

Rampion Community Benefit Fund

Impact Report 2023





Rampion Community Benefit Fund

The Rampion Community Benefit Fund, managed by Sussex Community Foundation, was established in 2017 with a value of £3.1 million allocated over a ten-year period. The Fund aids charities and groups working to enhance the lives of Sussex residents within an area spanning from Littlehampton Harbour in the west, to Beachy Head in the east, and up to the A272 near Twineham in the north.

The Rampion Community Benefit Fund aims to assist charities and community organisations during the energy crisis and beyond, all while addressing carbon emissions and climate change.





Rampion Community Benefit Fund

The Fund focuses on projects related to energy conservation, renewable energy, environmental improvements, nature conservation and marine ecology. Priority is given to projects supporting long-term initiatives that reduce energy costs and promote sustainable buildings.

In 2023, the Fund ring-fenced an amount of £100,000 towards supporting applications from community buildings and village halls, by promoting energy conservation, reducing energy consumption and generating renewable energy to lower carbon emissions.

These projects funded increased awareness of energy solutions, providing long-term benefits for community organisations through annual energy cost savings. They also focused on addressing fuel poverty and/or fuel conservation, and supported residents in managing rising fuel costs while also promoting sustainable use of resources and contributing to tackling climate change.

In the next few pages of this report we explore some of these amazing projects.

“It’s been another successful year for the Rampion Community Benefit Fund, awarding grants for over £200,000 across 27 organisations.

Projects supported have included a battery system to supplement a previously Rampion funded solar PV system at Henfield Hall, the Electric Cargo Bike Research Project at FareShare Sussex, solar panels for St Matthew’s Church in Worthing and a wind turbine for the Low Carbon Trust project at Brighton Earthship at Stanmer Park. The Fund also supported a number of organisations requesting a building energy survey in 2023.

My very grateful thanks to my predecessor and founding Chair, Keith Hollis and to founding panel member Maggie Burgess for their immense contribution over the five years we have been making grant awards from this Fund. Thanks also go to Rampion for their continued support and enthusiasm for this Fund.”

Martin Roberts, Chair, Rampion Community Benefit Fund



“We are delighted that the Rampion Community Benefit Fund continues to support some hugely inspiring projects, that benefit both our local community and environment.

We were particularly pleased to be able to allocate £100,000 for capital projects. This focus ensures that charities and community groups can use more of their vital funds to directly support their local communities.”

Katie Scanlan, Rampion Stakeholder and Visitor Centre Manager

Find out more about Sussex Community Foundation’s
Acting on Climate funding priority:
[Acting On Climate](#)



Making an *Impact* in 2023.

Over

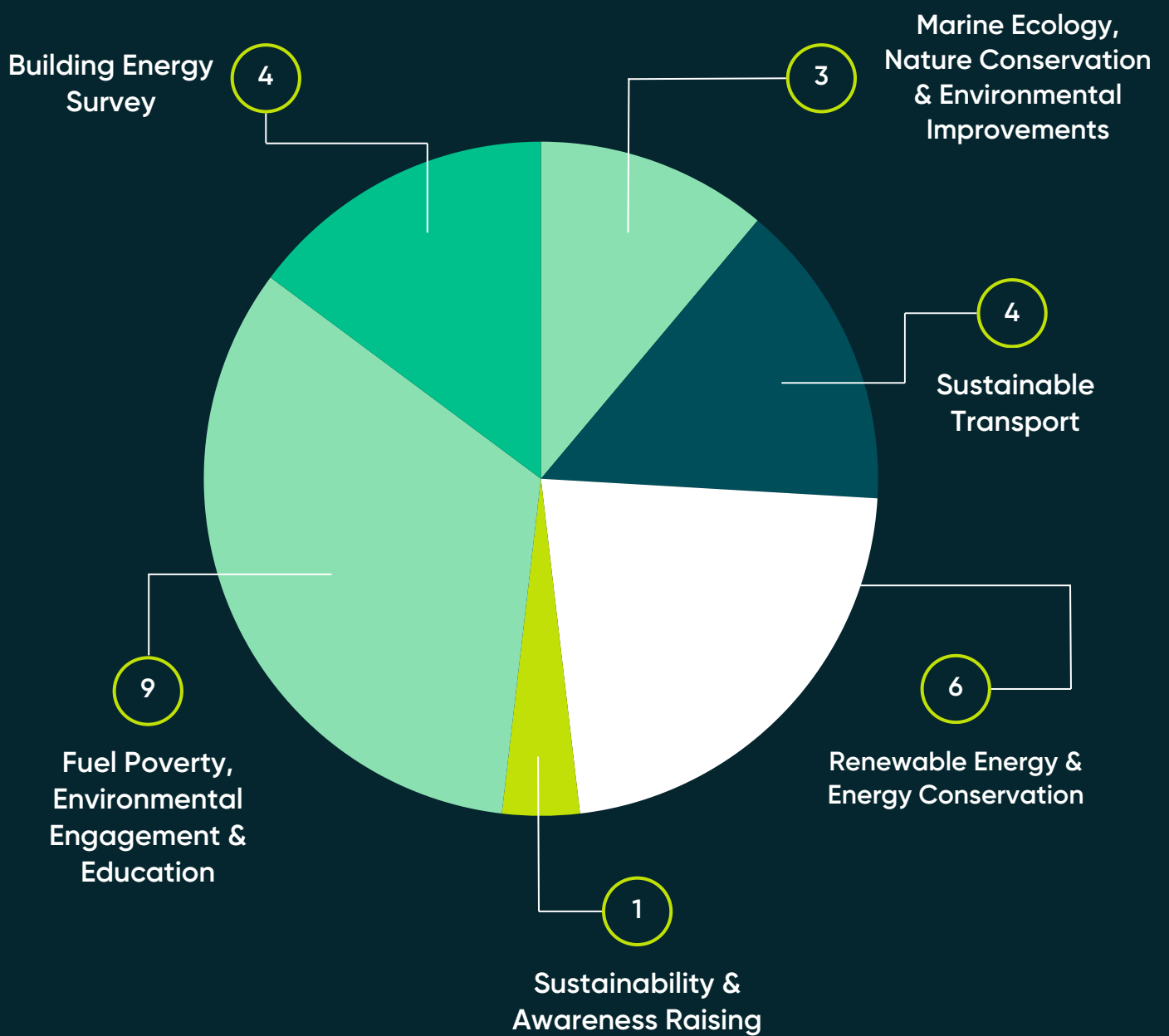
£200,000

The fund awarded over £200,000 in 2023 and
over £2m in grants since 2017 to 187 projects.

27 projects

supported in 2023.

Projects supported by theme.



FareShare Sussex & Surrey

- £10,000

FareShare Sussex & Surrey rescues good food from the food supply industries that would otherwise be waste, using it to feed 22,000 hungry vulnerable people every week of all demographics.

Their Electric Bike Research Project received a grant of £10,000. It incorporated a year-long trial to test out the feasibility of utilising more electric bikes to deliver food to community groups across Brighton & Hove.

FareShare are reducing their carbon footprint by changing their delivery vehicles to electric. Their ambition is to deliver as much as possible using the e-bike.



“We are thrilled to be adding to our e-bike delivery fleet to serve the 78 community groups we deliver to in Brighton & Hove. As an environmental charity it is critical that we keep reviewing our own impact to reduce our carbon emissions. The new Urban Arrow enables us to further green our deliveries of surplus food in the city.”

Dan Slatter, FareShare Sussex and Surrey CEO

As 2023 brings new uncertainties around the Cost of Living crisis and the economy, demand for this food has never been higher.

The Electric Bike Research Project means:



Reduction in carbon footprint for local deliveries of food



Robustly trial an electric bike to be the model for expansion of the fleet, ensuring more food deliveries by bike in the future



Electric bikes can be shared with local community groups, reducing their carbon impact considerably and promoting sustainable food delivery and collection.

FareShare has established an electric-bike focus group made up of volunteer bike riders who are playing a crucial role in delivering food using this bike. They will be training Real Junk Food Project volunteers in how to ride this bike safely, meaning that they will be able to start collecting food. BrightStart Whitehawk will be trialling the bike in 2024.

“As well as being low-carbon and good for the planet, the e-bike is great because it can get food to our projects located in the city centre that are difficult for vans to reach. It’s great for picking up small food donations from supermarkets - we can park right outside the stores which makes loading the food quick and efficient.”

Tom Lawton, volunteer bike rider

Sew Fabulous

- £5,000



Sew Fabulous are a sustainable sewing and textiles studio. Their vision is to increase sewing skills and knowledge of sustainability and textile waste through creative, affordable and accessible classes and events for all.

They were awarded £5,000 in support of their 'Make Do And Mend' project. Every year in the UK, 300,000 tonnes of clothing and textiles get sent to landfill. This project addresses this issue by upskilling local people so that they can mend, up-cycle, reuse and recycle.

The project, held at their studio in the Open Market in Brighton, works with local groups and people facing a range of disadvantage, upskilling and helping them to repair and up-cycle their own and their families' clothing. The project also offers 'Repair Café'-style training for people who want to pass on their skills to others.

“I have been coming to the workshops for six months. I had a bag of mending and I wasn’t getting on with it, but thanks to this project I have made great progress. It’s a great support on a practical level and a confidence booster because tasks get completed. I’ve met some really interesting people and enjoy getting out of the house.”



Sight Support Worthing

- £1,810

Sight Support Worthing is one the county's oldest charities, founded 113 years ago with the purpose of supporting people who live with visual impairments.

They host activities at their centre every day and support members with assistive technology, liaison, advocacy and benefits. Over the course of time, they have adapted to changing needs, one of which is the desire to become carbon neutral.

In 2023, the organisation was awarded £1,810 in support of a building energy audit from BHESCo (Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative).

The audit enabled the organisation to implement new technologies that will mitigate against increases in the cost of energy as well as providing a road map to help the organisation on their journey towards carbon reduction.





“As a charity the energy audit was fundamental to us understanding how to improve our sustainability. We now have practical steps in place to embark on our journey to net zero. We are excited to use this knowledge to secure our future work while reducing our environmental impact. This is hugely beneficial to our work supporting independence and inclusion for people with visual impairments.”

Sonia Baker, Executive Manager

Community Base

- £20,000

Community Base Brighton houses 37 community organisations supporting a diverse range of clients across the city.

The project replaced 101 3.4 kW storage heaters with 2 kW panel heaters.

The upgraded heating and control system will result in a saving of 42% of energy consumption.

Community Base were awarded a grant of £20,000 in support of this heating upgrade.



The new heating system is part of a wider renovation programme that improves the efficiency of the Community Base building. The programme includes insulation, new double glazing and LED lighting.

The heaters are thermostatically controlled and will adjust the heat output if the room is warmed by solar radiation and can also detect and shut off when a window is opened. From the tenant's perspective, the building will be more comfortable as the heating will be thermostatically controlled.

“Before the new system was installed we were having to patch up the old storage heaters every year and, as they were obsolete, it was difficult to find new parts, as well as being inefficient. The new heating system gives so much more control to individual offices but also means we can save energy for both the environment and on our energy bills as well as on our maintenance.”

Olivia Canham, Director Community Base

“The new heating system has transformed the office environment. Winter was always a bit unpredictable and uncomfortable due to limited control of the heating system in our offices. With the new heating system we now have full control and are able to manage comfort and energy efficiently without compromise.”

Victoria Williams, Food Matters (Tenant)

Magnetic Ideals Creative Climate Café - £10,000



Magnetic Ideals provide training, research and networking for organisations and individuals working for community interest and social sustainability.

The group was awarded £10,000 in support of ten family friendly 'Creative Cost of Living Climate Cafés' over six months in autumn and winter in 2023. The programme covers issues such as the energy crisis, marine life and wetlands preservation.

A partnership between Magnetic Ideals, Arts for Life and Ectopia Now!, these cafés help address eco-anxiety and fuel conversation for vulnerable groups.

[Read a recent article about the launch of Climate Café](#)

St Matthew's Worthing

- £10,000

St Matthew's Worthing is a local church serving the community around them, particularly meeting the daily needs of people struggling with poverty, hunger, loneliness and addiction.

They offer a meal service for local residents, the provision of a warm space, holiday lunches, an older people's outreach project, as well as a local crèche. They host a number of events and local groups throughout the week.

The group was awarded £10,000 towards a Solar PV (Solar Photovoltaic) project to install 17 panels feeding two inverters, one for the church building and the other for the church hall. The 8 kW system is estimated to produce around 210 MWh (Mega Watt Hours) over the expected 25-year life, saving around 100 tonnes of carbon during this period.



"We are so grateful for the grant from the Rampion Community Fund that has enabled us to fit the new solar panels. This has supported our work as a community hub in the centre of Worthing, as well as our aspiration to fulfil the Church of England's 2030 carbon neutral target."

Rev Paul Taylor, Vicar, St Matthew's Church



Rampion Community Benefit Fund Impact Report

Grants awarded in 2023

Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
The Henfield Hall	A battery to store power generated from their solar array	£10,000
FareShare Sussex & Surrey	An e-cargo bike and a research project	£10,000
Community Base	New panel heaters and controls to manage heating within the building	£20,000
Community Transport Sussex	A wheelchair accessible electric vehicle	£10,000
St Matthew's Worthing	Installation of a solar array	£10,000
Sew Fabulous	Their 'Make Do and Mend Project' to help reduce textile waste	£5,000
St Luke's Advice Service	Projects to support residents struggling with Cost of Living crisis	£10,000
Magnetic Ideals	Funding of family-friendly cafés	£10,000
Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project	Providing support for families in fuel poverty	£10,000
Sustainable Sussex	Building a polytunnel	£4,777

Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
Low Carbon Trust	Installation of a wind turbine	£5,000
Fabrica	Supporting their Renew/Repurpose courses	£10,000
Pedal People	Ongoing maintenance of Pedal People's cycles	£10,000
Emmaus Brighton & Hove	Installation of new loft insulation	£3,000
Turner Community Project	A new forest school and community garden	£10,000
Havens Community Hub	Supporting the running costs of the Food Cooperative	£10,000
Green Tides	Growing the Wildflower Trail Project	£10,000
Over the Moon Shoreham	Supporting the Summer Community Reuse Festival	£5,000
Friends of Denton Gardens	Purchasing plants and other materials for the local wildlife garden	£3,700
Arun Community Church	An energy audit for the community centre	£4,800
Climate Resilience Centre Worthing (CREW)	A youth space for climate action and wellbeing	£4,777

Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
Carers Centre for Brighton & Hove	Focused activities for young carers	£4,777
Henfield with Shermanbury and Woodmancote Parochial Church Council	A new insulated ceiling in the church hall	£6,169
Wolo Foundation	Purchase of an electric van	£10,000
Sight Support Worthing	A building energy audit	£1,811
Shoreham Rowing Club	A building energy audit	£2,000



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