HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

Annual Report

January–December 2025







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01

Message from the Chair of Trustees



Dear supporters and friends,

If 2024 reminded us how fragile climate progress can be, 2025 showed just how contested it has become.

Across the UK, rising living costs, global instability and polarised political debate created fertile ground for anti-net-zero narratives. Climate and nature action was increasingly framed as a trade-off rather than an opportunity. At the same time, many communities felt shut out of the political processes shaping decisions about their homes, jobs and futures.

It is precisely in this context that Hope for the Future's work matters most.

In January, we launched our new three-year strategy, Communities for Climate. One year on, it feels both timely and necessary. Our focus is clear: strengthen the voices of those most affected by climate and nature breakdown, equip campaigners with the tools to engage decision-makers constructively, and build the democratic infrastructure that enables lasting change.

This year we expanded our work with underrepresented communities, deepened our youth advocacy programmes, and supported a broad range of local and national campaigns to engage politicians with clarity and confidence. We launched two flagship projects and introduced new tools to strengthen collaboration and accountability across the climate and nature sector. Encouragingly, thousands of people across the UK took part in our work, and we saw growing evidence that when people are supported well, political dialogue becomes more constructive and more impactful.

2025 was also a year of organisational transition and growth. We were pleased to welcome Jessica Parish as Interim CEO from May 2025 while Laura D'Henin-Ivers began her maternity leave, and I am grateful for Jess's thoughtful leadership during this period. We also welcomed new colleagues to the team and senior leadership group, bringing fresh ideas and renewed energy.

What continues to inspire me most is the determination of the people we work with. In a challenging political climate, they choose dialogue over division and persistence over cynicism. That commitment gives me real hope.

Thank you to our staff, volunteers, trustees, partners and funders for making this work possible. Together, we are helping to ensure that climate advocacy in the UK remains hopeful, inclusive and rooted in democracy.

Best wishes,
Jonny Exon

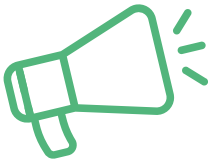
Chair of Trustees



Objectives and Activities

02

Hope for the Future bridges the gap between communities and decision makers to catalyse vital systems change for people, the climate and nature, and create a fair, inclusive and healthy world for all.



We believe

that the voices of communities must be central to the political decisions that impact their lives, environment, and futures.



Our vision

is a future where communities and politicians collaborate effectively to ensure a fairer world where people, the planet, and nature can thrive.



Our purpose

is to provide communities with the education and support they need to engage constructively with their politicians, such as MPs, MSPs, and local Councillors, translating their experiences and ideas into tangible policy action.

Launching Communities for Climate

In January 2025, under a new government, we launched our new three-year strategy, Communities for Climate. This plan came from a place of hope, balanced with the urgent need to act swiftly and decisively on climate and nature. As the year unfolded, however, the path toward bold action and a fair and inclusive future where people and nature can thrive faced unprecedented challenges.

Rising energy costs and global conflicts shifted public concern toward more immediate survival. At the same time, the political consensus on environmental protection began to visibly erode, with anti-net-zero narratives in mainstream media gaining traction, often framing climate and nature-positive solutions as trade-offs against economic security. Calls were made to stop altogether or reverse progress made for climate and nature protection and regeneration over the last decade. Even the foundations of democracy and human rights that underpin our work felt the pressure of a changing political landscape.

This difficult context strengthened our drive and commitment to our five new 2025-2027 core strategic goals:



Goal One: To strengthen the ability of underrepresented groups and those most affected by the climate and nature crises to have a **stronger voice** in the democratic process and connect with their politicians

Goal Two: To ensure climate and nature campaigns at all scales are **more effective** as a result of enhanced collaboration, democratic engagement tools and skill sharing

Goal Three: To actively **mobilise communities** with a flexible approach, allowing us to respond rapidly and strategically to external changes in policy and practice. This enables us to make a meaningful impact for communities and organisations striving to influence climate and nature policy

Goal Four: To conduct research and foster learning to strengthen our work and **enhance climate and nature campaigning** at both grassroots and organisational levels

Goal Five: To ensure Hope for the Future is a **financially resilient** charity with a diverse income model.

A year into this strategy, our work feels more essential to the fabric of society than we ever imagined when we launched Communities for Climate.

We have reframed climate action through "bridge issues" such as energy bills, local transport, food security and jobs. In doing so, we have **made climate engagement more relevant to people's everyday lives**, enabling us to reach and involve groups who have traditionally been excluded from the climate conversation.

We have adapted how we engage communities to better reflect the realities of people's lives and the barriers they face to democratic participation. In doing so, we have increased access to political engagement and **supported a broader and more diverse range of voices** to be heard by decision-makers.

We have strengthened and expanded our democratic engagement training. In doing so, we have equipped individuals and communities with the knowledge, skills and confidence to engage constructively with politicians and **influence local and national decision-making** in a complex and shifting political landscape.

We have focused our efforts on priority communities and high-impact campaigns. In doing so, we have used our resources more strategically, ensuring our support is targeted where it can deliver the greatest benefit for both communities and climate and nature outcomes.

We have evolved our services for organisations and prioritised collaboration and shared learning. In doing so, and through our extensive and diverse partnerships across the climate and nature sector, we have **amplified collective impact**, strengthened campaign effectiveness, and positioned Hope for the Future as a vital and trusted resource for coordinated, sector-wide change.

None of this progress would have been possible without the generosity of our funders. We extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has invested in our vision, with special thanks to our dedicated major donors, supporters and grant funders: the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation, Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, The Maingot Trust, The Southall Trust and the National Lottery Climate Action Fund.



03

Achievements and performance in 2025

We empowered communities at scale

5000+

people across the UK supported through our workshops and resources

2

national flagship projects launched



87%

of **people intended to engage their politician/s** on climate change as a result of our trainings and workshops

266

community-politician meetings supported or facilitated

30%

of our work focused on **"bridge issues"** including warm homes, transport, renewable energy, divestment, recycling/ waste, security

36

organisation-led **climate and nature campaigns** supported

1 **first-of-its-kind platform** launched to connect climate and nature campaigners, strengthen combined efforts and bring accountability to politician engagement: **Climate Connect**

Goal One

We ensured underrepresented groups have a stronger voice in the democratic process



For the first time, in 2025, Hope for the Future **defined our target communities** to streamline our work where it is most needed and to design research-led, creative solutions to democratic engagement tailored to address the specific needs and barriers these groups face to taking political action.

Our target groups are:

Young people (under the age of 25) and their parents and caregivers

Low-income communities facing tough choices, such as deciding between heating their homes or buying food

Diaspora communities in the UK who moved here, in whole or in part, due to climate change in their home country

Communities living in areas most at risk from climate change, like those affected by coastal erosion or flooding

Communities losing jobs or opportunities because of changes in climate-related policies, such as farmers or workers in the fossil fuel industry

Disabled people, who are expected to be hit hardest by climate change, but whose ideas and input are essential to make sure the disabled community is included in climate action and policy decisions

In 2025, we successfully launched two major flagship projects, began expanding and refining our approach to youth advocacy and leadership, completed a bespoke democratic engagement project in partnership with Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN) for farmers, and supported a number of groups working with our target communities to begin advancing this work.

A future for all

Around 7.9 million adults and 3.1 million children in England live in poverty, and 8% of parents have a child with a disability. This accounts for a huge portion of the country who have been excluded from the climate conversation, who have specific challenges that must be considered in climate and nature-related policy, and whose positive imaginings can create a brighter future for all.

Funded by the National Lottery Climate Action Fund and brought to life in partnership with Rowan Environmental Arts (REA), Contact, Parents for Future, and the London School of Economics (LSE), A Future for All is a five-year project launched in February 2025, designed to uniquely support parents from low-income backgrounds and those who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).

In year one, we started in Yorkshire to test our model before scaling more widely.

"For the first time I feel like I have the power to fight for what I believe in"
Parent, Yorkshire

Impact at a glance

- **221** children and their parents (63 families) attended shows and workshops
- **6 Positive Imaginings shows:** offered families an accessible, warm and welcoming space in nature, to connect with others, explore climate change and how to help shape the systems that impact their lives.
- **4 Woodland Workshops**, offering family-friendly climate advocacy sessions in the same woodland locations. Whilst children engaged in forest-school-inspired activities, parents explored how to turn their imaginings into impact. The workshops are designed to make politics feel accessible, for parents to feel confident, empowered, and motivated to use their voice - and to effectively engage local politicians in the issues that matter to them.
- **2 Online Winter Workshops:** with 57 attendees

Climate Assemblies

Citizens' assemblies are widely recognised for their representative and inclusive model of democratic decision-making. In 2025, we launched a project to build on the strengths and diversity of citizen assemblies and similar deliberative democracy projects. Over three years, we aim to embed assemblies and their value more firmly in the climate policy process and instil confidence and agency to turn these valuable processes into policy action.

In year one - with huge thanks to our partners, Shared Future and Liverpool World Centre - we were able to work with **150 assembly members** across three different settings to observe, learn and test when, where and how we can support the process.

The process was also supported by academics from both Keele and Warwick University who attended and observed assembly events to strengthen the project, identify impact and better understand the core challenges at the heart of communicating key recommendations to policy makers.

Over a year's worth of learning has been incorporated into a new toolkit dedicated to supporting the sustained advocacy and policy impact of the deliberative democracy projects, which is now ready to be tested across more settings and audiences in 2026.

"I'd like to thank you all for your hard work and support over the last few weeks as we got this thing moving and completed - overall, I think it was a great success and we appreciate the different perspectives and layers you added to the process, thank you."

Global Learning Project Officer, Liverpool World Centre and Project Partner

Youth Advocacy and Leadership

Young people are the future, and their hopes, needs, and concerns should be central to climate and nature policy-making. Our vision is that every young person has the knowledge, skills, confidence, motivation and community to organise ahead of the next election (when 16 year-olds will be eligible to vote for the first time), and influence climate- and nature-positive outcomes that deliver social and economic justice. That is why young people are one of the specific underrepresented groups we aim to work with under the umbrella of the Communities for Climate strategy, and why in 2025, we took significant steps to grow this area of work.

Case Study: Wirral Changemakers - Youth-led action on transport and climate

In 2025, Hope for the Future worked with Wirral Borough Council's Eco-Schools Officer to deliver an **eight-month youth advocacy programme** supporting students from **three secondary schools** to influence local climate and transport decision-making. Young people identified transport as a key issue affecting their daily lives and climate impact but faced barriers in understanding local political systems and how to influence them effectively. We provided tailored political education and advocacy support, including interactive "Politics 101" workshops, a facilitated youth manifesto process, and guidance to develop clear, realistic and strategic policy asks.

Students collectively produced a **Youth Manifesto for Transport**, setting out priorities such as fair ticket pricing, improved bus infrastructure, safer active travel routes and better safeguarding and inclusivity training for drivers. We then supported young people to present their ideas directly to councillors, transport stakeholders and community leaders through roundtables and a public **Changemakers Conference** attended by over 80 people.



As a result of the programme:

86%
students reported increased confidence in influencing decision-makers

93%
reported improved understanding of local political systems

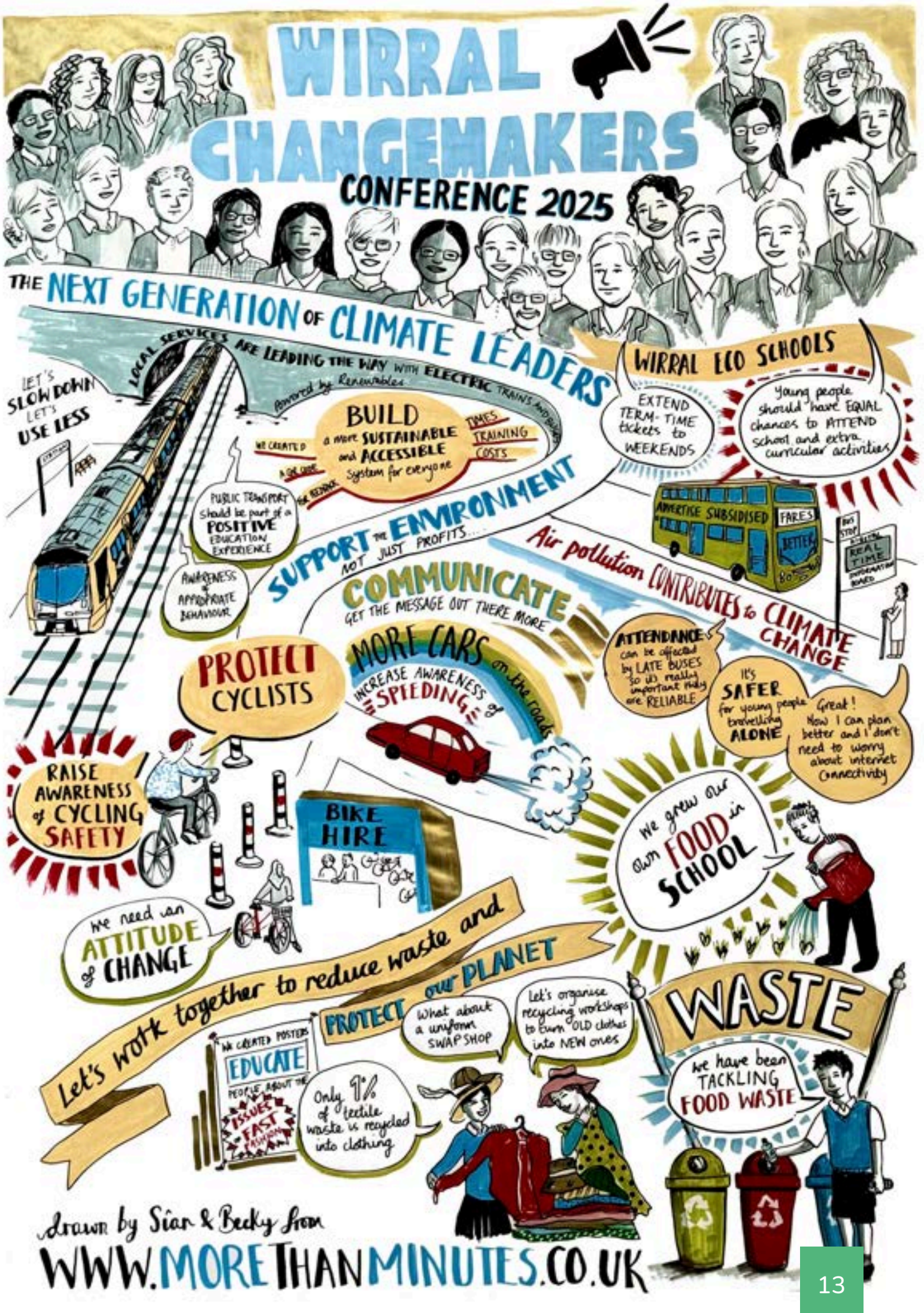
100%
of participating politicians reported a better understanding of young people's priorities and more constructive dialogue



The project strengthened relationships between young people and local decision-makers and contributed to youth-led input into Wirral Council's climate and transport planning

"It really helps with my decision making and helps strengthen support for the things we need to do"
Councillor Ed Lamb




WIRRAL CHANGEMAKERS
CONFERENCE 2025
THE NEXT GENERATION OF CLIMATE LEADERS
LET'S SLOW DOWN LET'S USE LESS
LOCAL SERVICES ARE LEADING THE WAY WITH ELECTRIC TRAINS AND BUSES
Powered by Renewables
BUILD a more SUSTAINABLE and ACCESSIBLE system for everyone
WE CREATED A
FOR REVIEW
TIMES
TRAINING
COSTS
PUBLIC TRANSPORT should be part of a POSITIVE EDUCATION EXPERIENCE
AWARENESS & APPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR
SUPPORT THE ENVIRONMENT NOT JUST PROFITS
WIRRAL ECO SCHOOLS
EXTEND TERM-TIME tickets to WEEKENDS
Young people should have EQUAL chances to ATTEND school and extra curricular activities
APPRENTICE SUBSIDISED FARES
BETTER
REAL TIME
COMMUNICATE
GET THE MESSAGE OUT THERE MORE
Air pollution CONTRIBUTES to CLIMATE CHANGE
ATTENDANCE can be affected by LATE BUSES so it's really important they are RELIABLE
It's SAFER for young people travelling ALONE
Great! Now I can plan better and I don't need to worry about internet connectivity
PROTECT CYCLISTS
MORE CARS on the roads
INCREASE AWARENESS of SPEEDING
RAISE AWARENESS of CYCLING SAFETY
BIKE HIRE
We grew our own FOOD in SCHOOL
We need an ATTITUDE of CHANGE
Let's work together to reduce waste and PROTECT our PLANET
WASTE
We have been TACKLING FOOD WASTE
What about a uniform SWAP SHOP
Let's organise recycling workshops to turn OLD clothes into NEW ones
We created posters to EDUCATE people about the ISSUES of FAST FASHION
Only 1% of textile waste is recycled into clothing
Drawn by Sian & Becky from
WWW.MORETHANMINUTES.CO.UK

Goal Two

We drove more effective climate and nature campaigns of all sizes

Climate and nature campaigns are most effective when they are collaborative, strategically focused and grounded in strong democratic engagement, yet many lack the resource or expertise to achieve this. With no policy goals of our own - we are that resource. In 2025, Hope for the Future supported **36 organisations and campaigns** working at local, regional and national levels to strengthen their impact and progress towards their goals.

> *"Hope for the Future's support really shaped the way we communicated with our supporters about engaging their MPs. [Hope for the Future's training has given our supporters] a greater understanding of what to expect from their MPs, and the tools to reach out and talk about the energy crisis in a constructive way."*
>
> Uplift

Strengthening national campaigning: Stop Rosebank

In 2025, Hope for the Future worked closely with Uplift to support the Stop Rosebank campaign, which aims to prevent the development of the Rosebank oilfield in the North Sea. Our involvement began in February 2025, when we designed and delivered **three tailored training workshops** to support campaigners to engage politicians more effectively. These sessions reached **90 campaigners**, including a dedicated workshop for campaigners in Scotland, which focused on MSP engagement and the specific political context. The training supported participants to navigate misinformation around jobs, energy security and North Sea oil, and to build confidence in approaching conversations with their elected representatives.

We played a vital part in skilling up campaigners ahead of Stop Rosebank's MP/MSP week of action where campaigners met with their politicians across the country. The amazing efforts of Stop Rosebank's campaigners led to **45 MPs and 11 MSPs** signing their pledge to oppose the new oilfield.



Later in the year, as the campaign entered the formal consultation phase, Hope for the Future provided further rapid-response support by helping campaigners use **greencarding** as a strategic form of engagement. Greencarding enabled constituents to meet MPs directly in Parliament with minimal preparation, maintaining political pressure at a critical moment while avoiding fatigue from more resource-intensive actions, and it works; with **one MP signing the pledge to Stop Rosebank on the day.** With consultation now closed we, along with the incredible Stop RoseBank Campaigners and team at Uplift await the government decision on whether to let development of the Rosebank oil field go ahead.

Strengthening legislative campaigning

In 2025, Hope for the Future supported UK Divest, in partnership with Finance Innovation Lab and Platform, to strengthen political engagement around the forthcoming Pensions Reform Bill. The campaign sought to secure commitments to phase out fossil fuel investments from large government-backed pension funds, at a point when climate considerations were largely absent from proposed reforms.

2 tailored workshops delivered

74 activists supported across the UK



Recognising strong demand from campaigners to engage MPs more effectively on pensions policy, Hope for the Future designed and delivered **two tailored workshops**, supporting **74 activists** from across the UK. The training focused on demystifying parliamentary processes, identifying strategic moments for influence, and developing clear, realistic requests to MPs. This was particularly important for campaigners who were experienced in local campaigning but less familiar with Westminster engagement.

Alongside this, Hope for the Future worked with UK Divest to develop a **bespoke resource** focused on framing fossil fuel divestment in ways that resonate with MPs' priorities, including financial risk, fiduciary duty and long-term economic stability. The resource helped campaigners prepare for common objections and approach political conversations with greater confidence and strategic clarity.

To support longer-term campaign effectiveness, Hope for the Future also delivered a **strategy day** for Platform staff, who lead the UK Divest campaign. The session focused on strengthening strategic engagement with politicians across Platform's wider work, including power mapping, understanding parliamentary processes, and exploring how to engage decision-makers effectively while retaining a clear and progressive organisational voice.

This helped embed political engagement skills and shared strategic approaches across the organisation, supporting more coordinated and effective campaigning.

Together, this work strengthened the campaign's readiness to **engage Parliament** at key stages of the Pensions Reform Bill, ensuring both campaigners and campaign leads were better equipped to contribute to sustained, coordinated political engagement on a complex national policy issue.



Goal Three

We actively mobilised communities to respond rapidly and strategically to external opportunities and changes

Opportunities to influence climate and nature policy do not arise evenly or predictably. In 2025, Hope for the Future focused on mobilising communities and organisations in ways that were flexible, timely and responsive to the political context, enabling people to take meaningful action when it mattered most.

We supported communities to move from interest or concern into action by providing accessible tools, targeted support and practical guidance to **engage politicians effectively**. This included responding to national political moments, supporting coordinated action across England and Wales, and developing new infrastructure to make democratic engagement on climate and nature easier and more inclusive.

Launching Climate Connect

Just as our new strategy period begun, we launched Climate Connect, **the UK's only shared digital infrastructure for climate and nature campaigns**. This one-of-a-kind digital organising platform is designed to help communities and organisations coordinate political engagement, share learning and build greater collective influence.



Already, the platform is being used by the National Emergency Briefing, with more than **1,800 interactions with politicians** mapped, creating an unprecedented picture of climate advocacy across the UK.

This is just the beginning. During the second half of our strategy, we'll launch Climate Connect V2, introducing new features that make it even easier for communities, campaigners and organisations to work together to **influence decision-makers**. Watch this space.

Suits to Welly Boots: Farmers Changing the Political Landscape

In 2024-25, we provided external advocacy support to the Nature Friendly Farming Network (NFFN). Our support was for their Suits to Welly Boots, a pioneering initiative to **connect nature-friendly farmers with their MPs** in a time of growing political urgency to address farming and food security. The project aimed to embed sustainable farming priorities in political discourse, to achieve tangible parliamentary action.

32 farmers directly engaged with their MP

13 SMART political commitments secured

Using a bespoke constituency matrix (including flood risk, agri-environment uptake, vote margins, and MP receptiveness) to identify **35 rural constituencies**. This informed a targeted engagement strategy, ensuring that our limited resources went where they mattered most, including roundtables in Tiverton and Minehead and Penrith and Solway, plus tailored support in North Herefordshire and beyond.



"Events like this are incredibly valuable for me as an MP to hear directly from local farmers. Representing the views of my constituents in Parliament is a priority for me, and gatherings like this give me the insight I need to do that effectively."

Rachel Gilmore MP

When a snap general election curtailed our original plans for public hustings, we pivoted fast. Instead, we facilitated **four farmer-MP roundtable events**, each designed to foster constructive, solutions-focused dialogue. **32 farmers** engaged directly with their MPs and **13 SMART political commitments** were secured, including:

- Parliamentary questions on local procurement and small farm access to DEFRA schemes
- A proposed cross-party debate on scheme timings and budget allocations
- Farmers giving evidence to the APPG on Farming
- An MP advocating for inheritance tax reform for older farmers.
- Support nature-based farming innovations through the ADOPT programme.
- Connecting local farmers to community housing schemes for agricultural workers.
- Commitments to ongoing, structured MP–farmer engagement every 4–6 months

Local media also spotlighted the roundtables, elevating farmer concerns into public discourse.



"I've never felt my voice mattered before – this helped me realise it does."

Joe Lyall, Farmer

The roundtables were the visible result of a layered approach designed to embed confidence and capacity in the farming community:

- One-to-one coaching: **13 farmers** received tailored support to research MPs, craft messages, and prepare for meetings.
- Online training: for **50+ farmers** across the Nature Friendly Farming Network.
- Written resources: **Step-by-step guidance** now in circulation across partner networks.

This structure enabled powerful moments of influence. Joe Lyall, a young dairy farmer from Cumbria, went from having never contacted a politician to meeting his MP, organising a farm visit, and briefing the Shadow Farming Minister on climate and nature policies within four months.

This programme has created a blueprint for engaging farming communities with long-term potential. Our constituency matrix is now used to inform other campaign targeting. NFFN are embedding the roundtable format, and we're connecting farming communities to national efforts like the Climate and Nature Bill.



Strengthening the Long Term Impact of The Climate Coalition's Mass Lobby

On 9 July 2025, **over 5,000 people** and **200 MPs** gathered at Westminster for The Climate Coalition's Act Now, Change Forever Mass Lobby - one of the largest coordinated democratic engagement efforts on climate and nature in recent years. The aim was to ensure constituents from across the UK could meet their MPs face-to-face to raise concerns and call for stronger action on climate and nature.

Mass mobilisation alone is not enough to deliver policy change. We were commissioned to equip people with the confidence and skills to have quality conversations, devise and articulate clear and strategic policy recommendations and build lasting relationships with MPs.

We developed **two dedicated resources**, accessed by **7,000+ people** to help them prepare for the day by framing achievable asks centered around the mass lobbies polices focus areas. We also delivered training to **116 individuals**, and **73% reported increased confidence**.

>7000
people engaged with dedicated resources

116
people received bespoke training

228
people received specific support to prepare for MP meetings

We deployed a 9-person team across Westminster venues, including a dedicated help-point at the QEII Centre. From this base, we offered real-time "flash" workshops and one-to-one support, helping **228 people** to prepare and refine their policy asks for their MP meetings and identify next steps to ensure accountability and action.

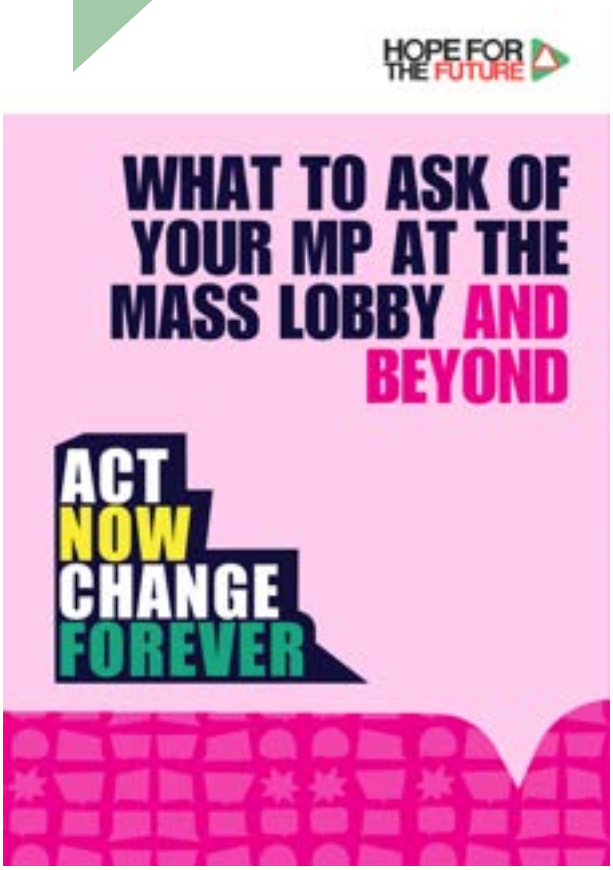


The Climate Coalition commissioned us to deliver **six workshops,** supporting **49 people** to:

- Develop their own campaign action plans
- Understand how engaging with local politicians can form an integral part of their campaign action plan
- Be inspired, energised and equipped to think longer term about their own campaign goals

The sessions saw people develop plans to establish protected status for a local nature reserve, change legislation surrounding the recycling of blister packs, protect marine ecosystems around Northern Ireland and advocate for a public engagement and behaviour change campaign in North Manchester. Participants reported a **22% increase in their campaign planning skills** and a **20% increase in their understanding of engaging politicians.**

> ***"I'm excited I now know how to put a campaign together. It filled in blanks in my knowledge and has inspired me to carry on engaging with my MP"***
>
> *Andrew, Campaign Workshop Attendee*





Goal Four

Research and learning to strengthen our work and enhance climate and nature campaigning

In 2025, we continued to **invest in research** and learning to ensure our work is informed by evidence, responsive to different starting points, and effective in practice.

Our research helps us better understand the specific barriers different communities face in engaging with politicians, as well as the conditions that enable constructive dialogue and meaningful political influence. By combining insights from political theory, behavioural research and lived experience, we are able to adapt our support to suit different audiences and contexts, and to design **engagement that is inclusive, credible and relevant**.



Case Study: Four urgent truths

In consultation with Hope For The Future, politics students from the London School of Economics conducted intensive research with members of Parents for Future, which encourages UK parents to take action on climate issues, and Contact, which supports and advocates for families with SEND children. Through interviews and focus groups, these preliminary research findings uncovered four critical realities that shape parental climate engagement and draw pathways for transforming that experience:

Many parents feel overlooked by and disillusioned with UK politics. At the same time, they see grassroots, community-led action as a powerful way to drive change and build resilience.



UK parents often feel isolated and silenced on climate issues, which fuels anxiety, guilt, and inaction. When they find supportive communities, that isolation lifts, turning shared concern into feelings of solidarity, motivation, and a clearer, stronger path to action.



Climate-related discourse shifts responsibility onto individual families, creating further pressures, especially for parent carers. Deeply motivated to protect their children's future but constrained by time, exhaustion, cost, and risk, parents want ways to act that are effective and fit around their families' day-to-day needs.



Parents feel that climate action should include and empower children, who are set to inherit the world we create today, criticising schools for sidelining civic and climate education even as young people show strong awareness and a drive to create change. At the same time, parents are mindful of children's vulnerabilities - especially for SEND children - highlighting the need for age-appropriate, supportive ways to participate that protect wellbeing while valuing children as active climate champions.



Goal Five

Hope for the Future is financially sustainable with a diverse income model

Delivering high-quality and timely work requires a strong and sustainable organisation. In 2025, Hope for the Future focused on strengthening the foundations needed to deliver impact over the long term.

The year marked a period of consolidation and growth. We secured **new multi-year grant funding**, including National Lottery–funded projects, enabling greater stability and longer-term planning. Alongside this, we delivered a successful match-funding campaign, and grew our donor base. We also launched an equitable pricing model for our partnership work, which has allowed us to **diversify our income** and leverage our small but expert team to drive forward critical campaigns at both grassroots and national scales:

- **The principle:** Those with greater resources (such as national NGOs, large charities, or public bodies) contribute more financially, enabling us to offer the same high-quality support for a reduced rate or pro bono to low-income and underrepresented communities.
- **The approach:** Pricing is based on organisational size, income, available budget, and alignment with our strategic aims, with a transparent pricing calculation matrix ensuring fairness and consistency.
- **The impact:** In 2025, we generated £43,980 in earned income, across paid partnerships, which has been reinvested into our free support and services for individuals and communities who are underrepresented in democratic decision making and climate and nature justice.
- **Strategic benefit:** This model allows us to prioritise support for communities that align with our strategic focus, including young people, low-income communities, diaspora groups, rural voices, and disabled people, while remaining a sustainable, long-term resource for the sector as a whole.



Looking forward to 2026

04



In 2026, Hope for the Future will continue delivering the second year of our **Communities for Climate** strategy, building on strong foundations while deploying a live political strategy to respond flexibly to political moments and opportunities and threats to advancing more ambitious and equitable climate policy and action.

We will begin testing our **Deliberative Democracy Toolkit** with partners including Shared Future and Manchester University, supporting communities to translate deliberative processes into meaningful political engagement. The toolkit will be used for the first time to support young people holding a climate assembly at Chester Zoo, enabling them to engage politicians throughout the process and in response to their recommendations.

Year two of **A Future for All** will deepen political engagement between parents and politicians across Yorkshire, while also refining a package of support designed for national rollout. This work will continue to remove barriers to participation and support parents to feel confident, motivated and equipped to engage democratically on issues that affect their families and communities.

We will build on our **youth work** with a clear ambition that every young person has the knowledge, skills, confidence, motivation and community to organise ahead of the next elections and influence climate- and nature-positive outcomes that deliver social and economic justice. With 16-year-olds eligible to vote for the first time, we will seek funding to ensure new and first-time voters are informed, confident and empowered to participate in democracy before, during and beyond election periods.

A key focus in 2026 will be **supporting communities in Wales and Scotland** to engage politically at moments when it matters most. In the lead-up to elections, we will build the capacity of communities to lead their own hustings, engage candidates on climate and nature, and lay the foundations for strong, constructive relationships with newly elected representatives.

This work reflects Hope for the Future's commitment to working flexibly and strategically in response to political opportunity, ensuring communities are supported to act when their voices can have the greatest impact.

Alongside this, we will research and test approaches to working meaningfully and impactfully with diaspora communities, and deepen our work to protect and restore nature by building the capacity of local organisations to engage politicians effectively. Across all areas of work, we aim to **support 40+ local and national climate and nature campaigns**, reaching **2,500+ people,** while continuing to adapt our services to different audiences, policy contexts and lived realities. We will **undertake live research** to evolve our approach to political engagement and embed learning directly into our training and support.

We will measure impact across our work by tracking improvements in skills, confidence and motivation to take political action; leadership capacity within communities; understanding of democracy and UK politics; the quality of democratic engagement; and the number of people taking action.

With a committed and skilled team, strengthened internal systems, and a shared sense of purpose, Hope for the Future enters 2026 well positioned and excited to deliver the next year of Communities for Climate.



05

Structure, governance and management

Trustees

Jonny Exon	Chair (from 01/01/2024 - present)
James Pilley	Treasurer (from 01/07/2024 - present)
Rodolfo Barradas	(from 12/12/2023 - present)
Dr Richard Axelby	(from 01/07/2024 - present)
Jacob Ohrvik-Stott	(from 12/12/2023 - present)
Uday Vartak	(from 22/09/2020 - present)
Adam Berman	(from 01/07/2024 - present)
Cassa Townsend	(from 01/07/2024 - present)
Dr Xihui Chen	(from 01/07/2024 - present)
Sam Karslake	(from 01/07/2024 - present)
Prof Cristina Leston-Bandeira	(from 01/03/2022 - 28/02/2025)

Trustees are generally appointed through a process of advertisement, interview and selection by a delegated recruitment committee.

How we work with our Trustees
The Board of Trustees provides strategic oversight, while day-to-day management is delegated to the Chief Executive and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Strong communication between the Board and staff is maintained through:

- Line management of the Chief Executive by the Chair;
- Senior Leadership Team attendance at meetings of the Board and Sub-Committee meetings (Finance & Fundraising, and HR & Governance).
- Joint sessions are held between the Board and the SLT to align on organisational goals.
- Designated Safeguarding Trustee

Our Team
During 2025, Hope for the Future saw modest growth to meet the increasing demand for our services.

Staffing Structure (as of January 2025):
- Senior Leadership: 4 staff (3.7 FTE)
- Delivery Team: 5 staff (5.0 FTE)
- Finance, Fundraising & Admin: 2 staff (1.8 FTE)

Staffing Structure (as of December 2025):
- Senior Leadership: 4 staff (3.7 FTE) plus one maternity leave
- Delivery Team: 6 staff (6.0 FTE)
- Finance, Fundraising & Admin: 2 staff (1.6 FTE)

Date	Headcount	Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)
Jan 2025	11	10.5
Dec 2025	13	12.3



The senior leadership team consisted of:
Chief Executive Officer: Laura D'Henin-Ivers (maternity leave from May 2025)

Interim Chief Executive Officer: Jessica Parish (appointed May 2025)

Director of Income Generation: Jessica Parish (January 2025 - May 2025); Chris Owens (appointed June 2025)

Director of Operations: Anne Dargue

Director of Policy and Engagement: Joel Silver (appointed June 2025)

Director of Delivery: Nicola Sansom (served until May 2025)

Our Commitment to Fair Pay
We believe that our people are our greatest asset. To ensure we attract and retain the talent required to deliver impactful work, we maintain a transparent pay policy:

- We are a proud Living Wage Employer. We go beyond the statutory minimum, setting our lowest salaries at the Living Wage plus £1 per hour.
- Staff pay is reviewed annually, with adjustments typically made in line with the cost of living.
- We regularly benchmark our salary levels against similar roles in the charity sector to remain competitive and fair.



Chief Executive Officer: Laura D'Henin-Ivers



Interim Chief Executive Officer/Director of Income Generation: Jessica Parish



Director of Operations: Anne Dargue



Director of Policy and Engagement: Joel Silver



Director of Delivery: Nicola Sansom



Interim Director of Income Generation: Chris Owens

Financial Report

06

In 2025, overall income declined by 22% from £542,025 in 2024 to £422,327 in 2025. This mainly reflects a long-term grant from the Quadrate Climate Foundation coming to an end in summer 2024. Overall grant funding totalled £336,559, compared to £478,767 in 2024. Although this was a decline, we were grateful to receive funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, Esmee Fairbairn, the National Lottery Community Action Fund, Maingot Charitable Trust, USPG and Southall Trust - establishing a strong and diverse grant funding base with several multi-year investments.

Donations increased by 70% from £20,406 in 2024 to £34,865 in 2025 and income from the provision of training services increased from the previous year, up from £37,935 to £46,172 (a 21% increase).

Over 59% income in 2025 was 'unrestricted'.

Expenditure increased from £566,865 in 2024 to £611,371 in 2025, representing a 8% increase. This was the result of committed project expenditure and fixed-term contract staff hires.

Reserves

In 2025, trustees revised the reserves policy, taking the decision to reduce the level of reserves held to bring the level of reserves into line with sector benchmarks for similarly sized charities.
At the end of 2025, Hope for the Future holds £231,006 in unrestricted reserves and an additional £32,811 in restricted reserves, totalling £263,818. This is in line with our policy to hold unrestricted reserves amounting to three months' expenditure plus partial wind-down costs.



Statement of Financial Activities (including summary income and expenditure account)

FOR THE YEAR 1 JANUARY 2025 to 31 DECEMBER 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds 2025 £	Restricted Funds 2025 £	Total Funds 2025 £	2024 £
Income from:					
Donations	2	34,865		34,865	20,406
Grants Received	2	163,946	172,613	336,559	478,767
Income generated from providing Training	2	46,172		46,172	37,934
Bank Interest		4,732		4,732	4,919
Total Income		249,714	172,613	422,327	813,479
Expended on:					
Raising Funds	2&3	63	-	63	5,291
Support Costs	2&3	78,718	34,929	113,647	95,288
Charitable Climate Projects	2&3	388,867	108,792	497,660	456,286
Total Expenditure		467,649	143,722	611,371	556,865
Transfer between reserves	7.1	0	(0)	-	-
Net Movement in Funds		- 217,935	28,891	- 189,044	- 14,839
Reconciliation of Funds:					
Total Funds Brought Forward	7.2	448,942	3,920	452,862	467,701
Total Funds Carried Forward	7.1	231,007	32,811	263,818	452,862

Balance Sheet

As At 31 December 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Current assets			
Debtors	4	3,719	12,803
Cash at bank and in hand	6	271,473	451,603
Total current assets		275,191	464,406
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	5	- 11,373	- 11,544
Total assets less current liabilities		263,818	452,862
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-
Total net assets		263,818	452,862
Funds of the Charity	7		
General funds		231,007	390,942
Designated funds			58,000
		231,007	448,942
Restricted funds		32,811	3,920
Total funds		263,818	452,862

The notes on pages 5 to 9 form part of these accounts

Signed by the following on behalf of all Trustees

Jonny Exon, Chair of Trustees **Date: 00/00/2026**

James Pilley, Treasurer **Date: 00/00/2026**

Statement of Cash Flows

For Year 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

	2025 £	2024 £
Net Cash used in Operating Activites	-180,131	40,031
Cash Flow from Investing Activities	-	-
Change in Cash and Cash Equivalents in the Year	- 180,131	40,031
Cash and Cash equivalents brought forward	451,603	411,572
Cash and Cash equivalents carried forward	271,472	451,603

Reconciliation of Net Movement in Funds to net cash flow from operating activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Net Movement in Funds	- 189,044	- 14,839
Deduct interest shown in Investing Activities	-	-
Decrease (increase) in Debtors	9,084	50,094
Increase (decrease) in Creditors	- 171	4,776
Net Cash Used in Operating Activities	- 180,131	40,031

Notes to the Accounts 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Note 1: Accounting Policies

a) Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The accounts (financial statements) have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant note(s) to these accounts. The accounts are prepared in sterling. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Statement of Recommended Practice: Accounting and Reporting by Charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) issued on 16 July 2014 and the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

The Trustees confirm that the Charity is a public benefit entity.

The Trustees consider that there are no material uncertainties about the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern.

b) Funds Structure

Restricted funds are funds which are to be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or trust deed. When large grants are received for a specific purpose a separate restricted fund is raised.

Unrestricted/General funds comprise those funds which the trustees are free to use for any purpose in furtherance of the charitable objects.

Designated funds are funds set aside by the Trustees for specific projects. Many of these projects are partly funded with the unfunded element set aside from general funds.

(c) Income Recognition

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Grants and Donations that are subject to terms and conditions are treated as Deferred Income until it is probable that the terms and conditions can be met. If the conditions are not wholly within the control of the charity it will be disclosed as a contingent asset.

Donated Services if significant would be recorded in the Annual Report.

Volunteer Help received is not included in the accounts, but is described in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Gift Aid receivable is included in income when there is a valid declaration from the donor. Any Gift Aid received on a donation is considered to be part of that gift and is treated as an addition to the same fund as the initial donation unless the donor or terms of the appeal have specified otherwise.

(d) Expenditure recognition

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Support costs consists of a proportion of the directors' salary costs and expenses allocated on a time spent basis together with salary and expense costs relating to the finance and administration functions.

Governance Costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice. Support costs have been allocated to Governance costs where applicable.

(e) Assets

Tangible Fixed Assets are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £1,500. They were valued at cost. There are no fixed assets at the end of 2025.

Notes to the Accounts 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Note 2: Analysis of Income and Costs

	Analysis	Unrestricted funds income year to to 2025 £	Restricted income funds year to 2025 £	Total funds for year to 2025 £	2024 £
Donations					
	Regular Donations	6,145	-	6,145	6,440
	Major Donations	12,400	-	12,400	13,409
	Other Donations	16,320	-	16,320	557
	Total Donations	34,865	-	34,865	20,406
	QCF	-	-	-	270,000
	European Climate Foundation	-	-	-	50,000
	Esmee Fairbairn Foundation	66,667	-	66,667	66,667
	Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust	55,000	-	55,000	55,000
	The Samworth Foundation	-	-	-	15,000
	National Lottery	-	146,031	146,031	-
	Maingot Charitable Trust	15,000	-	15,000	15,000
	NPC CAF	-	8,187	8,187	-
	USPG	5,000	-	5,000	-
	Southall Trust	5,000	-	5,000	5,000
	Other Grants	17,279	18,395	35,674	2,100
	Total Grants from other Charitable Foundations	163,946	172,613	336,559	478,767
Generated Income	Income from Provision of Training Services	46,172	-	46,172	37,934
	Total Income From Provision of Training Services	46,172	-	46,172	37,934
Investment Income	Interest	4,732	-	4,732	4,919
	Total Interest	4,732	-	4,732	4,919
	TOTAL INCOME:	249,714	172,613	**422,327**	**542,025**

Continues on next page

Note 2: Analysis of Income and Costs (continued)

		Unrestricted funds income year to to 2024 £	Restricted income funds year to 2024 £	Total funds for year to 2024 £	2024 £
EXPENDED ON:					
	Raising Funds	- 63	-	- 63	- 5291
	CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES				
	Core Climate Change Work	- 356,742	- 105,351	- 462,093	- 342,146
	Events	-	-	-	- 25,295
	Faith Outreach	-	-	-	- 15,557
	Regional Climate Work	-	-	-	- 36,304
	Research	- 32,126	- 3,441	- 35,567	- 52,541
	Schools	-	-	-	-
	Total Charitable Climate Projects	- 388,867	- 108,792	- 497,660	- 456,286
	Support Costs	- 78,718	- 34,929	- 113,647	- 95,288
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		- 467,649	- 143,722	- 611,371	- 556,865
	Funds transfers	-	-	-	-
	Net Movement in Funds (as per SoFA)	- 217,935	28,891	- 189,043	- 14,839

Notes to the Accounts 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025

Note 3: Staff Costs and Benefits

3.1 Staff Costs

	2025 £	2024 £
Salaries and wages	408,213	349,721
Employer's national insurance	52,539	34,810
Pension contributions (defined contribution scheme)	13,946	13,425
Other employee benefits	-	
Total staff costs	474,697	397,956

These staff costs are included within note 2 split across the relevant areas

There were no transactions with any related parties.

No employees received benefits of more than £60,000 (2024: nil).

3.2 The Trustees are not paid. During the year, no expenses were reimbursed to trustees (2024: two trustees, £174.07)

3.3 Average head count in the year

	2025	2024
Average number of whole time equivalent employees	12.1	11.6

Notes to the Accounts 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025

Note 4, 5 and 6: Debtors, Creditors and Cash

4 Analysis of debtors

	2024 £	2023 £
Trade debtors	-	4,430
Prepayments and accrued income	1,752	57,000
Other debtors	1,967	1,468
Total	3,719	62,898

5 Analysis of creditors

	Amounts falling due within one year		Amounts falling due after more than one year	
	2025 £	2024 £	2025 £	2024 £
Accruals and defferred income	1,066	1,137	-	-
Taxation and social security	10,307	-	-	-
Other creditors	-	10,407	-	-
Total	11,373	11,544	-	-

6 Cash at bank and in hand

	2025 £	2024 £
Cash at bank and in hand	271,473	451,603
Other	-	-
Total	271,473	451,603

Notes to the Accounts 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025

Note 7: Charity Funds

7.1 Details of material funds held and movements during the current reporting period 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Fund names	Type of Fund	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
			£	£	£	£	£
National Lottery	Restricted	A Future for All - unlocking climate action for low income famalies and familes with children with disabilities	-	146,031	-131,615	0	14,416
NPC CAF	Restricted	Supporting climate action for individuals with disabilities	-	8,187	8,187	-	0
Awards For All	Restricted	Supporting climate action for unrepresented communities through workshops and mentoring	-	18,395	-	-	18,395
Samworth	Restricted	Supporting climate action for nature friendly farmers	3,920	-	3,920	-	0
Total Restricted Reserves			**3,920**	**172,613**	**-143,722**	**0**	**32,811**
Unrestricted Reserves	Unrestricted		390,941	249,714	-467,649	58,000	231,006
Designated Reserves	Unrestricted	Strategic investment fund	58,000	-	-	58,000	-
Total Unrestricted Reserves			**448,941**	**249,714**	**-467,649**	**-**	**231,006**
Total Reserves			**452,861**	**422,327**	**-611,371**	**-**	**263,818**

7.2 Details of material funds held and movements during the prior reporting period 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2024

Fund names	Type of Fund	Purpose and Restrictions	Fund balances brought forward	Income	Expenditure	Transfers	Fund balances carried forward
			£	£	£	£	£
Samworth	Restricted		-	15,000	-11,080	0	3,920
ECF	Restricted		6,029	-	-6,029	-	0
ECF (Comms)	Restricted		-	30,000	-30,000	-	-
ECF (Project Work)	Restricted		-	20,000	20,000	-	0
Total Restricted Reserves			**6,029**	**65,000**	**-67,109**	**-**	**3,920**
Unrestricted Reserves	Unrestricted		403,671	477,025	-489,755	0	390,941
Designated Reserves	Unrestricted	Strategic investment fund	58,000	-	-	-	58,000
Total Unrestricted Reserves			**461,671**	**477,025**	**-489,755**	**0**	**448,941**
Total Reserves			**467,700**	**542,025**	**-556,864**	**-**	**452,861**

Notes to the Accounts 1 January 2025 to 31 December 2025

Note 8: Funds Received as an Agent

8.1 During the year ended 31 December 2025, Hope for the Future received funding from the National Lottery Community Fund as part of the A Future for All programme.

Under the terms of the grant agreement, a proportion of the funding (£161,655) was received by Hope for the Future solely for onward distribution to delivery partners. Hope for the Future acted as an agent in respect of these funds and had no discretion over their ultimate use. Accordingly, these amounts have not been recognised within incoming resources or charitable expenditure in the Statement of Financial Activities.

The funds received and distributed as agent during the year were as follows:

Funds received as an agent	**£**
National Lottery Climate Action Fund - February 2025 payment	£80,827
National Lottery Climate Action Fund - August 2025 payment	£80,828
Total funds received as an agent	**£161,655**

Funds distributed on behalf of the funder	**£**
Contact	£80,827
London School of Economics	£80,828
Rowanbank Environmental Arts	£65,790
Community organisations and consultants	£25,000
Total funds distributed as an agent	**£161,655**

Independent Examiner's Report on the accounts

Report to the trustees of Hope for the Future

On accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025 Charity Number: 1173547

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2025.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("The Act").

I report in respect of my examination of the Trust's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination, I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

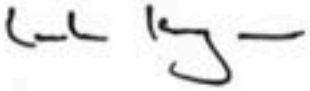
The Charity's gross income exceeds £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants.

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- The accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination that should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date: 17th June 2026

Luke Keegan

Associate Member of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants
Greendawn Accounting Limited, 1A The Homend, Ledbury, Herefordshire, HR8 1BN

Risk Statement

07

The Trustees are responsible for the management and control of Hope for the Future, including the identification and mitigation of the principal risks facing the charity. The charity maintains a comprehensive risk register to support risk management and oversight across the organisation. During 2025, key risks were monitored through ongoing discussion by senior staff, the relevant sub-committees and the Board, and action was taken where appropriate in response to emerging issues.

Trustee conflicts of interest are recorded in a dedicated register and reviewed as a standing agenda item at each Board meeting.

In 2025, HFTF had no income from investments or loans and minimal capital assets beyond office equipment. The charity's main expenditure remained staff salaries, and the majority of its income was derived from charitable donations and grants. In the opinion of the Trustees, HFTF therefore had a relatively simple financial structure.

The principal risks facing the charity in 2025 included:

- maintaining financial sustainability in a challenging funding environment, including reliance on income to be secured during the year, rising operational and statutory costs, and operating closer to target reserves following planned use of reserves during the year
- ensuring sufficient staff capacity and wellbeing as a small charity delivering an ambitious strategy and growing portfolio of work
- maintaining compliance with evolving legal, safeguarding and digital requirements, including employment law and online safety obligations
- The risk that political uncertainty and declining trust in institutions could reduce participation in democratic processes and limit engagement beyond already engaged audiences

To mitigate these risks, the following actions were taken:

- continued work to strengthen and diversify income through grant funding, partnerships, commissioned work, donations and individual giving, supported by regular financial review, contingency planning and revision of the reserves policy
- embedded a full cost recovery approach within funding applications
- launched a new three-year strategy and strengthened internal structures to support prioritisation, sustainable delivery and long-term resilience
- kept key organisational policies, systems and controls under review, supported by external HR legal expertise where required

- maintained oversight of staff wellbeing, organisational capacity and financial performance through senior staff, sub-committees and the Board
- continued to adapt delivery and partnerships to broaden engagement and reach a wider range of communities
- revised the reserves policy and maintained unrestricted reserves in line with that policy, including provision for operating costs and wind-down liabilities

These matters were overseen by the HR & Governance Sub-Committee, the Finance & Fundraising Sub-Committee and the full Board of Trustees.

In conclusion, the Trustees have considered the principal risks to which the charity is exposed and are satisfied that appropriate systems and procedures are in place to manage and mitigate those risks.



Hope for the Future

The Workstation,
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S1 2BX

www.hftf.org.uk

Charity number: 1173547