

# Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme

**WcVA**  
**CgGC**

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# Ministerial foreword

## by Julie James MS, Minister for Climate Change

I am pleased to see the Landfill Disposals Tax Community Scheme reporting on its third year of successfully supporting and investing in our communities situated in close proximity to our necessary landfill disposal sites across Wales. This annual report shows how the scheme continues to help communities take collective action to make meaningful and lasting improvements in their local areas.

Despite being established only three years ago, this scheme and the local and national projects funded within it, have clearly delivered a variety of benefits to local communities. These benefits support us in achieving the ambitious commitments we have set out in our Programme for Government 2021-2026, such as expanding and enhancing green spaces, supporting social enterprise schemes and re-use/repair hubs.

It has been a difficult period and we have all experienced, first-hand, the

impact of the coronavirus pandemic on our daily lives. The LDTCS scheme was hugely impacted by the pandemic and projects experienced many different challenges. I am encouraged to see how the scheme has been flexible and worked closely with many community groups to allow adaptations that have benefited communities with their needs during this time, taking local action to address climate change and the nature emergency. One project, Canolfan Maerdy, was awarded funding to set up a distribution base for surplus food from local stores so they could provide free or low-cost food to people on low incomes, reducing food waste and embodied carbon created via wasted food. As the pandemic continued, demand for this service increased and the project was able to adapt to expand its services to include shopping and support services to vulnerable members of the community.

This report provides a clear insight into the growing value of supporting

community action, through the case studies and summaries of project delivery numerous benefits have been reported. It demonstrates the far reaching benefits projects such as these can achieve for their communities, the environment and the well-being of future generations.

I have no doubt that the Scheme will continue to provide an important level of support and investment, enabling communities to make improvements to local areas and communities across Wales and help us to make the changes needed to tackle the biodiversity and climate change emergencies.



**JULIE JAMES MS**  
Minister for Climate Change

# Chair's foreword

In a year which presented unexpected challenges I have been impressed and inspired by the commitment of community groups to lead action on the environment through The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS) funded projects. After spending more time than we usually would inside our own homes I think we have all come to appreciate even more the importance of our natural environment and the joys in working to enhance it together. Groups across Wales have come together in new ways to deliver LDTCS projects, adapting and learning to continue to connect their communities and lead action on the environment.

The importance of volunteer led action on the environment is clear throughout this year's report. Groups have worked to maintain, develop, and protect the environment in a multitude of ways while providing a much needed relief from the impacts of COVID-19. From groups who have diverted surplus food to families in need during the pandemic, to at home growing kits, and nature photography competitions, LDTCS projects have continued to find ways to protect the environment and maintain a connection with nature.



**LINDSAY CORDERY-BRUCE**  
Chairperson of the Landfill  
Disposals Tax Communities  
Scheme (LDTCS)

## Executive summary

**This report contains a summary of the activities delivered with funding from the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS) grant programme.**

This is the third operational year for the Wales-wide scheme and this year saw 29 local projects and one project of national significance awarded. The local projects awarded aim to take action on the environment in areas within five miles of a landfill site or significant waste transfer station. The report also highlights how the scheme is delivering against

key Welsh Government priorities and the new Programme for Government published following the 2021 Senedd Elections. Over the next two years of grant delivery, the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme will be working towards the new Programme for Government.

# The COVID-19 pandemic

## **THE GLOBAL COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND CONSEQUENT NATIONAL LOCKDOWNS UNDERSTANDABLY AFFECTED THE ABILITY OF ORGANISATIONS TO CONTINUE ACTIVITY AS PLANNED.**

Despite these unforeseen challenges, groups demonstrated tenacity, adaptability, and commitment to their communities as they amended projects to continue delivery and meet developing needs.

Due to the uncertainty caused by the pandemic at the start of 2020, measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and reprioritisation of organisations' activities, the decision was taken to combine funding for 2020/21 into a single grant round.

The fifth round of the grant scheme opened in October 2020 for projects starting in April 2021. It was hoped that this decision would enable organisations to submit a project which could commence with less disruption from COVID-19 and lockdown restrictions.

WCVA was able to work with groups that held existing grants to adapt planned activity to meet the requirements of homeworking, social distancing, and lockdown restrictions. Due to the nature of some projects that required group working, project end dates were able to be extended to allow for restrictions to ease and alternative arrangements made. Many grant recipients reported having to cancel and rearrange events to accommodate for restrictions and a reduction in volunteer numbers due to the need to isolate. WCVA approved amendments to budgets and targets to accommodate the adaptation of engagement activities towards online delivery and the redesign of projects to meet new requirements. Grant recipients were invited to provide a COVID-19 specific activity report to encourage early conversations about any concerns as well as a follow up survey to encapsulate the impact of the pandemic on all ongoing projects.





# COVID impact survey

**TO CAPTURE THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON LDTCS PROJECTS, WCVA SENT A SURVEY MONKEY QUESTIONNAIRE TO ALL CURRENT RECIPIENTS OF THE GRANT.**

The questionnaire allowed recipients to feedback on how their project has been affected and how they have adapted their delivery methods and engagement styles.

**1** 100% of survey participants stated their organisation had as whole been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**2** 86% responded that their LDTCS project had been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

When asked to provide a brief explanation of how their organisation has been affected, many projects noted the conflicting pressures of responding to an increased demand while having to close premises and furlough staff. Organisations that worked closely with volunteers experienced a retention drop-off as isolation measures were implemented and activity suspended. Unsurprisingly the principal effect of the pandemic indicated from the survey was the loss of income due to the shutdown of usual revenue streams.

◀ **Left:** LDTCS project, Tywi Gateway Trust in Carmarthenshire

## What survey participants said

‘The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a huge increase in demand for our services. The response by local communities to the increased need for food has been incredible, with lots of emergency response projects being set up and many of them turning into long-term sustainable support for their local communities. This has meant we have needed more surplus food to meet this increased need and we have had to change the way we operate in order to reach as many people as possible. We moved away from direct deliveries and we started asking organisations based in Cardiff to collect from our warehouse where possible so that the vans could be used to deliver food further afield.’

‘We had to limit the amount of people who were allowed to use the facility and all of our events were held behind closed doors. This put a huge strain on our funds, as our main income is gained from holding events that visitors from outside the local area can attend.’

Organisations were then asked to explain how they were able to adapt the delivery of their LDTCS project to overcome some of these barriers. Many organisations utilised online platforms such as Zoom and Facebook groups to maintain engagement with communities. Some groups were able to maintain face to face volunteer days when restrictions allowed by working in smaller groups that did not mix and creating additional event days to spread out opportunities.

‘We have posted pictures of the changes taking place on site to keep everyone involved and engaged in the progress of the project, and enabled flexible times where people can stagger their visiting and volunteering.’

‘We have had Zoom presentations and where possible, had one to one volunteer opportunities tracking pine martens. We heavily use Twitter and Facebook group posts to encourage dynamic sharing of information by members and also group-learning.’

## What survey participants said

‘We have been delivering the project through online Zoom sessions. Groups of people with learning disabilities have attended regularly; all sessions are linked with the theme of biodiversity. We have additionally sent resources to our participants’ homes eg wildlife habitat kits for people to create at home, surveys to complete and seeds to plant. We have held nature photo competitions and practical online sessions eg, how to make a bug hotel. We have also hosted a weekly discussion group where participants discuss various topics such as “How could we get more nature into our cities?”.’

When asked if they would like to make any other comments, many organisations were thankful for the flexibility shown by the LDTCS grant scheme over the pandemic and were enthusiastic about getting back to working with their communities.



# Canolfan Maerdy

**CANOLFAN MAERDY IS A PROJECT THAT EXEMPLIFIES HOW THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AFFECTED GROUPS AND HOW THEY WERE ABLE TO ADAPT TO MEET A RISING NEED IN THEIR COMMUNITY.**

Canolfan Maerdy was awarded funding in round two of the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme to set up a distribution base for surplus food from five local stores. They planned to reduce food waste to landfill and provide free or low-cost food to people on low incomes while enhancing dietary options. The first eight months of the project exceeded expectations with surplus food from stores doubling in quantity due to an increase in volunteers, delivering various workshops in healthy eating, development of recipe cards, and launching the Food Hwb. But as the pandemic continued Canolfan Maerdy took steps to adapt to restrictions and

to tailor services to meet the needs of some of the most vulnerable in society.

Canolfan Maerdy remained open throughout the pandemic to distribute food to those in danger of food poverty and bolster their service to include more deliveries of surplus food. The project expanded to include shopping and support services to around 180 vulnerable members of the community per month as well as deliveries of around 335 boxes of food per month to over 1030 beneficiaries. When other facilities were closed, the project supported 15 local families throughout the 2020 Christmas period.

Volunteers have been instrumental in continuing the delivery throughout the lockdowns. Some of the original stewards had to self-isolate due to age or health conditions meaning that there was a greater commitment from remaining and new volunteers to meet the additional demand.

Volunteers have continued to collect surplus food from local supermarkets, bring it to Canolfan Maerdy, sort it and make up the food parcels for distribution. Some of the surplus food has been cooked and frozen for use by the Community Café, when open, and to provide a meals-on-wheels service, named Maerdy Meals. Volunteers from British Gas, who were not able to do their usual work as engineers due to the pandemic, collected extra food and assisted with the deliveries. These extra supplies of staples allowed a more balanced food parcel to be prepared, supplementing the surplus food collected from the local supermarkets and enabling hot meals to be prepared.

Dr Sonia Reynolds (Acting Manager):

‘I have to praise our excellent volunteers who are literally moving mountains of food and have established a polished system for achieving maximum efficiency. It is impressive to see. Others are going beyond in providing social support, driving and shopping plus fixing, clearing rubbish, grass cutting, gardening and more.’

Volunteers have taken ownership of additional growing spaces around Canolfan Maerdy which have been planted with vegetables and herbs and are being maintained by volunteers.

The project has adapted the community café and the Canolfan Maerdy building to meet social distancing requirements during the pandemic and to provide outside hand washing facilities and outside seating areas. The community café re-opened briefly in August 2020, then part-time in December, using the surplus food to provide hot meals. In addition to surplus food distribution, the project has continued to provide apprenticeship

and training opportunities in catering and administration when the pandemic restrictions have allowed.

‘The pandemic has brought into sharp focus the need for active and innovative community organisations to step up in supporting those in danger of food poverty, those in danger of, or experiencing domestic abuse, the elderly and isolated and those impacted adversely by the virus. It has highlighted the need for food parcels, hot meals, odd jobs undertaken, social contact, a listening ear and transport to clinic/doctor etc. It has highlighted the importance of community at this time and Canolfan Maerdy has been one of the few third sector organisations still providing direct services in Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire.’

The project has been hugely successful in both delivering the initial project aims and adapting to meet a rising need in the community. Approximately 50 tones of food that would otherwise have gone to landfill, releasing harmful gases, have been distributed to the community in nutritionally balanced food boxes or healthy hot meals.

The project has delivered 3,221 food boxes throughout 2020 alone to 11,182 beneficiaries and has organised hot meal deliveries for individuals and families in need as well as providing recipe cards, advice on healthy eating, and training sessions before the restrictions of the pandemic.

‘Volunteers and staff are exhausted but remain committed to delivering the services developed during the project and to mainstream the activities when the conditions are better.’

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## Anonymous case study

An elderly lady commented that before attending the food hub her health was poor and she struggled to afford to eat healthily. She could only afford to buy a few basic ingredients and did not eat any fruit or vegetables. Since finding out about the food hub, she has been eating more regularly and has a better diet. She is feeling happier and healthier.

**KEEP CALM  
AND  
COOK ON!**



**Feed your family for less**  
*Would you like to provide low cost healthy meals?  
If so, we have a group for you  
meeting each Friday afternoon*

**Starting Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> February  
From 1pm until 3pm  
at  
Canolfan Maerdy  
New Road, Taigwaith SA18 1UP**

**Tel: 01269 826893  
Email: [admin@canolfanmaerdy.co.uk](mailto:admin@canolfanmaerdy.co.uk)**

**Cost: £3.00**  
*Cost includes ingredients and recipe sheet*  
**Bring a container to take food home**

Charity No: 1131506  Company No: 06768110

# Background to the scheme

**THE LANDFILL DISPOSALS TAX (LDT) (WALES) ACT 2017 ESTABLISHED THE LANDFILL DISPOSALS TAX (LDT) IN WALES AND SETS OUT THE OPERATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE TAX, ALONGSIDE THE TAX COLLECTION AND MANAGEMENT (WALES) ACT 2016 (TCMA).**

The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme (LDTCS) recognises there can be a negative impact for communities through the disposal of waste to landfill and provides funding for projects that aim to offset these impacts. The activity carried out by the projects funded focuses on the five mile radius surrounding a landfill site or waste transfer station that has reported sending in excess of 2000 tonnes in the past year. Sites may be added or removed from the list of eligible areas of benefit dependant on the tonnage reported to Natural Resources Wales in the previous reporting year.

The LDTCS is a Welsh Government grant programme that is distributed under contract for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2024 by Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA) on behalf of the Welsh Government.

In this third annual report, case studies from the activities will be the main focus, to demonstrate the breadth of activity taking place in communities affected by landfill and waste transfer stations all across Wales. For 2020/21 the fifth LDTCS grant round was launched in October of 2020, with the first projects beginning in April 2021.

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# General principles of the scheme

The scheme is underpinned by a set of general principles, which provide a framework to shape the operational delivery of the scheme. The general principles are focused on enhancing community well-being through projects by improving quality of place, delivering wide-reaching benefits, and maximising the funding that reaches initiatives.

THE LDTCS WILL SEEK TO:

## 1 IMPROVE QUALITY OF PLACE

- Promote positive environmental behaviours
- Offset the negative impacts on communities affected by the disposal of material as waste to landfill
- Enhance existing spaces – both open space and physical space

## 2 DELIVER WIDER COMMUNITY BENEFITS

- Support community participation – volunteering, skills development, etc
- Promote and maintain good relationships between landfill site operators, communities, and the distributive body
- Support sustainable projects that do not rely on continuous funding

## 3 MAXIMISE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY THAT REACHES INITIATIVES

- Maintain a cost-effective administrative model
- Make funding accessible by providing clear and understandable objectives and application guidance around the scheme and the application process

**Right:** Finance Minister, Rebecca Evans MS, visits Tywi Gateway Trust's historic garden in Carmarthenshire ►



# How the funds work

## WCVA ADMINISTERS THE FUND ON BEHALF OF THE WELSH GOVERNMENT.

WCVA is a part of a Wales wide network of support for voluntary organisations, in partnership with nineteen County Voluntary Councils. This network approach allows for central administration with the added value of further local knowledge and support provided for groups at a county level.

The fund value is £1.4 million per year. The grant programme supports local community and environmental projects in areas affected by the disposal of waste to landfill. Grants of between £5,000 and £49,999 are available, with the opportunity to apply for a one-off yearly larger grant of national significance of a value over £50,000 and up to £250,000.

The scheme invites applications from groups carrying out activity under the three themes:

## BIODIVERSITY

Create Resilient Ecological Networks for the benefit of a range of habitats and species:

- a) Improve conditions to help native species, pollinators and provide opportunities for new planting
- b) Restore, maintain and enhance natural habitats
- c) Engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity

## WIDER ENVIRONMENTAL ENHANCEMENTS

Bring wider community benefit through improving quality of place:

- a) Create community green spaces and supporting green infrastructure
- b) Bring neglected and run-down areas back into community use
- c) Maintain or improve community facilities, for example community halls

## WASTE MINIMISATION AND DIVERSION OF WASTE FROM LANDFILL

Promote awareness and best practice to reduce the amount of waste produced:

- a) Encourage prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste
- b) Reduce food waste and support initiatives such as composting
- c) Engage and support understanding to enable waste to be seen as a resource

# Strategic alignment & contribution

## **THE ENVIRONMENT ACT (WALES) 2016 PROVIDES AN OVERARCHING STRATEGIC DIRECTION TO ENSURE NATURAL RESOURCES ARE MANAGED AND CONSERVED EFFECTIVELY IN WALES.**

This coupled with the findings of The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) outlines the value of natural resources in Wales and how they should be managed effectively and invested in to ensure maximum prosperity.

The 2016-2021 programme for government Taking Wales Forward outlines several environmental priorities, which projects funded through LDTCS are directly contributing to by:

- Making progress towards our goal of reducing our greenhouse emissions by at least 80% by 2050 and continuing our work to protect and enhance biodiversity and local ecosystems.
- Furthering our lead over other nations in recycling and minimising landfill.

- Supporting the development of more renewable energy projects, including tidal lagoons and community energy schemes.

## **PROSPERITY FOR ALL: THE NATIONAL STRATEGY**

Welsh Government's national strategy covering the reporting period focuses on prosperity. Prosperity in this strategy is focused on all aspects of life in Wales, not just material wealth. Prosperity is about good quality of life and sustainable, safe communities. In future reporting periods the Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme will be working towards the new Programme for Government published following the 2021 Senedd Elections.

Welsh Government published its Circular Economy Strategy, Beyond Recycling, in March 2021, a plan to keep resources in use for as long as possible and avoid waste – with strategic goals of zero waste, net zero carbon, one planet living and achieving the environmental, economic and

social benefits of the transition to a more circular economy.

The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme funds activity that delivers sustainable community benefits. This takes many forms, from activity to work with volunteers and train them in the skills required to conserve a local green space, to providing financial assistance to enhance a community facility in a way that improves its energy efficiency. Applications are assessed based on their contribution to the benefit of the local community and the longer-term impact the activity will make. All projects awarded funding will in some way contribute towards sustainable communities. Giving the community the chance to identify what action they think needs to be taken to address issues specific to that locality; enabling them to take community led action, build community stewardship and a sense of place.



# The First Minister's Manifesto

## THE FIRST MINISTER'S 2018 MANIFESTO, 21ST CENTURY SOCIALISM, SETS OUT CLEAR PROPOSALS OF HOW WALES IS TO TAKE ACTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT.

In 2016 Natural Resources Wales reported the threats to species, biodiversity, and the impacts that these produce on water quality, air quality and the wider Welsh economy. Its report highlighted that the basic ecosystem is in decline and to enhance and conserve, action is needed to build resilience. Action on this need is addressed through Goal 2 of the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015 - A Resilient Wales.

The Manifesto outlines several other proposals that the LDTCS works in alignment with and contributes to as the proposals are actioned:

- Develop an Environmental Growth Plan for Wales, halting and reversing the damage already caused to our natural environment.
- Promote green industries which enhance, rather than damage the environment.

Proposals to take action on the environment, set out in the First Minister's Manifesto, include actions which the LDTCS contributes actively towards in certain aspects, such as:

‘Focus on small things that can create local, accessible green spaces: wildflower planting; changes to mowing practices by Local Authorities; creating meadow areas on sloping land and new national forest (working towards the national tree planting target) and one planet developments: actions that will be beneficial in enabling community action such as doubling allotments; change planning regulations about sheds and development of community

orchards.’

Welsh Government's New Programme for Government aims to make further progress towards these priorities and the delivery of The Landfill Tax Communities Scheme continues to address the need to take action on the environment alongside communities. The New Programme for Government outlines ten wellbeing objectives for all of Wales, of which the Landfill Tax Communities Scheme directly contributes to:

- Build a stronger, greener economy as we make maximum progress towards decarbonisation.
- Embed our response to the climate and nature emergency in everything we do.
- Make our cities, towns and villages even better places in which to live and work.



# Keep Wales Tidy

**MANY PROJECTS ARE DELIVERING LOCAL COMMUNITY LED ACTION THAT CONTRIBUTES TO SEVERAL GOALS OF THE WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.**

Here's how Keep Wales Tidy is helping contribute towards the goals of a Resilient Wales (by protecting grazing habitat and heritage features) and a Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language (by providing training in traditional skills).

Keep Wales Tidy set out to bring physical improvements to Pen Garnbugail hillside within Gelligaer and Merthyr Common. The area is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation, a Special Landscape Area and an Archaeologically Sensitive Area, as well as providing an open accessible green space to the Merthyr Tydfil and Caerphilly communities. However, the site was identified as suffering

degradation from anti-social behaviour including fly tipping and illegal off-road vehicles. This was causing erosion to the grazing land and a threat to the heritage sites in the vicinity.

The project carried out a range of conservation activities to protect Pen Garnbugail hillside involving both local volunteers and contractors. Over the course of the project volunteers and project staff succeeded in clearing the area of:

- Over ten tones of fly-tipping removed, including the safe disposal of asbestos
- Three kilometres of footpath litter picked
- Over 200 bags of litter and fly-tipping
- At least four tones of waste separated for recycling and prevented from entering landfill

Volunteers contributed over 50 hours of time each to the removal of fly-tipping and the conservation of grazing habitat. Additionally, volunteers were able to learn the traditional skill of dry-stone walling and took part in a further 70 hours of training. To increase the awareness of the nature and heritage value of the area, 96 school pupils were engaged through eight educational talks.

To protect the landscape and heritage features from future antisocial behaviour, 157m of posts and 120m of stone boulders have been placed to prevent illegal vehicle access. 260m of double fencing has been planted with 600 native trees and hedge mix, which will serve the dual purpose of providing support for nature and livestock on the common as well as a further deterrent to fly-tippers.

As a result of these efforts, an area of 400m<sup>2</sup> of habitat and grazing land has been restored including the installation of an environmentally friendly jute blanket to prevent future soil erosion. The site includes five ancient burial cairns and a segment of Roman road that have been safeguarded from further damage and the public will be able to learn about the sites history and ecological importance through new interpretation signage.

'Pen Garnbugail is now returned to a good level of management. Fly-tipping has been removed, eroded grazing land has been restored and the space has been safeguarded by preventing illegal vehicle access. Six heritage features (five ancient burial cairns and a segment of Roman road) are also protected. New interpretation signage encourages visitors to appreciate this important nature and heritage site.'

Jake Castle, Keep Wales Tidy



Erosion control at Pen Garnbugail. Illegal vehicles have visibly scarred the landscape. Reduced grazing risks polluting water with additional run-off. The image shows the project using an environmentally sensitive coir blanket to cover areas of bare soil. The coir will protect against further erosion while grass recovers.

Litter and fly-tipping being cleared from Pen Garnbugail. This meant clearing a mixture of household and construction waste from the hillside immediately surrounding the Bronze Age burial cairn. Over four tones of waste was removed from the area, including asbestos and car tyres. People are now encouraged to visit this historic landscape with the guidance of an interpretation board and waymarked footpath.



# Cardiff University Grange Pavilion Project

**THE GRANGE PAVILION PROJECT IS A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RESIDENTS AND CARDIFF UNIVERSITY THAT HAS REDEVELOPED A NEGLECTED BOWLS PAVILION AND GREEN AS A MULTIFUNCTIONAL FACILITY FOR GRANGETOWN'S DIVERSE COMMUNITIES.**

The redeveloped space provides civic amenities including multiple spaces for community use and hire, and a community-focused café and garden for wellbeing, play, education, growing, and biodiversity, meeting priorities identified by Grangetown communities. The Landfill Disposals Tax Communities Scheme contributed to this ambitious project by providing funding to create outdoor four pollinator friendly green spaces, community growing areas, and connected water courses.

The natural environment freely contributes to the well-being of humans, both directly and indirectly affecting our quality of life and

survival. These contributions are known as ecosystem services. In 2013, Welsh Government published The Action Plan for Pollinators in Wales in recognition that pollinators provide a very valuable eco system service, and action is needed to ensure that pollinator numbers do not continue to decline. The LDTCS contributes towards achieving the outcomes of this action plan by encouraging and enabling projects to 'plant for pollinators' this includes planting native wildflowers and trees, in both urban and rural areas – engaging and informing volunteers and community members and raising the awareness of the important role of pollinators. Making local contributions across Wales helps build the network and connectivity of sites across Wales.

This is how project manager, Lynne Thomas feels the project has contributed to the Wellbeing of Future Generations Goals:



**A PROSPEROUS WALES:** We have used local materials and expertise where possible within the building and grounds to support the local economy; we have developed relationships with residents who have committed to volunteering responsibilities at Grange Pavilion; we have supported a local youth forum to work towards constituting their group and generating their own income to deliver local projects and will offer opportunities for residents to grow their own food and learn seasonal growing techniques.



**A RESILIENT WALES:** We are delivering increased community resilience as a result of developing a sustainable community asset, accessing training to manage the asset, and aiming to sustain a new income stream of £85,000 per year to fund community-led activities. We have employed a full-time manager for the centre who has recruited five volunteers to co-manage the facility.

**A HEALTHIER WALES:** Access to a programme of events, activities and services, coproduced with residents, will increase health and wellbeing in Grangetown. During the build, we have supported football projects, rugby projects, mental health, and wellbeing projects and more. We already have bookings lined up for art therapy sessions, mental health events, peer-support-sessions, dance fit sessions, sport fit sessions, and more.

**A MORE EQUAL WALES:** Pilot activities have evidenced community interest and need for accessing Lifelong learning, Career Open Days, mentoring, entrepreneurship training, and homework clubs in a local, welcoming, non-institutional space.

**A WALES OF COHESIVE COMMUNITIES:** 5,000 residents will report increased social cohesion and a more united community as a result of accessing cross-cultural, intergenerational facilities and targeted activities at Grange Pavilion. During the build phase, we brought together over 2,000 people through delivering and promoting community events such as the Grangetown Night Market and Community Iftar; Grangetown Festival; World Mental Health and Wellbeing Awareness Day; open days on site; fundraisers in local venues; sporting activities on the adjacent 3G pitch and more, including girls-only football allowing young girls to play wearing their traditional Muslim dress.

**A WALES OF VIBRANT CULTURE AND THRIVING WELSH LANGUAGE:** All promotional material for Grange Pavilion has been produced bilingually, including the website - grangepavilion.wales - and we can provide a collection of bilingual promotional materials as evidence.

**A GLOBALLY RESPONSIBLE WALES:** We have worked closely with partners Urban Buzz, RSPB Cymru, Pharma Bees, and the architect of award-winning SUDS scheme, Greener Grangetown to ensure that the landscape design adheres to global ambitions to reduce climate change and positively contribute to local, national and global wellbeing.

‘The works being undertaken at the Grange Pavilion have been key in opening up a disused space, at risk of dereliction after the folding of the bowls club. The funding provided from a multitude of providers, including the Welsh Government, has enabled the community to take ownership of the space and redevelop it. The journey so far has been an extremely positive, although at times challenging, one. There has been a high level of interest and enthusiasm attached to the development and I look forward to seeing the benefits of the Pavilion come to fruition at the launch in the Spring.’  
Chair of Grangetown Community Action and Ward Councillor.



# Nature Recovery Action Plan

**THE NATURE RECOVERY ACTION PLAN LINKS TO, AND COMPLEMENTS, THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT AND THE ENVIRONMENT ACT. IT CONSISTS OF THREE PARTS:**

**1** Setting out the position with regards to biodiversity in Wales, the issues to be addressed, and the policies which will guide tackling the issues.

**2** Setting out specific actions identified to support and enhance biodiversity, over and above contributing to the delivery of the 'Sustainable Management of Natural Resources in Wales'.

**3** The 'Nature Recovery Framework', (which is under development), will identify the roles of key stakeholders in the delivery of action in support of biodiversity. The framework will fit into the delivery of the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Environment Act.

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The LDTCS contributes to several of the objectives identified including, but not exclusively:

**1 engaging and supporting participation and understanding to embed biodiversity throughout decision making at all levels.** The LDTCS enables projects to work with volunteers and community members in raising awareness of the importance that biodiversity holds and providing skills in conservation and habitat management.

**2 Increase the resilience of our natural environment by restoring degraded habitats and habitat creation.** Projects working under the theme of biodiversity will contribute to increasing the resilience of our natural environment with things like habitat creation.

**3 safeguarding species and habitats of principal importance and improving their management.** Awards have been made to projects operating under the theme of biodiversity with a specific focus on S7 priority species.

## Case Study

# Vincent Wildlife Trust

**THE VINCENT WILDLIFE TRUST IS ONE SUCH PROJECT, WHICH HAS WORKED TO REINFORCE THE NATIVE PINE MARTEN POPULATION IN WALES IN HOPES OF PREVENTING NATURAL EXTINCTION.**

The pine marten was once one of the most common carnivores in British woodland, but numbers have dramatically declined due to the combined impact of habitat loss and historical hunting. Between 2015 and 2017, 51 pine martens were captured in Scotland, in areas where there is a healthy pine marten population, under licence from Scottish Natural Heritage. These animals were translocated and released in forestry in mid-Wales. This project has worked to engage communities local to the release sites to help monitor and track the expanding population and ensure the long-term survival of released animals and their offspring.

The project has worked across Mid Wales over nine sites to monitor populations and deliver community events. One of the targeted landfill sites

(LAS Recycling Ltd) in Ceredigion lies on the boundary of the known range of the recently restored pine marten population in Wales, and so it was important to create a volunteer base in this area to monitor the population as it gradually expands. In partnership with Long Wood Community Woodland, VWT recruited and trained 12 new volunteers to survey for martens using hair tubes (baited tubes designed to capture pine marten hair), remote cameras, and by surveying for their scats (faeces). Volunteers also constructed den boxes (resting/breeding sites for pine martens) from wood harvested on site to be installed in the woodland to improve the habitat for any returning pine martens. The camera trapping revealed many of the other animals that inhabit this area and gave the volunteers some reward for their hard work.



A Warden from Long Wood Community Woodland said: 'The Long Wood staff and volunteers have enjoyed learning about this project through presentations, and practical sessions on hair tubes and cameras. We also had a fantastic day building den boxes. All of us at Long Wood have benefited from the knowledge and passion of the VWT and we have enjoyed every minute.'

Similar activity has been replicated across the other sites where volunteers have been educated and engaged in the protection and identification of pine martens. Throughout the project, Vincent Wildlife Trust offered 123 individual training opportunities across 66 training events and directly engaged over 700 people.

Remote trail cameras have been essential to detect the presence and monitor the spread of the recently restored pine marten population. Not only are these a great way to monitor the health and breeding success of the animals, but they also provide volunteers with an amazing chance to have a close-up view of this rare and elusive animal. Building on the success of trail cameras the project launched

the Camera Trap Loan Scheme, targeting areas without pine marten records where new volunteers are using these cameras to search for martens. This scheme has been highly successful with over 60 people having participated and used cameras across Wales, producing over 1,000 hours of camera footage. Volunteers participating in the scheme learn how to use a camera trap and how to check and analyse any footage. They also learn about the ecology of pine martens and other mammals, whilst being taught about the best habitats and locations to place their camera to maximise the likelihood of a positive result.

In addition to the in person training the project launched a new citizen science survey, the Expansion Zone Survey, to determine the extent to which the population is increasing beyond the original release sites. This involved walking along pre-determined transects searching for pine marten scats across all of the nine targeted communities, as well as communities across the wider connected landscape. Thirty-two pairs of volunteers across the survey area have completed or committed to

complete transects in their local areas.

‘Knowing that I share the valley with martens tunes me into their world. Instead of just appreciating the beauty of the moss and the stream, I find myself checking out the canopy, looking for scats and assessing old growth timber for denning potential.’

Volunteer

‘Involvement in the project has bolstered my certainty that landscape-scale regeneration of degraded ecosystems is crucial.’

Volunteer

The project has confirmed pine marten records in new areas and is helping to map the current distribution of this recovering native species. The data gathered through the project will support Vincent Wildlife Trust in future planning to make informed decisions on activities such as the deployment of den boxes to maximise impact, the targeting of future areas for surveying, and highlighting areas where pine martens may come into conflict with other land users, such as pheasant and poultry keepers.





# Towards zero waste

(strategy covers June 2010 – early March 2021)

## LANDFILL SITE AND WASTE TRANSFER/ TREATMENT FACILITIES OPERATORS REPORT THE NUMBER OF TONES OF WASTE THEY SEND TO LANDFILL EACH YEAR.

The circular economy strategy outlines the Welsh Government's approach to sustainable waste management in Wales. It focuses on preventing waste and on ways with which waste should be dealt with to produce benefits for the environment, economy and social well-being. Alongside the statutory obligations of the public sector, the strategy recognises the important role that the community sector plays in implementing this waste strategy. It is important that environmental and economic gains achieved through higher recycling and resource efficiency are achieved in tandem with social gains.

◀ **Left:** Llandudno Museum's biodiversity garden offers educational and therapeutic activities and a place for wellbeing

These include the creation of training and employment opportunities for the socially excluded, including those with learning difficulties and other disadvantages.

The Welsh Government published its circular economy strategy in March 2021. The strategy aims to make the circular economy in Wales a reality, by setting a pathway to achieve the following:

- Zero waste by 2025 using a fair share of resources
- Net zero carbon by 2050
- Transitioning to a more circular economy and taking the opportunities that come from keeping resources in use and avoiding waste

The LDTCS scheme will contribute to the delivery of this strategy through its theme of Waste Minimisation and Diversion of Waste from Landfill.



## Case study

# Refurbs Flintshire

**THE LDTCS ACTS AS AN ENABLER FOR COMMUNITY ACTION, ALLOWING COMMUNITY GROUPS TO DEVELOP SOLUTIONS TO THEIR OWN LOCAL PROBLEMS AND TACKLE WASTE MINIMISATION WITH COMMUNITY LED ACTION WITH A HIGH DEGREE OF INPUT FROM VOLUNTEERS.**

Refurbs Flintshire is a registered charity that helps households with low incomes furnish their homes for less by using good quality items which would otherwise end up in landfill. In November 2019, funding from the LDTCS was used to set up the Bike Refurbs project to rescue and refurbish unwanted bikes that would otherwise be disposed of as waste.

Volunteers have been given the opportunity to be trained by a qualified Cytech mechanic in the use of tools and equipment and overall bike maintenance and repair. Volunteering was unfortunately put on hold due to lockdown, but Refurbs has now been able to welcome back volunteers with social distancing measures in place. Since returning to the project after lockdown one volunteer has said,

‘Just wanted to drop you a line to say how much I have enjoyed being a part of the Refurbs Project. Pete has been truly amazing. I’ve learned more bike skills in the last month under his guidance, than in the last ten years! He is incredibly patient and an excellent instructor. Great people and really good fun. Really looking forward to continuing next year.’

**Right:** Two regular volunteers, Chris and Steve ►



Throughout lockdown, Refurbs continued to promote sales of refurbished bikes through their online shop, and project staff continued to restore bikes to keep up with demand. To date, the project has recycled 300 bikes and sold 69 refurbished bikes at affordable prices to the local community. A partnership with the local waste transfer station has continued through lockdown with bikes being put aside for collection by Refurbs. To date this has prevented 4.1 tones of waste from entering landfill.

Bike parts that are not able to be repaired or are no longer safe are being recycled into artwork by local artist Jayne Hopwood from Jay Decor with Wingnut Creations. As lockdown eases Jayne has planned art workshops for existing and new volunteers to take part in. To pilot some of the art that could be replicated and produced in workshops Jayne has worked with project staff to create some art for the walls of the new Buckley Café. These include a large butterfly mounted on reclaimed wood, a mirror using an old bike wheel, chain art using bike chains, and a piece of art using cogs and a chain.

Looking forward, Refurbs are exploring interest from organisations wanting to refer people into the project and increased demand from people wanting to volunteer independently. A 'bike shed hub' will be created at the Flint site to have an established area dedicated to bike repairs and recycling beyond the end of the funding.



# Eligible area coverage of Wales

Map updated October 2020

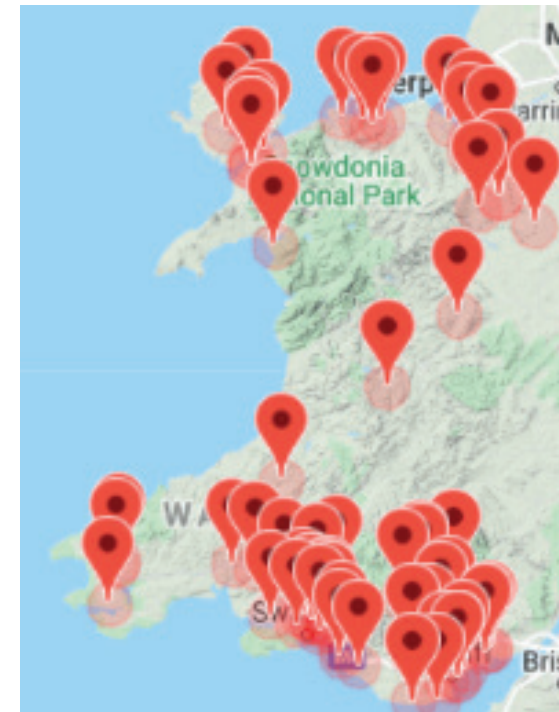
**THE MAP SHOWS THE LOCATIONS OF THE 60 LANDFILL AND WASTE TRANSFER SITES IN WALES: IN 2020/21 FUNDING FOR ACTIVITY WITHIN A FIVE MILE RADIUS OF A SITE WAS AWARDED TO PROJECTS WITHIN THESE AREAS.**

For the period April - September 2020 there were 61 eligible sites; the map was updated with NRW data reported September 2020. The current list will remain in place until the next update from September 2021.

Landfill site and waste transfer/treatment facilities operators report the number of tones of waste they send to landfill each year. A proportion of the tax collected from these landfill operators provides the funding that forms the LDTCS. If an operator reports that over 2,000 tones of waste are sent to landfill in a year, the site will be deemed as an eligible area for applications to the LDTCS. The scheme is aimed at improving the quality of the

communities living in close proximity to landfill sites and waste transfer stations.

Each year Natural Resources Wales provides WCVA with the data from the waste returns submitted from all operators of landfill sites and waste transfer stations across Wales. This data shows those sites which have reported over 2,000 tonnage for the past year. The map of eligible sites is then updated by WCVA in time for the second round of the year. Enquirers are advised to check the map at the time of applying as it is subject to change from round to round. The sites shown on the map during an open funding round indicate the sites deemed eligible under that particular funding round.



# Applications made to Round 5 October 2020

## 2020/21 GRANT MAKING

Main  
grant round  
applications  
received –

**69**

Main grant  
applications  
totalled  
**£2,733,235**  
in LDTCS grants  
requested

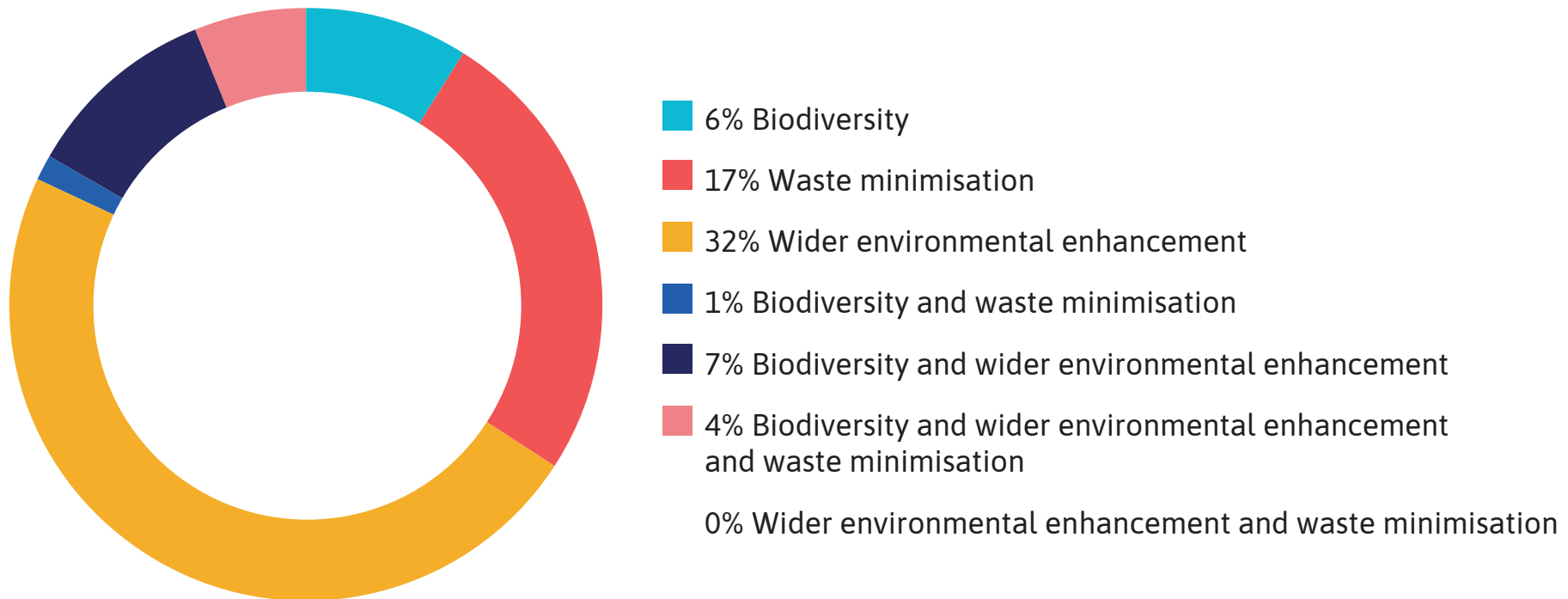
**28**  
projects awarded  
with a total value  
of £1,037,102



## Round 5 main grant round theme(s)

All applications

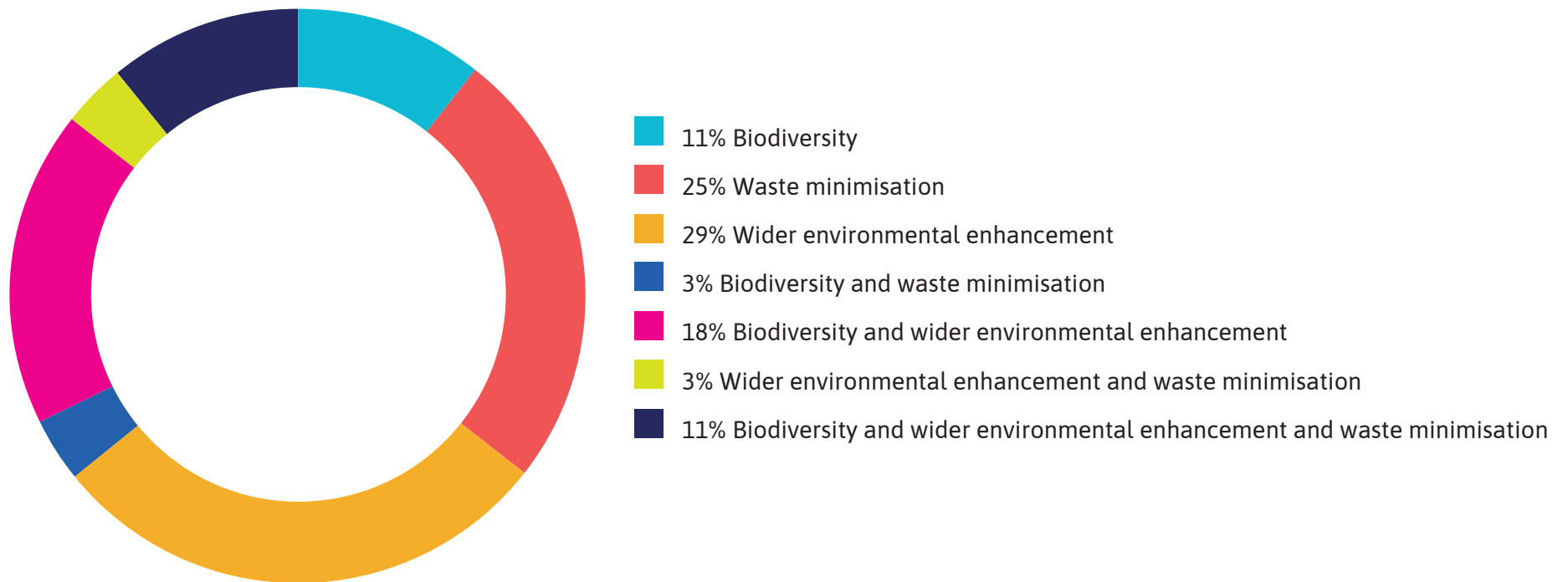
SOME APPLICANTS APPLIED UNDER MULTIPLE THEMES



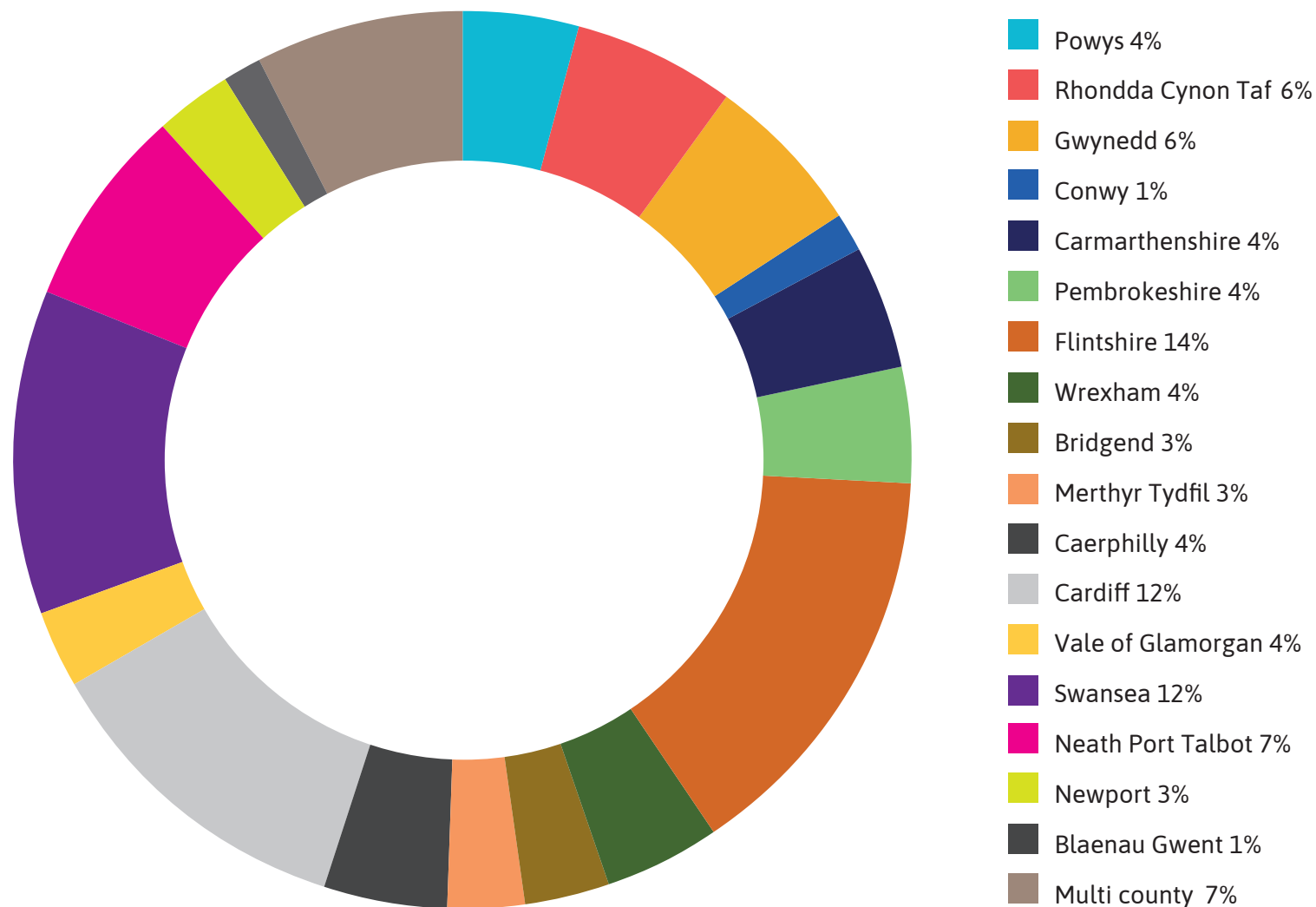


## Round 5 main grant round theme(s) Successful applications

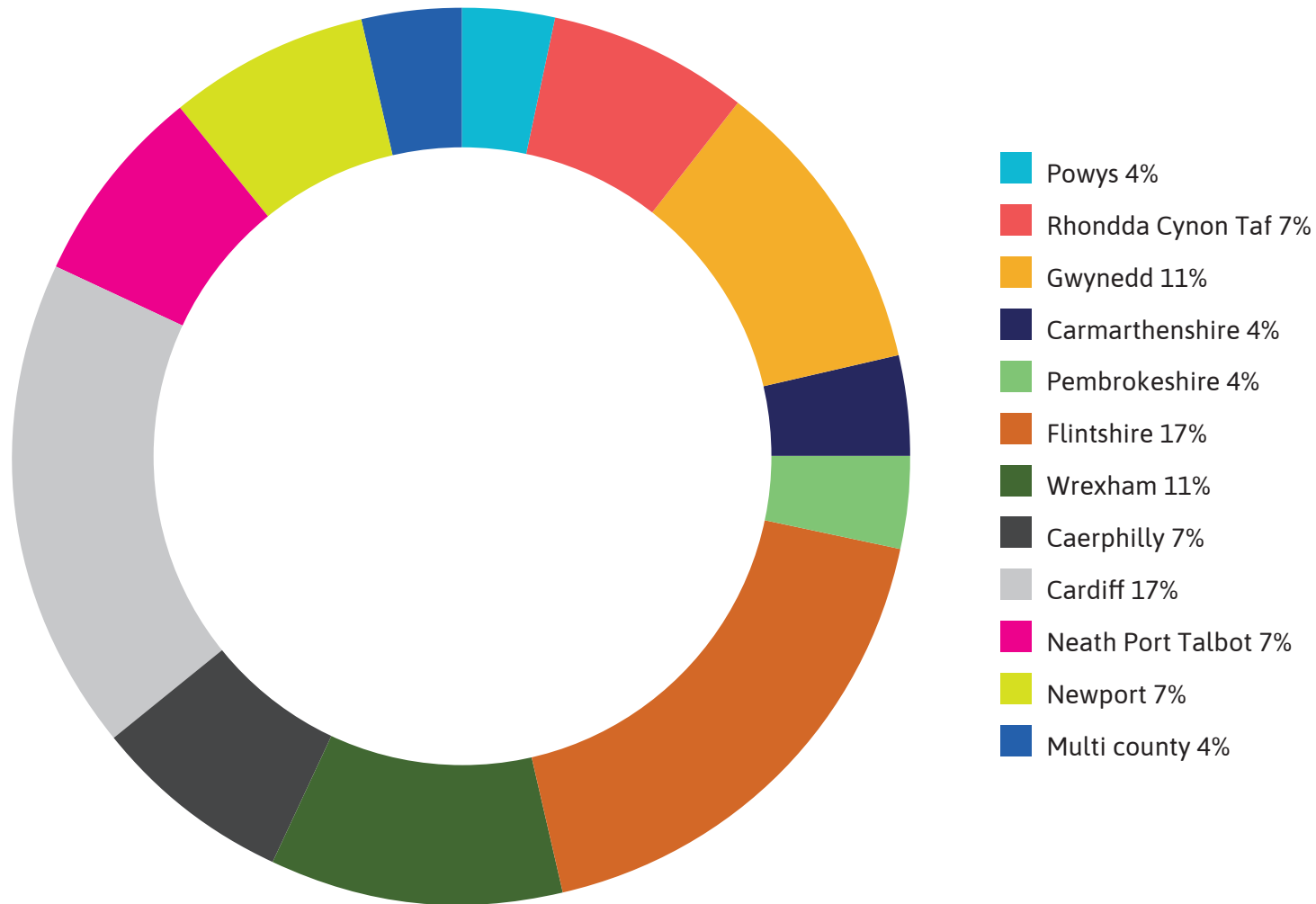
SOME APPLICANTS APPLIED UNDER MULTIPLE THEMES



## Round 5 main grants geographical areas for all applicants



## Round 5 main grants geographical areas for successful applicants



# Applications made to Nationally Significant grant round

## October 2020

### 2020/21 GRANT MAKING

Nationally Significant grant round applications received –

**4**

Nationally Significant grant applications totalled  
**£836,404**  
in grants requested

**1**  
project awarded  
with a total value  
of £249,987



# Nationally Significant grant 2020/21

**REPAIR CAFÉ WALES HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN ITS NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT GRANT APPLICATION AND HAVE BEEN AWARDED 249,987 TO DELIVER THE RE:MAKE CYMRU PROJECT.**

The project will develop and pilot technology that facilitates and monitors the value of repair and re-use economically, socially, and environmentally in Wales. The pilot will be based in Newport and aims to create a gold standard example of an accessible repair and re-use facility at the heart of a community reducing waste and Wales' carbon footprint.

The Nationally Significant grant scheme is an opportunity for organisations to look at national issues that affect Wales and develop a project that will provide strategic impact in tackling the problem. Repair Café has worked in partnership with Benthyc Cymru in association with Newport City Homes

and TPAS Cymru to create a project that reduces the amount of waste being sent to landfill while showcasing the potential of the circular economy in Newport. This will be achieved by establishing an integrated repair and re-use facility for communities in and around Newport alongside a permanent Benthyc (library of things) and a repair café space to become established over the two-year period.

The Benthyc will provide a place where people can donate items they own but don't need and borrow things they need but don't own.

Weekly repair cafes and regular skill-sharing workshops will result in approximately 100 fixes per month, diverting items from landfill and saving the community an estimated £920 per month.

Both elements will support shared learnings that can be applied to other repair and re-use initiatives across



Wales. The combined approach of fixing broken items and donating unwanted goods to the Benthyc will demonstrate the value of circular economy initiatives while supporting repair and re-use networks to scale up at pace around the country.

In 2018 Repair Café Wales was awarded funding under round one of the LDTCS grant scheme to establish eight new repair cafes and provide training to volunteers to fix items destined for landfill, teach repair skills, and encourage upcycling, free of charge. Throughout the funding period Repair Café Wales established 26 repair cafes and reported over 900 training or work experience opportunities offered. The organisation reported that:



‘The 6,388 items we have repaired to date constitutes a total of 17.109 tones diverted from landfill or reduced and 32,626 tones of GHG emissions saved. This is already in excess of the 4.747 tones of landfill waste diverted and 2.378 tones of GHG emissions saved that was projected in our proposal. Due to this tonnage of waste diverted from landfill, we estimate that we have saved individuals and local councils £57,844 in reduced processing costs. This is also above the projected cost savings of £30,225 that we originally estimated we would save individuals and councils.’

In the final three months of the project the organisation took the difficult decision to close all repair cafes and suspend events due to national lockdown restrictions at the start of 2021. Despite this Repair Café Wales continued to provide regular repairing advice via virtual channels such as the volunteer Facebook page, which allowed both volunteers and members of the public to successfully carry out their own repairs at home.

The organisation has been involved in a number of events to encourage waste to be seen as a resource including; Beyond Recycling Swansea’s ‘Waste Wednesday Webinar: What is a Repair Cafe and how to start one’ and ‘Reopening Repair and Share Events’ as part of the Repair and Share UK network. Partnerships have been established with Circular Economies Innovation Communities Programme, Prime Cymru, and Zero Carbon 2030, in order to further promote reuse.

# Highlights of the achievements of projects completed in 2020/21

## **CLYDACH CRICKET CLUB**

Refurbishment of Clydach Cricket Clubhouse including energy efficiency measures, rainwater harvesting system, and improved disabled facilities.

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## **COEDPOETH BOWLING CLUB**

Installation of efficient green irrigation system and creation of wall mural by local school children.

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## **CONWY COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Creation of The CultureScape garden on the site of the new Conwy Culture Centre. The CultureScape garden contains a sensory garden and outdoor classroom, which offers wellbeing and learning experiences. The native planting supports local biodiversity and offers opportunities for engagement with natural and cultural heritage.

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## **GREENFIELD VALLEY TRUST LTD**

Significant improvements to Greenfield Valley through removing areas of historic fly tipping and creating pathways to improve access.

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## **HARLECH AND ARDUDWY LEISURE**

Reduced the carbon impact of heating the pool and other leisure facilities through improved energy efficiency measures.

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## **LLANEDI COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

Development of new The Hendy Nature Trail on the edge of the Loughour Estuary, including accessible pathways, habitat improvements, information boards, and bird screens.

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## **MENTER MÔN**

Activity to protect water voles and their river habitats through greater public awareness and stewardship, in response to the threat the American Mink poses to biodiversity on Anglesey.

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## **PEMBROKESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

Recreation of the historical garden, in the woodlands that were once part of Withybush Manor House. Works included restoring the old ponds, eradicating non-native plants, and replanting native wildflower bulbs.

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## **RADNORSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**

Restoration, enhancement, and management of a range of natural habitats within the Wye catchment.

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## **REPAIR CAFE WALES**

Volunteers repair items destined for landfill, teach repair skills, and encourage upcycling, free of charge. Throughout the project 6,388 items were repaired, which constitutes 17.1 tones diverted from landfill and 32,626 tones of GHG emissions saved.

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## **SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY**

Restoration of the Swansea Canal to a navigable standard by removing over 6,700 cubic metres of silt and improving the canal corridor for the community to use the towpath.

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## **THE HWB TORFAEN**

Improvement to the waste management and energy efficiency of the Hwb's building through energy efficient lighting, hand-dryers, and taps to reduce energy consumption. Further commitment to sustainable waste choices through new recycling facilities and training young people to deliver recycling workshops.

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## **THE PEMBROKESHIRE REMAKERY CIC**

Workshops, training, and community events to share skills and re-educate the local community in repairing furniture, textiles, computers, mechanical items and home electrical goods. Throughout the project 200, items were repaired through social engagement events and 2,336 items were sold back to the community at affordable cost.

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## **URBAN CROFTERS**

Programme of electrical and environmental improvements to a Grade II listed Victorian-era church building now in use as a community centre in Roath, Cardiff.

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## Case study

# Swansea Canal Society

**THE SWANSEA CANAL SOCIETY HAS SUCCESSFULLY RESTORED THE SWANSEA CANAL TO A STANDARD DEEMED NAVIGABLE BY THE CANAL RIVER TRUST. MORE THAN 6,700 CUBIC METRES OF SILT WERE REMOVED FROM THE CHANNEL – THE EQUIVALENT OF OVER 8,300 BATHTUBS FULL OF WATER.**

Once the dredging was complete volunteers reinforced the bank with a double row of hessian bags filled with a concrete mix to protect the bank from future erosion. Hessian bags were used as when they degrade, they will not contribute to further pollution of the watercourse through any microplastics. In total volunteers laid 250m of concrete bagging capped with masonry and turf. Soil removed from the bank in preparation for bagging was re-used as turf capping and placed by the stretches of masonry capping alongside the towpath. This will assist

the recovery of native vegetation and ensure the site is safe for the public.

The biodiversity of the watercourse was given great consideration by the Swansea Canal Society. Invasive species of knotweed and Himalayan balsam were removed from the 'off-bank' and replanted with 250 native foxgloves which were grown from seed by volunteers. Vegetation on the towpath side was trimmed by hand close to the bankside so it will quickly recover after the dredging, maintaining the biodiversity and an attractive appearance.

The project was featured on the BBC Wales series Gareth Edwards' Great Welsh Adventure where Gareth and Maureen Edwards met local volunteers, learned how the bank is being reinforced, and took to the water on a double canoe.

The regeneration of the Canal will protect the bank from erosion for many years to come as well as providing greater access to the public, improving the canoeing sessions already on offer, and enabling the Swansea Canal Society to operate a boat trip for locals and tourists.

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## Case study

# Innovate Trust

**INNOVATE TRUST IS A CHARITY THAT PROVIDES SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LEARNING DISABILITIES, PHYSICAL DISABILITIES, AND MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES.**

Innovate runs supported living schemes as well as a number of skills and wellbeing projects for the individuals supported, enabling them to live fulfilled, independent lives in their communities.

The Boosting Nature project aims to support adults with learning disabilities to increase their physical and mental wellbeing, as well as their knowledge and understanding of the natural world, by taking part in environmental conservation tasks and biodiversity-themed educational activities.

In January 2020, Boosting Nature set up two weekly Cardiff-based conservation groups for beneficiaries. These sessions enable beneficiaries to work alongside the Community Rangers and take part in vital environmental and biodiversity improvement tasks.

## **RICHIE'S EXPERIENCE:**

Richie joined Boosting Nature in January 2020. He is an engaging and friendly young man yet he struggled in social situations due to some confidence issues. Much of his lack of self-esteem revolved around his weight, and this is something that has made it difficult for him to engage in more physical activities in the past. Richie's main motivation for joining the project was to improve his physical wellbeing and help him on his weight-loss journey.

When he first joined, Richie struggled to keep up with the group and found it difficult to work in certain locations as he wasn't physically confident or comfortable navigating uneven ground. Although he worked hard, he would also need regular breaks throughout a work session to catch his breath and recover.



Richie and other participant taking a well earned rest

Boosting Nature provided a safe and supportive environment for Richie to challenge himself and little by little his physical ability has improved. This has also been helped by his teammates' support and regular encouragement from the project officer. Richie has now lost a significant amount of weight and he credits his Boosting Nature sessions as a vital part of his weight loss journey.



Richie's physical confidence has improved and he is now able to complete all tasks, in all work locations. He never misses a session and very proudly speaks of his weight loss and improved abilities. He recently showed how far he has come by working unassisted on a steep incline at Forest Farm, something he would have avoided when he first joined.

He is also able to cut down trees and clear pathways by himself and without needing to take breaks. This has meant that he has taken greater pride in his accomplishments at the end of the day which has further boosted his confidence. In fact, when a passer-by recently enquired what the group were doing at Howardian Nature Reserve, Richie took it upon himself to answer. Speaking for the group he confidently explained why they were cutting down certain trees and clearing brambles and also gave an overview of what they hoped to achieve in the area.

Innovate Trust often finds that projects have a range of secondary and unexpected benefits for beneficiaries.

◀ **Left:** Richie and other participants taking part in outdoor activities

Richie set out to improve his physical fitness but joining Boosting Nature also allowed him to develop a lovely friendship with one of our support volunteers. The volunteer comes from Iran and in part joined the project in a bid to improve her English. Richie struck up a friendship with her, showing an interest in her culture and heritage. Without staff knowing, he took it upon himself to teach her a new word/phrase of the day during each session.

This has led to them having a mutually beneficial relationship whereby Richie is supported to carry out the work tasks and he supports her to improve her English. These two would never have had the chance to meet were it not for the project and project staff have said: 'it's a pleasure to witness such a positive side-effect of Richie's involvement with Boosting Nature.'

“It has meant that I can go out in the fresh air and learn about nature. I have met new friends. I have learnt how to use tools correctly. I have learnt to work in a team and to share experiences. I am proud.”

Richie Blackmore



## COVID IMPACT AND ADAPTION

Almost three months into the project, on 17 March 2020, Innovate Trust made the difficult decision to put all of activities on hold due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This was a challenging time for the project – staff had to think innovatively about how to continue delivering meaningful and educational activities from a distance, that beneficiaries could take part in from the safety of their homes.

The first initiative the project trialled was a nature photography competition whereby participants were encouraged to get outdoors and take photographs of their local flora and fauna. This was paired with a series of educational ‘Did You Know?’ sheets which drew out biodiversity facts about the native plants and animals that had featured in the photographs. These were sent out to all who took part.

The next initiative was to encourage participants to take part in a sunflower and bean growing competition in their gardens. The aim of this being to teach participants about growing plants but also to make their gardens more

pollinator friendly. Boosting Nature provided instructions, materials, and educational fact sheets for participants to understand the benefits of their planting. This was an extremely successful activity that ended up attracting 39 new beneficiaries to the project.

The project staff tapped into this appetite for garden-based activities and put together a series of informative leaflets showing how to build bug houses, compost bins, bird feeders out of recyclable plastic bottles, and small garden ponds.

The next step for the project was to engage more directly with beneficiaries and start delivering live sessions using Zoom. Two sessions were delivered in June – starting with a native wildlife themed quiz. This was a chance for participants to test their knowledge and learn more about their native wildlife in a fun and engaging way. The next session was an educational workshop about insects to celebrate National Insect Week. Participants were encouraged to carry out a bug count in their gardens before attending. During the session they then learnt how

to identify different insects and were taught about their important role in the natural world.

The number of new beneficiaries who have engaged with Boosting Nature since lockdown has been superb – with 67 new beneficiaries having taken part in quarter two. A wonderful and unforeseen development is the fact that this new way of working has led to Boosting Nature being able to reach out and engage with those who had not been able to participate before. For example, some individuals with more profound disabilities who would have struggled to join in more active outdoor sessions have enjoyed taking part in Boosting Nature activities from their homes.

Although lockdown has been a challenging time for the project, it has allowed staff to think creatively and engage with beneficiaries in new ways.



‘We have managed to reach new individuals and teach them skills that they have been able to practice in their own gardens. Our digital activities have allowed us to continue with the all-important biodiversity education programme in a fun, new way. We will return to outdoor activities when it is safe to do so but we will also continue to embrace these new ways of working that have proved so effective during lockdown.’

**Mared Hughes, Project Officer**

‘I’ve joined on to lots of Innovate Trust’s activities through lockdown but my favourites have been Boosting Nature’s that have been about different animals and things I’ve missed while we haven’t been able to be outside as much. It was nice to be able to tell the group about the fox I saw in my garden and I really liked the one we did about frogs. That was really interesting and I learned a lot of things I didn’t know. It was nice too to be able to see friends on ZOOM too that I haven’t seen in a long time.’

**Boosting Nature participant**

# Grant awards round five 2020/21

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
1st Kinnerton Scout Group	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Flintshire	To refurbish the 1980s Scout Headquarters in Higher Kinnerton, make it environmentally sound, bring it up to date, ensure that it is secure and weatherproof, reduce its carbon footprint, provide proper disabled facilities, and make it an accessible building for everyone in the Community for many years to come.	£19,400.00
ACE - Action In Caerau And Ely	Waste Minimisation	Cardiff	ACE plans a community-based loan service for household items in west Cardiff. Our 'library of things' will support local residents to stretch household budgets, learn new skills, and minimise waste. This will complement currently thriving initiatives at the Dusty Forge community centre and link with the Benthg Cymru network.	£47,195.20
Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales	Biodiversity and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Cardiff	We will create a sustainable community-led garden at National Museum Cardiff, featuring Gabions containing plants to support supporting biodiversity and pollinator species. Volunteers will develop skills and learn about the environment, gardening and sustainability. The publicly accessible garden will link with our museum collection and strengthen our relationships with community partners.	£48,905.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
AVTC Ltd	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Neath Port Talbot	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- repair 300 metres of weather eroded footpath at our open access community facility site</li> <li>- prevent further erosion by digging out drainage ditches with a hired mini-digger and driver</li> <li>- increase the number of litter bins on site by purchasing and placing 3 additional recycled plastic litter bins</li> </ul>	£19,400.00
Awel Aman Tawe	Waste Minimisation and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Neath Port Talbot	We aim to renovate the former Cwmgors primary school into a low-carbon, accessible community hub for artists, entrepreneurs, and educators. It will house fully-equipped, co-working studio-, office- and class-room spaces. Targeted to be zero-carbon by 2030, it will support local people to develop and share ideas well into the future.	£49,999.00
Bwyd Bendigedig Port / Incredible Edible Porthmadog	Biodiversity and Waste Minimisation and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Gwynedd	Ysgol Eifion Wyn's educational garden project aims to teach good practice in sustainable urban food gardening and provide an inspiring model for other schools and institutions. Regenerative, circular economy, life skills will be gained through the collaborative creation of this garden, along with respect and appreciation for all living systems.	£49,999.00



Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Caerphilly Miners Centre for the Community	Biodiversity and Waste Minimisation and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Caerphilly	Creating a sustainable 'Climate Change Garden for the Future' to demonstrate how direct, practical action can benefit a community in many ways, local action for global impact: Gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd' - 'Do the little things in life'	£49,897.60
City To Sea	Biodiversity	Cardiff	The Refill Cymru expansion will encourage people in the Cardiff region to live with less plastic, and support companies transitioning away from disposable single-use packaging to refillable and reusable systems. The free Refill app will connect consumers with places to Refill food, drink, and groceries.	£49,999.00
Climate Action Caerffili Gweithredu Hinsawdd	Biodiversity and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Swansea	Tiny Forest Caerffili will be one of the first Tiny Forests in Wales. A community lead initiative boosting biodiversity through tree planting and Citizen Science engagement. Supporting community wellbeing, TFC will be a place for the local community and schools to engage with nature, share and learn.	£13,212.00
Connah's Quay and district Angling club	Biodiversity and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Flintshire	Provide an all-inclusive Premier Fishing Venue enabled for young children through to O.A.Ps, including mental health and disabled groups, benefiting from the sport and environment, which is well maintained and easily accessible to all.	£32,671.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
CRAI Scout District Council	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Newport	Looking to improve their Scout Activity Park's ability to deliver Practical Skills Courses, based on the natural environment, to the Scouts and visiting Youth Groups.	£49,999.00
Drive Limited	Biodiversity and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Rhondda Cynon Taf	To make improvements to the Eco Autism Specialist project site, providing outdoor experiences for people with autism. Funding will provide warm, economically efficient spaces for meeting and activities where we can nurture links to families and the wider community, offering experiences in growing and planting, wildlife, and nature.	£26,727.82
Enbarr Foundation CIC	Biodiversity and Waste Minimisation and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Flintshire	Enbarr aim's to re-establish the Steelworks historic gardens & overgrown surrounding site into a sustainable wild-meadow/wetlands & woodland. This will be accessible for all of the community to enjoy, educate people about biodiversity & sustainable skills & embed biodiversity for a wide range of plants, wildlife and wider site.	£44,499.00
FareShare Cymru	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Carmarthenshire	FareShare Cymru works to fight hunger by tackling food waste. We take surplus food from the food industry and redistribute this to organisations that help feed people in need. This project focuses on enabling us to extend our service into West Wales, supporting 10 local organisations.	£49,999.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Gwyrddio Penarth Greening	Waste Minimisation	Cardiff	Through the re-use of unwanted/broken household items otherwise bound for landfill, our Penarth-based Benthg project will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-increase affordable, equal access to useful household items and skill-sharing</li> <li>-reduce consumption of resources</li> <li>-prevent waste</li> <li>-encourage the development of a circular economy</li> <li>-benefit local residents' quality of life</li> <li>-promote community resilience</li> </ul>	£49,999.00
Harlech Library and Institute	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Gwynedd	This project will improve the energy efficiency of the building by addressing the urgent need to replace the ancient heating system with a controllable, energy efficient, central heating system serving the whole 3 storey building, installing loft insulation, treating dampness, and improving the external environment.	£20,000.00
HF Trust Ltd	Waste Minimisation	Flintshire	Second Chance (Ail Gyfle) is an upcycling project in Flint which will divert unwanted items away from landfill. We will provide training opportunities for 75 adults with learning disabilities/autism, and 20 volunteers, to transform bikes, furniture and electrical goods to be sold at affordable prices to the local community.	£19,986.04

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Live Music Now Wales	Biodiversity and Waste Minimisation	Newport	A combined arts and environmental awareness project. Can Do and Live Music Now Wales will give 40 young people with SEND in the Newport/Gwent area the chance to build musical instruments from repurposed materials, write a song about the environment, and learn about recycling/composting on a local farm.	£5,084.08
North Wales Wildlife Trust	Biodiversity	Gwynedd	The project will: 1. recruit, train and practically support volunteers to maintain and enhance the mosaic of habitats at Gwaith Powdwr Nature Reserve, Penrhyndeudraeth, including woodland, grassland, and heathland; and 2. embed biodiversity amongst the local community through educational sessions for varied user groups and new, co-produced interpretation.	£49,762.92
Oasis Cardiff	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Cardiff	The project is to install heating systems in areas of the building that do not have any heating and are currently using uneconomical portable heaters. Upgrade of water system for the whole building, currently using the original piping that is corroding and reducing pressure. Installation of a wet room to support clients.	£49,166.86



Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Overton Community Growers	Biodiversity	Wrexham	Aim to give biodiversity a boost through the creation of a wildlife pond, planting wildflowers, buying a grass collector, creating a green roof, installing barn owl boxes, and controlling invasive species. We will involve a wide range of people, engaging refugees and asylum seekers in the project.	£21,941.43
Plant Dewi	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Pembrokeshire	Fathers from the Pembroke Dock area will carry out local environmental enhancements in partnership with the community and will set up a community allotment to produce food for food banks and project participants.	£46,735.00
Refurbs Flintshire	Waste Minimisation	Flintshire	The project will develop and deliver repair cafe activities at a new facility in Buckley, including: repair sessions with opportunities for volunteering; workshops and demonstrations such as upcycling sessions, and awareness raising campaigns on aspects of waste minimisation and environmentally friendly behaviours.	£43,643.86
Rhondda Ward Old Age Welfare Association	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Rhondda Cynon Taf	Repair and refurbishment of Hopkinstown Community Hall: bringing a neglected building back into use in order to provide space for everyday creativity for the people of Pontypridd and its surroundings	£45,102.00

Organisation	Theme	Location	Project description	Grant awarded
Smile Plastics	Waste Minimisation	Multi county	Smile Plastics are teaming up with CWM Environmental and Surfability to redirect Ocean Plastic Waste and Local Waste from 3 identified waste stations into usable long life products; gathered by the local community, designed with the local community, made by Smile Plastics for the local community	£49,999.00
St. Margaret's Church & Community Hall	Wider Environmental Enhancement	Wrexham	This project will help to safeguard the future viability of this popular community hall and deliver lasting social and environmental benefits. The objective is to provide a new insulated roof to improve the condition of the building and to commemorate its recovery from the problems caused by the Coronavirus pandemic.	£25,000.00
Wrexham Youth and Play Partnership	Biodiversity and Wider Environmental Enhancement	Wrexham	Reclaiming a riverside path outside our adventure playground, creating a safer space for children and the wider community to use. Supporting play sessions and environmental activities and groups of volunteers to maintain the space and improve biodiversity. Creating potential for healing by reconnecting people and place.	£49,883.92
Zero Carbon Llanidloes	Biodiversity	Powys	The Making Welsh Hay Project will bring together people from all parts of our community to celebrate and restore this vital habitat, which once supported so much of the life, culture and diversity in our hills and fields, to its rightful place in our landscape and our consciousness.	£19,452.25

# Achievements of LDTCS projects finalised in 2020/21

## General KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of followers on social media gained	9,325
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions saved (tones)	32,627
Income generated (£)	£32,474.00
Number of jobs created	10
Number of jobs safeguarded	21
Number of communities benefiting from LDTCS funding	135
Number of people engaged and informed (including volunteers and community members)	930,964
Projected cost savings (£)	£57,844.00
Number of talks/presentations/engagement events held	344
Number of training or work experience opportunities offered	1,292
Number of visitors attracted	61,476



## Biodiversity KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity	41
Number of engagement events	65
Number of hedgerows planted or managed	2
Number of initiatives to improve conditions to help native species, pollinators and provide opportunities for new planting	29
Number of invasive non-native species managed	7
Number of landscape or catchment managed	4
Number of native trees planted	120
Number of pollinator-friendly planting created as part of a broader habitat management programme	4
Number of records/monitoring data shared	3,484
Number of initiatives to restore, maintain and enhance natural habitats	35
Number of initiatives to target S7 species	17
Number of initiatives to create, manage or enhance S7 specialist habitat	40
Number of woodland managed	8

## Waste minimisation KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to encourage prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	830
Number of initiatives to engage and support understanding to enable waste to be seen as a resource	642
Income generated (£)	£32,066
Number of people helped (including contribution to alleviation of food or material poverty if appropriate to measure)	3,895
Number of initiatives to reduce food waste and support initiatives such as composting	0
Tonnage diverted from landfill (tons)	460
Tonnage recycled (tons)	0
Tonnage reduced (tons)	138
Tonnage re-used (tons)	163

## Wider environmental KPIs

Target title	TOTAL
Area or km of path/verges/coastline cleaned	10
Number of bags of waste collected	180
Number of initiatives to bring neglected and run-down areas back into community use	11
Number of community growing areas created	6
Number of initiatives to create and enhance community water and green spaces and supporting green infrastructure	19
Number of cycle or walkways created	3
Number of facilities updated with nature-friendly alternatives	4
Number of Green Flag award received	1
Number of green roof or green walls created	1
Number of green space created or enhanced	20
Number of groups or people using new facilities	2,430
Number of heritage features conserved or enhanced	5
Number of invasive non-native species managed	9
Number of initiatives to maintain or improve community facilities, for example community halls.	9
Number of native trees planted	120
Number of play/meeting/outdoor classrooms created	4
Number of pollinator friendly areas created	9
Number of ponds and water courses managed and enhanced	12
Number of resource-efficiency measures installed	6

## Achievements of projects operational in 2020/21, but not yet completed

Target title	TOTAL
Number of followers on social media gained	82,549
Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions saved (tones)	34,790
Income generated (£)	79,176
Number of jobs created	43
Number of jobs safeguarded	140
Number of communities benefiting from LDTCS funding	478
Number of people engaged and informed (including volunteers and community members)	1,026,546
Projected cost savings (£)	1,516,441
Number of talks/presentations/engagement events held	1,045
Number of training or work experience opportunities offered	4,754
Number of visitors attracted	511,165
Number of initiatives to engage and support participation and understanding to embed biodiversity	1,470
Number of engagement events	437
Number of hedgerows planted or managed	58
Number of initiatives to improve conditions to help native species, pollinators and provide opportunities for new planting	181



Target title	TOTAL
Number of invasive non-native species managed	42
Number of landscape or catchment managed	41
Number of native trees planted	8,643
Number of pollinator-friendly planting created as part of a broader habitat management programme	103
Number of records/monitoring data shared	4,217
Number of initiatives to restore, maintain and enhance natural habitats	158
Number of initiatives to target S7 species	211
Number of initiatives to create, manage or enhance S7 specialist habitat	136
Number of woodland managed	297
Number of initiatives to encourage prevention, re-use, recovery and recycling of waste	926
Number of initiatives to engage and support understanding to enable waste to be seen as a resource	732
Income generated (£)	135,308
Number of people helped (including contribution to alleviation of food or material poverty if appropriate to measure)	19,557
Number of initiatives to reduce food waste and support initiatives such as composting	66
Tonnage diverted from landfill (tons)	25,536
Tonnage recycled (tons)	4,364
Tonnage reduced (tons)	25,139
Tonnage re-used (tons)	310
Area or km of path/verges/coastline cleaned	565
Number of bags of waste collected	2,532

Target title	TOTAL
Number of initiatives to bring neglected and run-down areas back into community use	1,860
Number of community growing areas created	39
Number of initiatives to create and enhance community water and green spaces and supporting green infrastructure	29
Number of cycle or walkways created	79
Area or km of path/verges/coastline cleaned	15
Number of facilities updated with nature-friendly alternatives	20
Number of Green Flag award received	3
Number of green roof or green walls created	4
Number of green space created or enhanced	86
Number of groups or people using new facilities	413,732
Number of heritage features conserved or enhanced	23
Number of invasive non-native species managed	23
Number of initiatives to maintain or improve community facilities, for example community halls	38
Number of native trees planted	1,724
Number of play/meeting/outdoor classrooms created	22
Number of pollinator friendly areas created	49
Number of ponds and water courses managed and enhanced	75
Number of initiatives to generate renewable energy	11
Number of renewable energy measures installed	8
Number of resource-efficiency measures installed	24



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