



Fit for
the Future

A Network for
Environmental
Practitioners

Report 2015



National
Trust



Ashden

Sustainable solutions, better lives

Our Mission

The Fit for the Future Network's mission is to ensure all organisations become more sustainable by sharing best practice and collaborating. This year we have worked with:

988 environmental practitioners

from

106 organisations

Collectively saving

14,657 tonnes of CO₂ in 2015

A word from the founders

"We are stunned by the growth of the Fit For the Future Network. Two years on from an idea that was hatched over coffee, more than a hundred organisations – from land owners and charities to museums and community groups – are collaborating to become more sustainable. In an uncertain world, the role this network plays is more important than ever. It gives all involved the confidence and support needed to get things done.

The Network is now driven and developed by hundreds of dedicated people who are ably assisted by a core team. Without the selfless contribution of our expert members, the Network would be nothing. We are really proud of the achievements so far, and to be able to share them with you in this report. Looking to the future, we are confident that the Network is needed more than ever as challenges continue to grow."

Paul Southall, Keith Jones and Simon Brammer

Network steering group

Sarah Alsbury (RSPB), Andrew Dunning (The Crown Estate)
Anna Frizzell (RNLI), James Lloyd (National Trust)



Collective Impact

Our membership look after

19

world heritage sites



> 40,000

more than 40,000 buildings



They consume

729,933,488 KWh

and are collectively generating

5.5%

5.5% of their energy using renewables



with 358 renewable energy projects in action

358

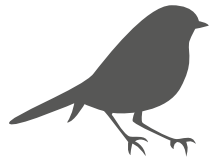


CO₂

The CO₂ saved by members from generating energy using renewables equates to 1,766 trips around the world in an average petrol car

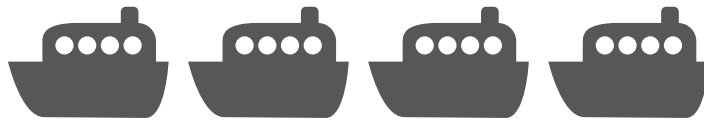
Here's how saving and generating energy can help our members meet their charitable objectives

RSPB's electricity savings
this year could pay for



17 days with a wildlife investigator

RNLI's predicted income and savings from its renewables portfolio could pay for



10 inshore rescue boats per year

National Trust's electricity savings
this year could pay for



36 km of footpath restoration

"Thanks to the Network, in just over a year Chatsworth have installed 15 biomass systems into our properties – a figure that would have been reduced by a third had we not been members. These boilers have produced over 1 million KWH and have saved 271 tCO2e. The money saved will go back into conserving Chatsworth estate."



Luke Sherlock
Sustainability Manager
Chatsworth House

"Input from fellow members led directly to a commitment to invest a significant amount of money within next year's business plan for hydro power. Had we not been part of the Network, we'd have gone down a much longer route which could have left me a year further behind and without that financial commitment."




Gavin Beat
Green Plan Developer
Canal & River Trust

The Network has hosted more than 30 events, site visits and meetings enabling 988 practitioners to collaborate and share knowledge



We have been working with members to help them monitor energy consumption



What We've Done This Year



Some of our new members



What Our Members Think About Us

"Fit for the Future is one of the most useful networks I have been a part of. It's accessible, targeted, relevant, and everyone is very open about sharing their learnings. Its unique selling point is that it gives you access to a network of peers who have similar challenges and work within very similar constraints. Being a member has saved me hours of research on numerous topics as well as money to attend meetings and events. It has allowed me to update my knowledge and get professional development that I wouldn't have been able to get anywhere else. I would highly recommend the Network and have done so to my counterparts in different organisations."



Johanna Gosling
Environmental Manager
Oxfam GB

"However much you read information on a website, it's really useful to talk to people who've actually done it. Connections have helped speed processes along, provided knowledge and given us the confidence to have a go. The value of the Network is in finding out that other people are doing things successfully, which gives you and your employers the confidence to know that it's something worth pursuing. It's also been immensely helpful to get reciprocal advice from other compatible organisations and collaborate with them."

Would you recommend us to peers?

100% YES

Has membership to the Network been useful to you?

95% YES

Have our events improved your understanding in the area covered?

100% YES



Julian Hosking
Senior Specialist
Natural England

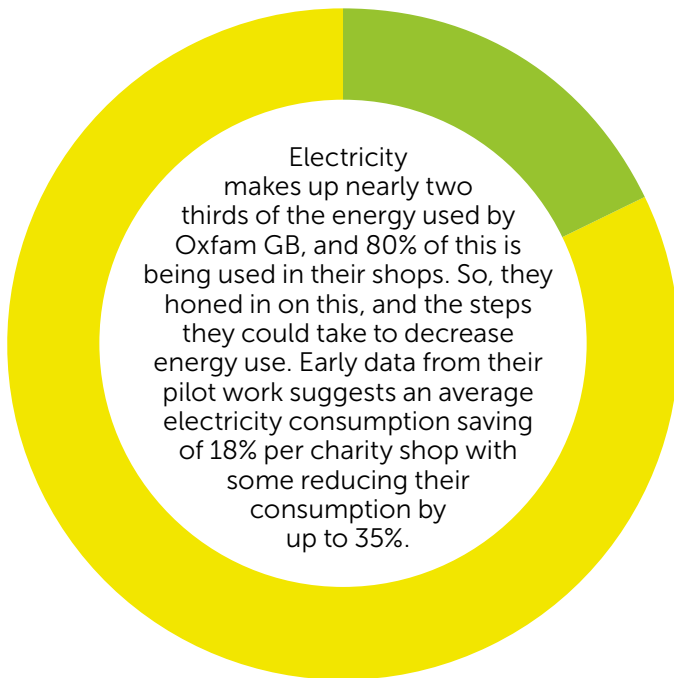
Energy and carbon savings being made by our members

Through being a member of Fit for the Future I've made contact with numerous practitioners, from Environmental Advisors and general managers to people from smaller trusts and community energy groups. Talking to fellow members and getting advice helped focus my mind and understand the art of the possible for renewable energy projects and energy efficiency in particular. I learnt that yes, we can do things, particularly in historic environments where the majority of our estate has statutory protection. This can-do attitude and the infectious enthusiasm shown by other members has been invaluable on a personal level, and a huge help with getting our recently published Environment Strategy off the ground."



Olivia Lassiere
Heritage and Environmental Manager
Scottish Canals

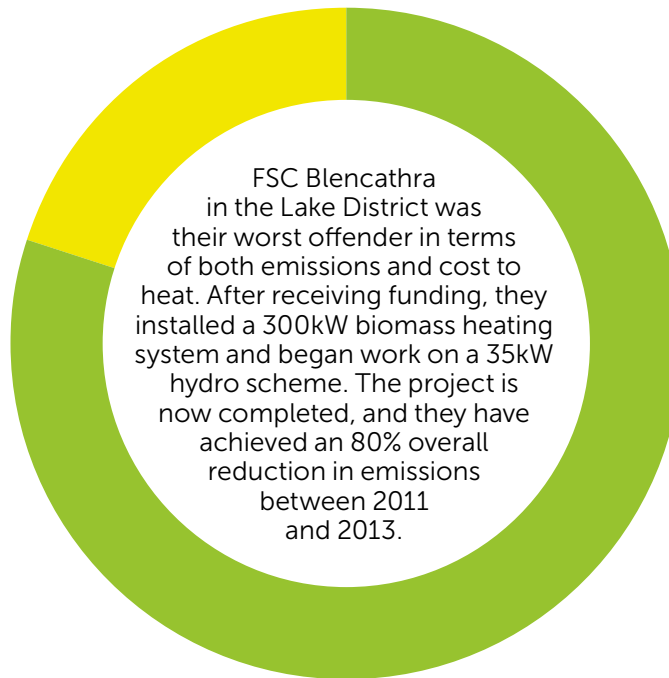
Oxfam GB



18%

average electricity consumption saving per charity shop

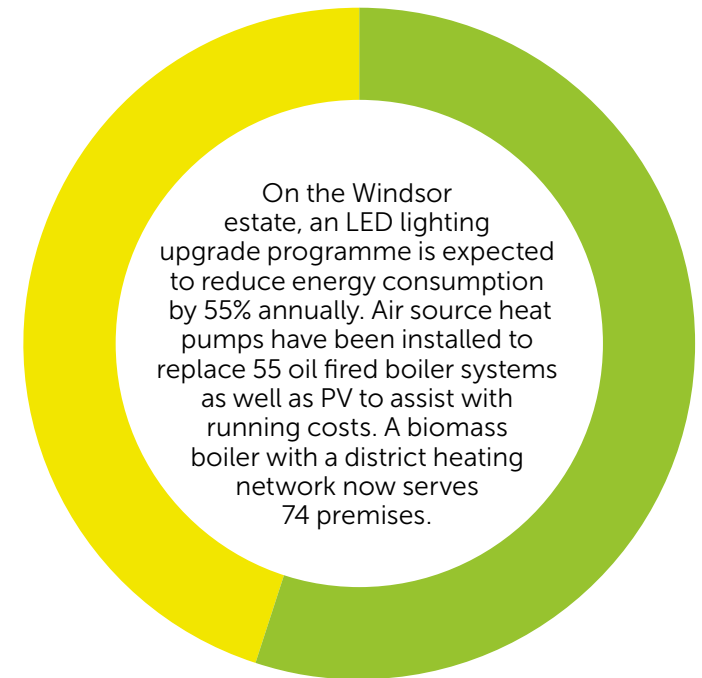
Field Studies Council



80%

overall reduction in emissions between 2011-2013

The Crown Estate



55%

expected annual energy consumption reduction

Lessons learnt this year and looking forward

- We need to make our events more accessible and sometimes repeat them in various locations across the UK. Next year, expect events closer to transport hubs and the odd road show if the appetite is there
- The challenges faced due to the removal of government subsidies has highlighted the need for collaboration and sharing of knowledge more than ever
- 1 in 3 of our members don't monitor their energy consumption. We're working with some of the more experienced energy managers in the Network to change that
- Energy is really important, but we've learnt that the best projects are those that take a more holistic approach. With that in mind, we're widening our remit to include waste, water, food and other issues that must be considered in order for organisations to become more sustainable

"The Fit for the Future Network has grown into a really powerful movement for effective action on climate change thanks to the hard work of all the practitioners involved. The National Trust and Ashden set up the Network because we believe that collaboration is one of the best tools we have to mitigate its threat."



Helen Ghosh
Director General
National Trust

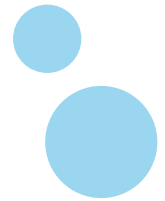
"What is so important about this network is that it brings these organisations together to learn from each other and accelerate their energy reduction plans but not just that: the money saved on energy can be ploughed back into an organisation's core services whether that is buying lifeboats, fighting cancer or preserving the UK's heritage. It has been a busy year and we hope that with more funding and more organisations joining we can achieve even bigger savings and really make our UK buildings fit for the future."



Sarah Butler-Sloss
Founder Director
Ashden



Fit for
the Future



For more information about joining or supporting Fit for the Future Network, contact the Network team:

info@fftf.org.uk
07483 117 653

Or visit

 www.fftf.org.uk/

 @F4F_Network