

Annual Report

2022 / 23

A work in progress

This has been our second full year of National Lottery funding for the pioneering Zero Carbon Cumbria project. We continue to lead and support a growing cohort of diverse organisations on the pathway towards net zero carbon.

Introduction

As well as lots of progress on numerous community led projects, around 100 volunteers have come together in sub-groups to create emission reduction action plans from their combined knowledge and experience.

These comprehensive proposals set out what Cumbria needs to do to radically reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from our transport, buildings, consumption and waste, and our land use and agriculture. The next step is to engage the key stakeholders that need to be involved and remove any barriers to action. Some of these barriers are national so we will need to consider how we can best ensure our evidence of need is combined with that of other rural areas facing similar threats and counts at national level.

We know from our decades of experience that communication and community action are critical to tackling climate change. Through our Community Climate Grants fund we have been able to support Cumbria's grassroots organisations to engage and inspire more people to take action together to make a difference.

We're very pleased to see this leading to the birth of new environmental groups in west Cumbria in particular.

In this year we launched the Zero Carbon Cumbria website which has garnered much praise for its design and clarity of content and won the Environmental Awareness Web Excellence award.

We've also continued to make actions such as installing solar panels or implementing home energy efficiency measures more accessible for communities and households through in person and online events, and social and traditional media – growing our reach in multiple ways.

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Once again we heard from young people at our now annual Youth Climate Summit. The videos made of the event in October 2022 have been widely shared and illustrate just how concerned young people are to see action to safeguard their futures.

Cumbria's SMEs are a significant contributor to carbon emissions so this year we have also grown our support for businesses that are looking for help to decarbonise.

We set up a Green Business Network of organisations involved in providing business advice, including the Chamber of Commerce and Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership amongst others, to help coordinate our collective activities.

The outcome of this has culminated in a successful joint bid to Westmorland and Furness Council for Shared Prosperity Funding for a Green Enterprise Hub.

Introduction



... **young people** are [concerned] to see action to **safeguard their futures.**



We've seen our team continue to grow – in skills, capacity and profile. Demand for our help has increased and highlights our need to grow our essential core income through grants, donations, corporate sponsorship and commercial income.

This is a work in progress. Thank you if you been able to support us in any of these ways and for continuing to travel with us on Cumbria's pathway to zero carbon.

Karen Mitchell
Chief Executive Officer



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

1,300

people participated in various
Great Big Green Week
events and activities



40+

CARBON LITERACY
TRAINING COURSES
WERE DELIVERED

722

PEOPLE IMPACTED BY COMMUNITY
CLIMATE CHAMPIONS



WE TRAINED OUR

1,000th
DELEGATE



AND BECAME A
PLATINUM CARBON
LITERATE
ORGANISATION!



400+

registrations for the first five
Climate Solutions for Cumbrian
Landscapes webinars

£73,200

OF COMMUNITY CLIMATE
GRANT FUNDS ALLOCATED
BY END OF MARCH 2023

This supported 29 projects including 8 which
addressed disadvantage and deprivation.

OUR
COLD TO COSY HOMES
SERVICE PROVIDED ADVICE
TO

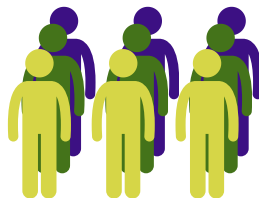


2,711

HOMES IN THE
REGION



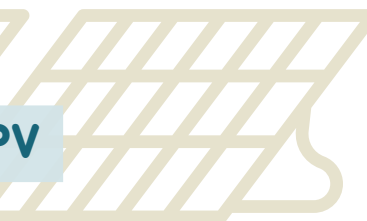
60+



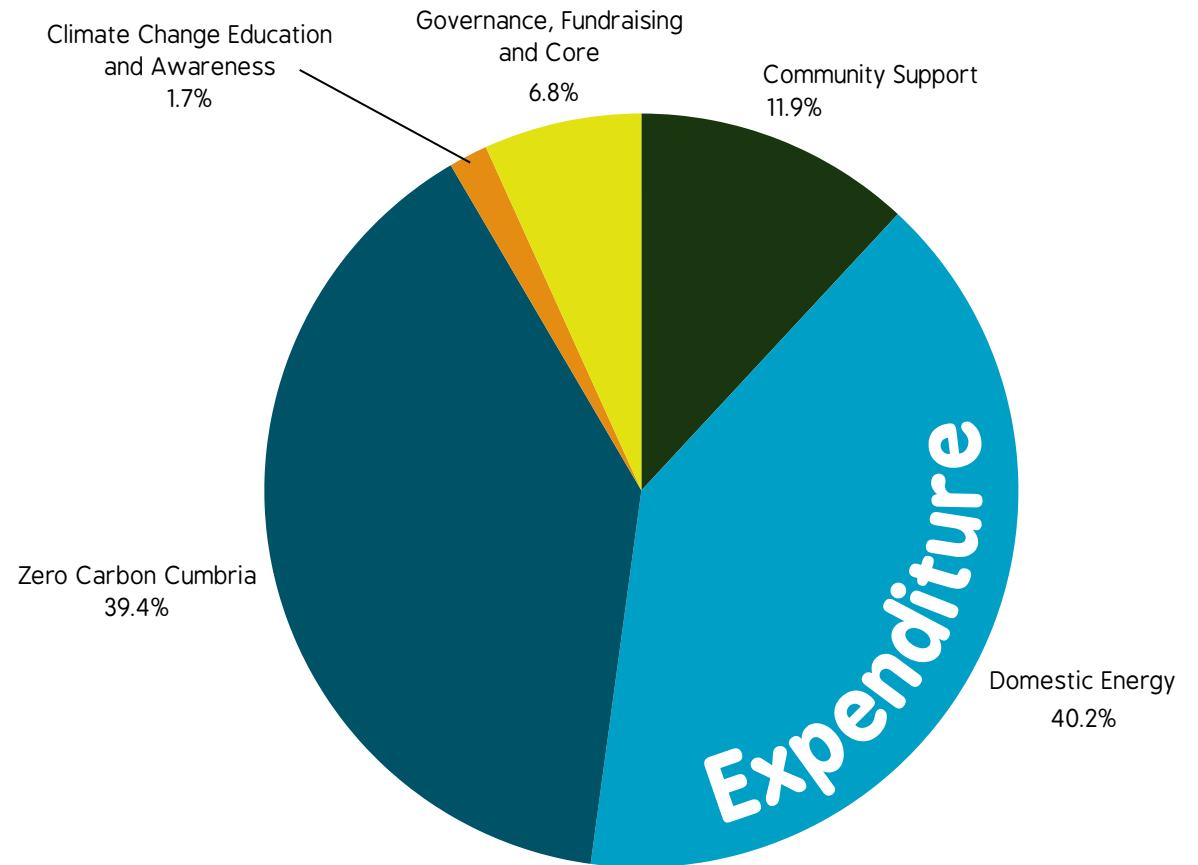
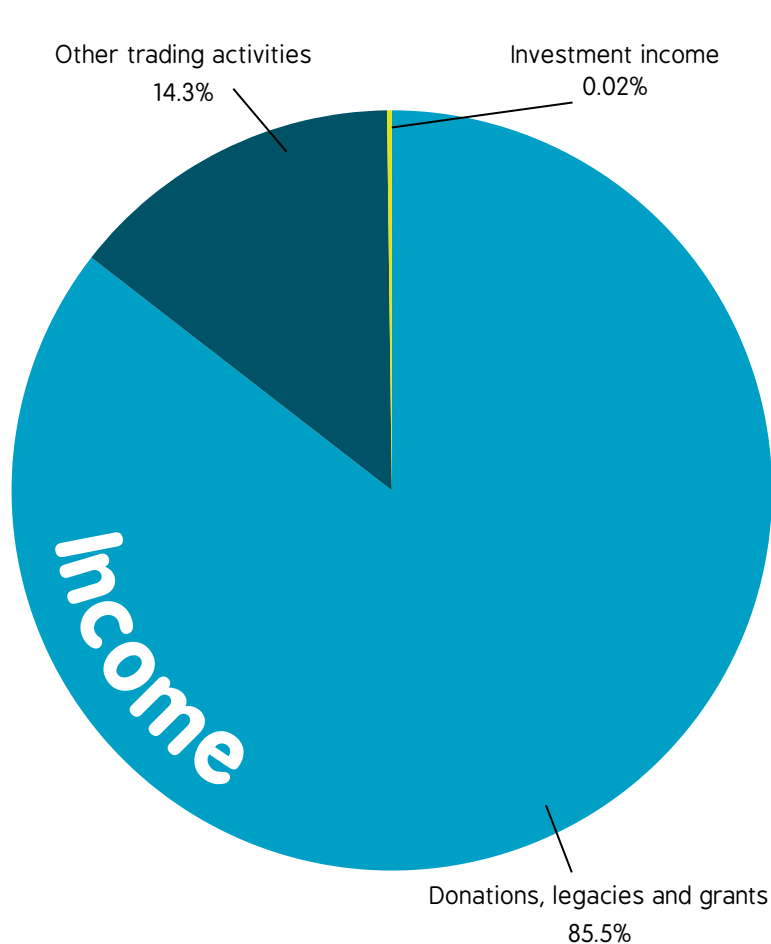
MORE THAN 60 STUDENTS
FROM **10** SCHOOLS
ATTENDED OUR SECOND
YOUTH CLIMATE SUMMIT

100

HOUSEHOLDERS
SUPPORTED TO GET
QUOTES FOR **SOLAR PV**



CAfS Financial Summary for 2022/23



Total Income: **£1,392,499**

Total Expenditure: **£1,317,597**

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

**Turnover remained buoyant again
in the year to 31 March 2023 at
£1,392,499.**

Notable contributions included the Zero Carbon Cumbria project of £598,768 (2022: £587,160) as well as Cold to Cosy Homes phase 3 and Retrofit for Cumbria which contributed £149,286 and £88,501 respectively.

Towards the end of the year CAfS received £101,460 via the UK Shared Prosperity Fund part of the government's levelling up programme to tackle fuel poverty. Taking account that 2022 was a thirteen month period, Trustees consider that turnover has therefore increased by 1.3% in relative terms.

Funders and partners

In 2022/23 CAfS received £1,392,499 for its activities from a wide range of sources. These include charitable trusts and foundations, national and local grant givers, local government and associated agencies, businesses and of course, individuals who may have taken up our services or attended one of our events and training. We also secured funding through third parties by developing several projects in partnership with others. All our activities are aligned to our charitable purposes, irrespective of funding source.

The Trustees would like to thank all our donors and the following funding partners and clients for their support this year including:

Agility Eco
Allerdale Borough Council
■■■■ (Winter Warmth Fund)
Alston Community Energy
Arnold Clark Automobiles Ltd
Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council
Climate Coalition
Community Energy Cumbria
Copeland Community Fund
Cumbria Chamber of Commerce
Cumbria Community Foundation
Cumbria County Council
Durham County Council
Eden District Council
Electricity North West
Emergence Foundation
Energy Saving Trust - Energy Redress
Home Group
Historic England

Innovate UK
Kendal Town Council
National Energy Action (NEA)
National Lottery
Neighbourly Foundation
Nisa
RES Wind Farm Holdings
Rural Community Energy Fund Keswick
■■■■ and Cockermouth
Shed One Gin
South Lakeland District Council Stonehaven
Campaigns Ltd
Sustainable Keswick
The Climate Movement
The Ebico Trust
The Fellside Flower Company
UK Shared Prosperity Fund
Voluntary Organisations' Network North East
Walney Extension Community Fund

And all of our individual donors.