burnside Community Energy for postgraduates in Energy from the University of Cumbria;
 - + giving advice on community energy enterprises to Britain's Energy Coast;
 - + exploring a new 'reduce, reuse, recycle' youth programme funded by the Abbeyfield Society Community First Fund via Cumbria Community Foundation & Hadfield Trust;
 - + engaging with the public through our website, social media and newsletter, about practical action they can take to move towards a Zero Carbon Cumbria;
 - + engaging with key people who are shaping opinion nationally on the response to climate change, including the Centre for Alternative Technology.



CAfS receiving the NEA Community Action Award 2016



Making homes cosier

Helping people use less energy in their homes is one of our top priorities. Why? Because the energy we use at home causes about a third of the UK's CO₂ emissions. CO₂ emissions are the main reason for the changes we're seeing, and will continue to see, in our climate.

Our schemes in 2016-17 for householders have had two brilliant benefits... they've saved people money on their bills and they've reduced CO₂ emissions as households are using less energy.

Helping households at risk of extreme weather

After the floods of 2015, CAfS began a programme of advice for people whose homes are at risk of flooding, in partnership with Cumbria CVS.

- 254 householders got advice about adapting their homes to cope better with extreme weather and flooding.
- We created the UK's first guide to retrofitting traditional buildings for energy efficiency and flood resilience. We gave out 2,000 copies, with more downloaded online – locally and nationally.
- 106 households got personalised advice at six public drop-in events.



This successful initiative paved the way for a new three-year programme called **Rebuilding Together**. Working in partnership with Cumbria CVS and ACTION with Communities in Cumbria, the programme launched in October 2016. We're delivering a range of services to help increase Cumbria's resilience to extreme weather in a way that's mindful of energy efficiency and sustainability.



Energy Saving at Home

- 25 households across Cumbria benefited from this free service in 2016-17, offering draught proofing, low-energy LED lighting, energy advice and tariff checks.
- We trained volunteer energy champions to help us deliver the service.
- More people tapped into energy advice at our drop-ins around the county.



Brampton Community Energy Champions

We teamed up with Sustainable Brampton to train 10 volunteers to pass on basic home energy advice to residents in their community.

Funded by **William Milburn Charitable Trust** via



Energy assessments

Households from across Cumbria continued to benefit from our high-quality energy assessments and our thermal imaging service, giving them guidance on making their homes more energy efficient.

Tackling damp & getting the most from your heating

Cumbrians struggling with damp and condensation in their homes can now get help from four new videos, which we produced in 2016 for housing associations across the county. They include advice on how to use your heating controls to get the best value from your heating. You can watch them on our YouTube channel.

On behalf of **CUMBRIA HOUSING PARTNERS**



11th Cumbria Green Build Festival

"Inspirational" That's what people said about our week-long festival of 25 events to help people green up their homes. Hundreds of people took part in workshops and visits to private homes, sustainable buildings and renewable energy installations, taking away ideas, skills and knowledge.



Powering communities

Helping communities to install their own renewable energy schemes is a very high priority for us. That's because around half of the UK's energy comes from power stations that burn fossil fuels (coal and gas). These power stations put large amounts of CO₂ into the atmosphere, bringing about damaging changes in our climate.

Renewables like solar and hydro power don't produce CO₂ and can also make communities more resilient.

A first for hydro & national park solar

- The first community-owned hydro in Cumbria was officially launched at Killington Reservoir in January 2017. Owned by Community Energy Cumbria (CEC), which CAfS helped to form, it was a fantastic result after several years of hard work and determination by CAfS and partners.
- CAfS ran a second share offer for CEC to fund a solar PV system at the Lake District National Park Authority's headquarters in Kendal. It went live in September 2016 and was the first community-owned solar PV system on a national park headquarters in the UK.



Happier halls & greener power

Nearly twenty communities in South Lakeland have benefited from professional advice and technical expertise, coordinated by CAfS, to help them make community buildings more energy efficient or set up renewable energy schemes.



Renewables on Alston Moor

Alston Moor Community Energy was officially launched this year, supported by CAfS. The group is exploring options for installing community-owned renewable energy schemes in the area.



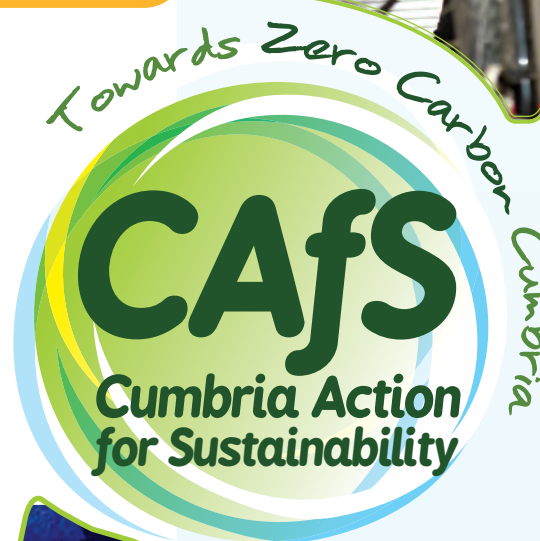
Low-carb in South Lakes

We ran a year-long series of events in the South Lakeland area, helping people and communities to reduce their carbon footprint in all different ways. From drop-in events in villages to a big energy fair in Ulverston, around 600 people took up opportunities to learn about saving energy, renewable energy at home, upcycling, electric bikes, cycling and climate change.



Alston Moor Greenprint

We began a major three-year project called the Alston Moor Greenprint in November 2016. This ambitious programme is all about making a difference to people's lives, while tackling climate change. Our first task is to understand what the community wants and needs, through consultation and creative engagement, working alongside the team creating a new community plan for the area.



Power from food waste?

Food waste can be used to create gas for cooking and heating, using a device called a 'micro anaerobic digester'. During 2016-17, we joined in with partners to see whether these digesters could be installed in the Keswick area, to make good use of food waste from the local hospitality industry. Our role is to lead on consultation, education and engagement with the community.



Climate change projects by communities

We started helping communities to run climate change projects in 2016-17, as part of the Rebuilding Together project mentioned left.



Energy from waste heat?

We've been helping Burnside Community Energy look into the possibility of capturing heat created by industrial processes at James Cropper plc near Kendal, and then using it to heat local homes. Our joint study with Quantum Strategy & Technology is exploring whether a 'district heating' scheme would be viable and the results are due to be published in the summer of 2017.

What else we got up to in 2016-17

Sharing skills

Householders and construction professionals gained the skills and knowledge to make buildings more energy efficient through our series of 'level 4' training courses called 'Retrofitting Buildings for Energy Efficiency'. The 2016 programme included a new course on making homes more resilient to flooding. Our support for local housing associations continued with a tailor-made course to train staff in using thermal imaging to identify where homes are losing heat.



Award-winning work

We were proud to be the 2016 winners of the Community Action Award from National Energy Action (NEA). We used the prize money to train volunteers who support people living in fuel poverty.

Forging our future after Sustain Eden

We wrapped up our Sustain Eden project in 2016-17, the biggest and most ambitious programme of activities that CAfS had ever undertaken. Thanks to a £1 million grant from the Big Lottery Fund, this really exciting project saw us working with 11 organisations over three years to help the residents of Eden tackle climate change and make greener lifestyle choices.

Planning ahead for the end of Sustain Eden was very challenging for CAfS, but we succeeded in attracting funding for a very diverse range of projects over the next few years, building on our strong reputation as an organisation that can deliver to a high standard.

