



Spotlight on

# A sustainable future

The early impacts of climate change on all our lives have increasingly hit the headlines, as pressure grows on our world leaders to commit to action. The UK government has set in law the world's most ambitious climate change target, cutting emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels, bringing the UK more than three-quarters of the way to net zero by 2050.

In Norfolk our councils have gone a step further, pledging to reach net zero by 2030. To achieve this we will all need to accept changes in the way we live, work, shop and travel.

In partnership with local philanthropists, charities and volunteers, NCF is committed to 'think global, act local' to enable community-led action that can contribute to far reaching change to safeguard our environment.

Changes in our natural environment have been proven to disproportionately affect the most vulnerable in society, and the correlation between poverty in local communities and the environment is only likely to become stronger.

The Covid-19 crisis has already shown how powerful the community response can be. Crucially, our charities and voluntary groups are working towards a sustainable future now, caring for our green spaces, creating sustainable community buildings and leading local action to safeguard our rich local environment from coastline and countryside, to our own doorsteps. They are helping to build our understanding and awareness, and supporting us to change behaviours in our everyday lives that can make a difference to our future.

In recognition, Community Foundations are leading the way to adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as an urgent call to action, with a focus on community-level action to ensure quality of life and wellbeing for all by 2030.

**This report shines a light on the work already underway in local communities to safeguard our environment, and engage and involve people in the climate change conversation to help realise net zero.**



Together, Norfolk shines brighter



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## Think global, act local

The alignment of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the work of Community Foundations is clear. The 5 P's (People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership) in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development capture the breadth of our work and align with the core mission of Community Foundations – to drive philanthropy and collaboration across communities for transformative and sustainable change. The 17 goals provide a blueprint for a sustainable future, requiring cooperation among governments, industries and communities.

This report highlights just a few examples of community action contributing to global change.

**The Norfolk Rivers Trust** worked with primary schools in North Norfolk to look at micro-plastics in the marine environment. Over 150 pupils from Blakeney, Holt, Kelling and Walsingham schools participated in five days of activities including a beach survey. The pupils learned about the sources of micro-plastics and discussed ways of minimising them in their everyday life, presenting their findings to a school assembly.



**North Walsham Community Centre** received our help to replace and insulate the ceiling in the main hall and replace fluorescent tubes with LED lighting. As well as providing a warmer and better lit community facility, this work will reduce energy used annually for lighting by around 46%.

**Diss Community Woodland Project** is a small group of volunteers who together work to sensitively conserve natural spaces for the local community. With our help, they have been able to maintain walkways in the beautiful Quaker Wood, alongside activities to plant trees and create and maintain wildlife habitats.

The woodland is well used by the local community, and it provides a base for a forest school as well as other educational visits.

**New-U** operates a clothes swap store in Norwich which enables people to donate and 'buy' quality used clothing using a points system. Points are also made available through support agencies and charities, such as those offering services for homeless and long-term unemployed, to enable those facing hardship to 'buy' or borrow the clothing they need free of charge.



**The Burrell Shop** in Thetford has been established by Norfolk Community Foundation with a range of local partners to enable a sustainable approach to tackling food insecurity by bringing the model of a community supermarket to Norfolk.

The new community store at the Charles Burrell Centre provides low cost fresh, frozen, dried and tinned food thanks to charities such as Fareshare, and local producers. The store ensures good quality, affordable food is available to local people for the long term.



Visit our website to find out more about our work, or talk to our team on 01603 623958 / [shinebrighter@norfolkfoundation.com](mailto:shinebrighter@norfolkfoundation.com)

[www.norfolkfoundation.com](http://www.norfolkfoundation.com)

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