



CASE STUDY

Powering Local Change: Community Climate Action for a Just Transition

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Business in the Community's (BITC) Community Climate Fund helps businesses and communities come together to tackle both the climate and cost-of-living crisis at the same time. While the issues may seem very different, many of the solutions to the climate crisis such as retrofitting buildings, community food growing and/or energy schemes, will also address the cost-of-living crisis.

This compilation of case studies includes five best-practice examples, in honour of Great Big Green Week 2025, of how our Community Climate Fund is making a difference in communities across the UK.

These case studies explore how the fund is supporting communities, from Norwich to Tees Valley, to improve their energy efficiency and save money in the process, as well as enabling grassroots organisations to help reduce waste through making equipment and tools accessible to everyone in their community.

No matter what stage your organisation is in terms of your climate action journey, we hope that these case studies inform and inspire you to take action.

Energy Efficiency: LED pilots

Norwich: West Earlham Infant & Nursery School

While Norwich is renowned for its idyllic charm, its communities face significant challenges. The city's social mobility ranks in the bottom 10% nationwide and one fifth of Norwich is considered among the 10% most deprived areas in the country. In West Earlham Infant School and Nursery, 77 out of a total of 270 students are eligible for free school meals. As a result, the school was allocated £29,000 in funding through BITC's Community Climate Fund, to create sustainable, long-lasting improvements for its pupils.

The school used the funding to replace its halogen lights with more energy-efficient LED lights within the whole building. This enabled the school to save costs and funnel the leftover spend into improving the school further. It also had a positive impact for the environment, reducing energy wasted and CO2 emissions.

In addition to this, the school delivered an educational workshop in partnership with Flagship Services on energy saving to 180 pupils. The session covered what energy saving means, why it is important and why you read a meter. After the session, every pupil was given an LED bulb to take home

and begin their journey of energy saving beyond the classroom. The outcome of the workshop was extremely positive, resulting in a 100% engagement rate from participants.

'I liked looking around the house for dangers and electricity' - a quote from a child involved in the workshop



Bradford: Hainworth Community Centre

Many neighbourhoods across the Bradford District, such as Keighley, are classified as some of the most deprived in the UK, highlighting an urgent need for action. Hainworth Community Centre, based in East Keighley, delivers crucial services for locals, such as providing a fortnightly warm space in the winter, monthly food parcels

for up to 40 families, a pop-up shop and weekly hot dinners.

However, the community centre was struggling due to its roof coming off in 2020, leaving the building unfit for use. Due to this, the community centre was granted £2,840 in funding through BITC's Community Climate Fund and decided to put the money towards changing its poor energy performance light fittings to LED lighting.

This improved the overall energy performance of the community centre, reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as reducing costs, which usually exceed more than £1,500 during winter. This had the positive impact of allowing Hainworth Community Centre more financial capacity to deliver vital services to its communities.

Tees Valley: Grangetown Generations

Due to the decline of steel and heavy engineering industries, resulting in job losses, Tees Valley has high unemployment rates, low educational attainment rates and has seen increased environmental deterioration in recent years. Grangetown Generations is a community-led volunteer organisation, created by local resident

Adam Brooks, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Its aim is to deliver food to the community, utilising the council-owned Grangetown Library and Community Centre as a meeting place for its volunteers to plan. To date, Grangetown Generations has reached impressive numbers, delivering to over 7,000 households, with only a team of 16 volunteers.

The organisation was granted £8,000 from BITC's Community Climate Fund, which was spent on an LED retrofit across the whole building. Following this, the team have taken over the building, which was at risk of closure, on a 25-year lease to build on their success and create wider support for the community.



Supporting Share and Repair

Tees Valley: Furbd Reuse and Repair

Furbd was launched by The Hope Foundation and was created as a practical and accessible solution to reducing digital poverty. The organisation collects second-hand or unwanted digital devices and IT equipment and upcycles them so that the community can benefit from them.

Furbd were allocated £4,000 in funding through the Community Climate Fund. It has used this funding to purchase much needed equipment such as a portable erasure station, to memory-wipe devices on site, a laser engraver to remove asset codes and further tools to set up new repair stations.

Being able to access this opens up a new market for Furbd, as it will be able to acquire devices from organisations with more stringent IT security policies. It also has the added benefit of supporting T-Level students with hands-on learning and transferable skills, as well as achieving its overall goal of reducing and repurposing electronic waste.



We're looking for partners who want to accelerate their own just transition journey to support the fund and work with us to build lasting prosperity, changing the lives of millions of people across the UK. To find out more, [visit our website](#).

Tees Valley: Sharecycle

FreeStyle Community Projects CIC is a community-led development organisation that works with local residents in Teesside. It functions as an ecosystem of many projects. Sharecycle is one of these projects: a lending library of useful things for the benefit of residents, schools and voluntary organisations in the area. Sharecycle has been allocated £5,000 in funding through the Community Climate Fund to support the marketing and advertising of the scheme, both to raise awareness, increase membership and generate more donations to the lending library. The goal is to reduce costs and environmental impact through the community using Sharecycle, rather than buying new items.