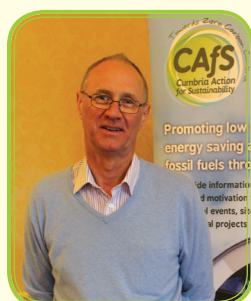




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Full accounts are available at www.cafs.org.uk
Charity Number: 1123155 • Registered Company Number: 06492907
This report has been printed on recycled paper with vegetable ink.



From the Chair...

Having become the Chair in June 2015, it soon became evident that CAfS was approaching a watershed with the completion of our major three-year Sustain Eden programme, reduced availability of grant funding, and the Paris climate change conference along with the realignment of national environmental priorities.

Working to a five year business and funding plan, we were in a strong position to attract grant funding. Our mixed-income strategy ensured that we also gained income-generating contract work. This approach has allowed us to thrive and to retain the skills, knowledge and experience to embrace the increasing demands of the sustainability agenda.

There have been huge achievements this year. We have reached thousands of people, run over a hundred events and established some extremely exciting projects.

The devastating floods of December 2015 brought many challenges and difficulties for residents and businesses in Cumbria. CAfS has risen to this

challenge and is working with partner organisations to identify and implement long term and lasting actions to deliver significant benefits and reduce risks to people and property in the event of future flooding.

The challenge of climate change requires low carbon solutions to become the norm. Showcasing how this could work is something that CAfS are extremely good at and we have an exciting range of new projects in the coming years to continue to drive a shift towards a Zero Carbon Cumbria.

David Horn
David Horn | Chair of Trustees

This is us... The Board of Trustees

Chair **David Horn** Company Secretary **Karen Bowen**

Collette Butterworth

Richard Scott

Karen Bentley-Brown

David Beuzeval

Ruth Bowen

With thanks to Tim Maiden for his work during 2015/16.



Our mission is to promote low carbon living, energy saving and reduced use of fossil fuels throughout Cumbria; we provide information, advice and motivation through events, site visits and practical projects

CAfS Priorities for 2016/17

For the first time we have developed a long term business plan, which identifies the priorities for CAfS to 2020. In 2016/17 our work will primarily focus on projects that help deliver the following priorities.

Domestic Energy: We wish to remain the first point of reference in Cumbria for information on domestic energy and the lead organisation on projects in this area of emission reduction. This is a core area of our expertise and we have had measurable success of making an impact. We believe that a significant shift is required in Cumbria, including changes to planning, design and construction of domestic buildings. We want to work with partners where they can contribute skills, knowledge or contacts.

Community Energy: We want to provide a comprehensive support package to community groups across Cumbria using a range of funding mechanisms. Our target is to significantly increase the community-owned renewable energy capacity of Cumbria over the next five years, and to work with partners where needed to help us deliver this.

Motivating Behaviour Change - Climate Change Education: Climate change awareness will be included in some form in all of our projects. We will develop training sessions for a range of audiences from children to adults, and particularly want to include tradespeople, local politicians and decision makers. We understand that climate change may not be a motivator for many people, but we aim to ensure that everyone has access to clear, accessible information about climate change causes and impacts, should they wish to find them. We want to work with partners, particularly transition groups, where they can contribute skills, knowledge or contacts.

Our full business plan priorities can be found at www.cafs.org.uk/about-us/annual-report



Pictured: Staff, trustees and some of our regular contractors

For more information on our work, see www.cafs.org.uk and sign up to our newsletter

Over the past year, we've enjoyed working with...



Home Energy

Our flagship

Green Build Festival took place for the tenth time in September 2015. Over 40 events were held across Cumbria, opening up people's properties to provide peer to peer practical advice on energy efficiency initiatives, green building techniques and renewable technologies. When surveyed, over 80% said the event had moved them closer to action after attending an events.

Funding and support from South Lakeland District Council allowed us to run a range of hugely successful energy events, attended by over 1000 people! These events included Green Build Events/Open Days, drop-in energy advice events and major energy fairs.

Through our DECC funded Big Energy Saving Network project we recruited three highly skilled volunteer energy advisors, ran 25 energy and tariff advice sessions for individuals and advised over 350 people. We also ran 10 energy and tariff advice training sessions for frontline workers, attended by 83

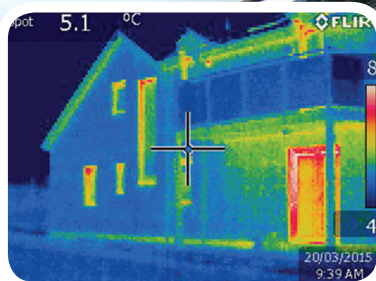
frontline workers from across the county.

We continued to deliver high quality energy assessments throughout Cumbria. We carried out thermal imaging surveys to give people access to information on how to reduce energy consumption and obtain warmer, more comfortable buildings.

In February, we launched our level four accredited course Retrofitting Buildings for Energy Efficiency at Kendal College, attended by 59 delegates, receiving a total of 413 training hours.

In January, we helped the Association of the Conservation of Energy to produce their report 'Energy Efficiency in Penrith and the Border'.

Thanks to funding from Eden District Council's Community Fund we purchased a new, high quality Flir thermal imaging camera, energy monitors and other equipment to enable us to improve our energy advice services to communities and individuals, and to improve the quality of our training for organisations.



Community Energy

In August, we provided seed funding to establish **Community Energy Cumbria**. CAFS then invested £15,000 in shares in CEC as well as administrating and managing the successful launch. We were delighted when **£276,500 in community-owned shares** was raised in just 5 weeks in August 2015. Work to **install the community owned hydro-electric** scheme on Killington Reservoir has now begun, with commissioning (switch on) of the hydro anticipated by November 2016.

On the back of the success of community energy at Killington and with the prospect of Government incentives for renewables dwindling by December 31st 2016, the community of Burneside, north of Kendal, came together to develop a community energy scheme in November 2015. **Raising £290,000 in a staggering seven days** with the support of CAFS, **Burneside Community Energy was launched**, installing over **1,000 photovoltaic panels** on the roof of James Cropper PLC which had offered its roof space free to the community. Over 95% of the investment was raised from residents living within 3 miles of the site! The 250kw system was installed in just under 4 weeks – demonstrating not only the appetite for community owned renewables in Cumbria, but also the **ability of CAFS to deliver a low carbon capital project in such a short timescale**.

Thanks to funding from **South Lakeland District Council** we have been able to **support 14 communities** in South Lakeland with **community building energy efficiency**, including the **retrofitting and ventilation of traditional buildings**, community **renewable energy** including **hydro-electricity, solar photovoltaic installation** and **funding advice** as well as providing **bespoke energy audits, depressurisation and thermography**.

We hosted our **Community Energy – What Now?** conference, and ran a **Low Carbon Neighbourhood Planning** event in Alston with ACT and the Centre for Sustainable Energy.

Sustain Eden low carbon communities programme **supported 30 groups** in Eden with energy audits and surveys of village halls, renewable energy advice, thermal imaging, and feasibility studies



Towards Zero Carbon Cumbria

CAFS

Cumbria Action for Sustainability



...working in Partnership

Sustain Eden was a **three year**, lottery funded programme aiming to help the residents of Penrith and Eden **tackle climate change and make greener lifestyle choices**. Working as a **partnership of 11 organisations** we have delivered a wide range of **practical and educational projects**. In the past year:

In addition to being the managing partner in the project, CAFS supported **15 community buildings** become more energy efficient, and helped **seven community renewable energy schemes** get off the ground. As part of our Cumbria Green Build Festival each September, 11 owners of **green homes in Eden opened their doors** to show others what energy saving initiatives they had made. Our home energy project **draught-proofed 135 homes** and saw **451 people changing energy supplier** to get a better tariff.

Penrith and Eden Freegle **developed a mobile give and take app** and held 'Visiting Edible Garden' events to **enable nearly 200 people to start growing their own fruit and vegetables**, and over **300 to pass on gardening items** and excess produce.

Working with Alston Moor Partnership, the programme **established a community bus and electric bike hire** to enable better transport around the Moor.

Wood fuel has played an important part in the project, with Cumbria Woodlands **establishing two chop-your-own community woodlands**, and Penrith Action for Community Transition **teaching almost 600 school children about trees and woodlands**, with many of them **planting trees** in their local area.

Local businesses benefitted from the project with **15 rural businesses, including farms, getting energy audits** from Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency, whilst **three communities and three voluntary organisations got extreme weather emergency planning advice** from Cumbria CVS and Action for Communities in Cumbria.



Other Bits and Pieces



- Our **website** gave a wide range of information about action people can take to move towards a **Zero Carbon Cumbria** including events, training, and case studies. Our regular **newsletter** continued to have extremely high read ratings and keeps our **3,500 supporters** up to date with activity in the County.
- We completed our work with Impact Housing Association, supporting the 200+ strong organisation to adopt a **Sustainability Policy**, and **tackle fuel poverty**; and advised on specific subjects from **staff travel planning** to **renewable energy**.
- We organised **films** and **discussions** on a **sustainability and climate change** theme, hosted the Big Lottery northern project groups – showing our **exemplar projects**, launched our **offer for Local Authorities**, hosted the re-launch meeting of **Cumbria Sustainability Network** and created a range of **waste reduction factsheets** and **'How to' Guides** for Cumbria County Council. We've worked in partnership with CVS and ACT to apply for funding to develop a **sustainable, long term response to repeated flooding** and spoke on 'alternative delivery models for low carbon work' at a **CLASP conference**.
- Further afield we responded to the Government's **FIT consultation**, contributed to the development of a **national collaboration network of energy advice charities**, attended the **COP21 international climate conference** in Paris, and delivered **lectures on sustainability** and 'influencing positive environmental behaviour change in the public realm' on behalf of two universities.
- We've had two visits from **Penrith & the Border MP Rory Stewart**, who came to see the work we are doing and to see how our draughtproofing scheme was making a difference to local residents. We put forward the **views of community groups about the impact of the changes to the feed-in-tariff, pre-accreditation and tax relief on community renewable energy schemes**, and consequently, the Rt Hon Mr Stewart communicated our position to **Amber Rudd, Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change**.



If you'd like to find out more, please see our website for case studies on each of the projects www.cafs.org.uk/projects/sustaineden