

Charity Number: 1074983
Company Number: 03527370

**LANCASHIRE
ENVIRONMENTAL FUND
LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)**

Trustees' Report and Accounts

**For The Year Ended
31 December 2023**

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

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LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

CHARITY DETAILS

Company Name	Lancashire Environmental Fund
Charity registration number	1074983
Company registration number	03527370
Trustees	J Drury F McGinty A J Hughes S Turner
Secretary	Lancashire County Council
Fund Manager	A Rowett (Resigned 11/06/2023) E Morgan (Appointed 10/07/2023)
Auditor	MHA Richard House Winckley Square Preston PR1 3HP
Legal advisor	Company Secretary PO Box 100 County Hall Democratic Services Lancashire County Council Preston PR1 0LD
Principal/contact address	c/o Lancashire Wildlife Trust The Barn Berkeley Drive Bamber Bridge PR5 6BY
Registered address	Company Secretary PO Box 100 County Hall Democratic Services Lancashire County Council Preston PR1 0LD
Members	Community Futures Lancashire County Council Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited Lancashire Wildlife Trust

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, present their report and the audited financial statements of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2023. The trustees have adopted the provisions of the Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) "Accounting and Reporting by Charities" (FRS 102) in preparing the annual report and financial statements of the charity.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in the notes to the accounts and comply with the charity's governing document, the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland published in October 2019.

Structure, governance and management

Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited (hereafter referred to as "the charitable company") is a charitable company limited by guarantee, incorporated on 13 March 1998 and registered as a charity on 1 April 1999. The charitable company is governed by its memorandum and articles of association. The power of appointing and removing trustees is vested in the members by way of an instrument in writing signed by each member, each member having the power to appoint one trustee.

The criteria used by Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited to determine the pay and remuneration of key management personnel are the same as those used by Lancashire Wildlife Trust from whom staff are seconded. Lancashire Wildlife Trust use comparisons to external charities for similar roles as a basis for determining the pay and remuneration of key management personnel.

Trustees of the charity

The directors of the charitable company are its trustees for the purposes of charity law. The trustees who have served during the year and since the year end are set out on page 1. Trustees are appointed by the Board. The Board's Legal Officer will update the Trustees on changes to the law affecting the scheme. The Fund Manager will provide induction for new members.

The trustees delegate the assessment of applications to an assessment group, which is chaired by the fund manager. The fund manager is assisted by a small team and co-ordinates the daily operation of the charity. The trustees meet quarterly to approve or refuse grants based on the recommendations of the assessment group.

Risk review

The board has conducted its own review of the major risks to which the charity is exposed and systems have been established to mitigate those risks. Significant external risks are mitigated by Professional Indemnity Insurance. Internal risks are minimised by segregation of duties and checking procedures.

The major risks to which the charity is exposed due to its management and administration being provided by LWT have been reviewed by the trustees of LWT. Internal risks relevant to the charity are being minimised by the implementation of procedures for authorisation of all transactions. Risk management priorities of LWT, impacting on the management and administration of the charity, are quality systems, succession planning for key staff and the regular review of systems.

Future legislative changes to the Landfill Communities Fund could result in Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited, the landfill operator, deciding to withdraw from the scheme. If this happens, the Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited will have to wind up after running down the existing general unrestricted fund balance.

The Fund could also face further challenges as a result of possible legislation to cap administration fees at 7.5% of project expenditure. This represents an extremely challenging target for such a relatively small fund which does not enjoy the benefits of economies of scale which other larger Landfill Communities Fund distributors have.

However, the Trustees have made and will continue to make significant efforts to reduce administration fees wherever possible.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

The Lancashire Environmental Fund primarily distributes monies raised from the Landfill Tax paid by Lancashire County Council. The current contract for waste management expires on 31st March 2025 and the expectation is that the amount of Landfill Tax that the fund is likely to receive will reduce significantly thereafter. Depending on how much this reduction is and also upon the administration costs of running the Fund it may well be that the continued operation of the Fund becomes unviable. If this is indeed the case, alternative arrangements for the distribution of any future and existing funds will have to be made.

The Fund relies on the continued support of Lancashire County Council who pay many of the third party contributions required to enable the Landfill Tax income to be released.

Connected Charities and Organisations

Lancashire Wildlife Trust Limited

The trustees consider Lancashire Wildlife Trust Limited ("LWT") to be a connected charity as it is a member of the charitable company with the power to appoint one trustee to the board. J Drury was a trustee of LWT until October 2019 and remains a trustee of Lancashire Environmental Fund. In addition, LWT provides management, organisational, administrative and supervision services to the charitable company under an agreement and both parties operate from Cuerden Valley Park near Bamber Bridge. The charitable company has no employees of its own, but subcontracts one full time and two part time employees from Lancashire Wildlife Trust who work exclusively on the charitable company's affairs.

During the year, a total of £63,975 (2022: £67,283) was payable for these services and other management, organisational, administrative and supervision services.

LWT is established to promote the conservation of nature for the purpose of study and research and to educate the public in the understanding and appreciation of nature, the awareness of its value and the need for its conservation. During the year the charitable company awarded grants totalling £99,510 (2022: £135,755) to LWT in connection with those objectives.

Lancashire County Council

The trustees consider Lancashire County Council to be a connected organisation as it is a member of the charitable company with the power to appoint one trustee to the board. S Turner is both a trustee of the charitable company and Deputy Leader of Lancashire County Council.

One of the current functions of Lancashire County Council is to provide and maintain public open spaces including country parks, greenway bridle paths, footpaths etc for the pleasure and enjoyment of the people of Lancashire. During the year the charitable company awarded grants totalling £0 (2022: £30,000) to Lancashire County Council in connection with this objective.

Community Futures

The trustees consider Community Futures to be a connected charity as it is a member of the charitable company with the power to appoint one trustee to the board. F McGinty is the Community Futures appointee and a Trustee of the charitable company. The aim of Community Futures is to promote and develop social and community activity in Lancashire, working through voluntary groups and in partnership with public authorities.

Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited

The trustees consider Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited to be a connected organisation as it is a member of the charitable company with the power to appoint one trustee to the board. A J Hughes is the Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited appointee and a Trustee of the charitable company. Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited are the waste management company contracted by Lancashire County Council to dispose of the waste in the county which goes to landfill.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Objectives, activities and public benefit

The principal activity of the charitable company is the support for environmental projects via an Entrust registered environmental body which receives landfill tax credits and awards grants to environmental projects which meet the criteria specified by the Landfill Tax Regulations 1996 (As Amended):

- Providing and maintaining public amenities and parks, within 10 miles of a landfill site, when the work benefits the natural social or built environment;
- The provision, conservation, restoration or enhancement of a natural habitat, maintenance or recovery of a species within 10 miles of a landfill site;
- Restoring and repairing buildings which are for religious worship, or architectural or historical interest within 10 miles of a landfill site.

The trustees have had due regard to guidance published by the Charity Commission on public benefit.

Grant making policy

The charity invites applications for funding of environmental projects across the Lancashire area. Institutional applicants are invited to submit a summary of their proposals in a specified format. The applications are reviewed against specific criteria by the fund manager. Projects may be funded over varying periods of time, therefore cost and progress is monitored on a continuous basis.

The trustees confirm that they have referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing the Trust's aims and objectives and in planning future activities and setting the grant making policy for the year.

Achievements and performance

During the year, the charitable company awarded a total of £1,620,531 (2022: £1,331,210 to 75 projects (2022: 68 projects) while maintaining sufficient resources to enable charitable activities going forward.

The Fund distributes grants on a quarterly cycle on a demand led basis. This makes it difficult to set specific targets for the number and type of project applications received and supported. To ensure the number of applications is maximised, the Fund Manager regularly attends funding events in Lancashire to promote access to the fund.

Financial review

All of the £1,258,513 (2022: £1,265,423) landfill tax income was received from Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited in the year. The trustees anticipate the charitable company will continue to be dependent on this income source.

The expectation going forward is that the amount of waste going to landfill and therefore the landfill tax income paid to the Fund will start to reduce as alternative contracts for disposal of waste are entered into by LCC.

In addition to the grants awarded of £1,620,531 (2022: £1,331,210), previously awarded balances totalling £137,672 (2022: £112,159) were written off and this resulted in a net grant cost for the year of £1,482,859 (2022: £1,219,051).

At the year end, grant balances totalling £1,845,449 (2022: £1,637,692) remained unpaid.

Further to the costs of grant awards, governance and support costs of £116,156 (2022: £119,981) were incurred and the excess of expenditure over income for the year was £273,778 (2022: £49,420 excess of expenditure over income).

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

At the year end, Lancashire Environmental Fund was holding a balance of £166,081 (2022: £146,137) as an agent for Lancashire County Council. This amount is being used to cover the third party contribution payments required to draw down funds to enable payments of grants awarded under all the Grant schemes including the Green Grant scheme. During the year an amount of £2,159 (2022: £333) interest on these monies held was received. Amounts totalling £565 (2022: £708) were disbursed to Suez Recycling & Recovery UK Limited to facilitate the drawdown of funds for the Green Grant scheme totalling £5,139 (2022: £7,077). £40,000 (2022: £40,000) was paid to secure funding under the other grant schemes during the year.

Investment policy

Surplus funds are held on deposit with Nationwide Building Society and The Royal Bank of Scotland, to ensure a competitive interest rate as well as security and fund accessibility.

Interest earned is reviewed regularly by the Finance Officer. The trustees consider the returns achieved to be satisfactory in the current investment climate.

Reserves policy

The general unrestricted fund balance of £794,062 (2022: £1,067,840) which remains unallocated will be applied to future awards.

The level of general unrestricted funds is reviewed before grant commitments are made to ensure that the balance of these funds is always sufficient to cover current and proposed grant commitments and ongoing administration costs. The trustees are concerned to maximise the benefit to the community of their grant making policy. The trustees, however, have to work within the statutory framework set out in the Landfill Tax regulations and the compliance control of Entrust, the regulator of the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme.

£150,000 of unrestricted funds have previously been set aside in a designated reserve to provide for transitional costs, in the event of landfill operations ceasing as a result of statutory changes to the Scheme or a decision of the landfill operator. The reserve was calculated on the basis of an 18 month wind-up at an annual cost of £100,000 to provide support for existing grant-funded projects. The trustees have reviewed the level of the designated reserve and have decided to keep it at this level, subject to continuous review in the future.

The total fund balances at 31 December 2023 were £944,062 (2022: £1,217,840).

The required level of free reserves is currently £nil as the designated fund has sufficient resources to provide for foreseeable transitional costs. The actual level of free reserves at 31 December 2023 amounted to £794,062 (2022: £1,067,840). Reserves were built up in the early years due to uncertainty over the continued funding from Landfill operations. At that time it was the Trustees intention to hold sufficient funds to provide for five years of grant and administrative expenses following cessation of funding. This is no longer the case and the Trustees are actively looking to reduce the amount of free reserves held.

It is the intention of the Trust to continue to reduce reserves through the issuing of grants. The rate at which reserves are distributed is limited by the number and value of applications received, and by the number of those applications that meet the requirements as set out in the Objectives and in the Landfill Tax Regulations. The Trust actively encourages applications through advertising and promotion of the scheme.

Future plans

The Trust will continue to offer grants in line with the objects subject to the potential impact of the factors highlighted in the risk review.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Auditor

MHA are deemed to be re-appointed under section 487(2) of the Companies Act 2006.

Trustees' responsibilities

The trustees (who are also directors of Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

Company law requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for the year. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP 2019 (FRS102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK Accounting Standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements;
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charitable company will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping adequate accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

In so far as the trustees are aware:

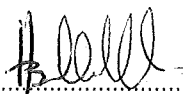
- there is no relevant audit information of which the charitable company's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees have taken all steps that they ought to have taken to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

In preparing this report the Trustees have taken advantage of the small companies exemption provided by the Companies Act 2006.

The report was approved by the board on 10th July 2024 and signed on its behalf by



S Turner
Trustee



H MacAndrew – Lancashire County Council
Secretary

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Cash Flow Statement and notes to the financial statements, including significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 *The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland* (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the charitable company's affairs as at 31 December 2023, and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charitable company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the trustees annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the annual report. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon. Our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the course of the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether this gives rise to a material misstatement in the financial statements themselves. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS (CONTINUED)
FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

In our opinion, based on the work undertaken in the course of the audit:

- the information given in the trustees' report (incorporating the directors' report) for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of our knowledge and understanding of the charitable company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the directors' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Companies Act 2006 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- adequate accounting records have not been kept, or returns adequate for our audit have not been received from branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- certain disclosures of directors' remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit; or
- the trustees were not entitled to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the small companies' regime and take advantage of the small companies' exemption in preparing the directors' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the trustees' responsibilities statement set out on page 6, the trustees (who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the trustees are responsible for assessing the charitable company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the trustees either intend to liquidate the charitable company or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The specific procedures for this engagement and the extent to which these are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Obtaining an understanding of the legal and regulatory frameworks that the Charity operates in, focusing on those laws and regulations that have had a direct effect on the financial statements. The key laws and regulations we considered in this context include Charities Act and Entrust regulations. In addition, we consider compliance with employee legislation, as fundamental to the Charity's operations;

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

FOR YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

- Discussions with management, including consideration of known or suspected instances of noncompliance with laws and regulations and fraud;
- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance around actual and potential litigation and claims;
- Performing audit work over the risk of management override of controls, including testing of journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business and reviewing accounting estimates for bias;
- Auditing the risk of fraud in revenue, including through the testing of the cut off of income at the year end and proof in total of donations to ensure revenue is complete in the financial statements and recognised in the correct accounting period;
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance; and
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Because of the inherent limitations of an audit, there is a risk that we will not detect all irregularities, including those leading to a material misstatement in the financial statements or non-compliance with regulation. This risk increases the more that compliance with a law or regulation is removed from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, as we will be less likely to become aware of instances of non-compliance. The risk is also greater regarding irregularities occurring due to fraud rather than error, as fraud involves intentional concealment, forgery, collusion, omission or misrepresentation.

A further description of our responsibilities is available on the Financial Reporting Council's website at:

<https://www.frc.org.uk/Our-Work/Audit/Audit-and-assurance/Standards-and-guidance/Standards-and-guidance-for-auditors/Auditors-responsibilities-for-audit/Description-of-auditors-responsibilities-for-audit.aspx>

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charitable company's members, as a body, in accordance with Chapter 3 of Part 16 of the Companies Act 2006. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charitable company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charitable company and the charitable company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.



Nicola Mason

For and on behalf of MHA, Statutory Auditor
Preston, United Kingdom

19/7/2024

MHA is the trading name of MacIntyre Hudson LLP, a limited liability partnership in England and Wales (registered number OC312313)

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	Designated funds 2023 £	General funds 2023 £	Total funds 2023 £	Total funds 2022 £
Income from:					
Donations and legacies	2	-	1,258,513	1,258,513	1,265,423
Investments	3	-	66,724	66,724	24,189
Total income		-	1,325,237	1,325,237	1,289,612
Expenditure on:					
Charitable activities	4	-	1,599,015	1,599,015	1,339,032
Total expenditure		-	1,599,015	1,599,015	1,339,032
Net movement in funds		-	(273,778)	(273,778)	(49,420)
Fund balance b/f at 1 January 2023		150,000	1,067,840	1,217,840	1,267,250
Fund balance c/f at 31 December 2023		150,000	794,062	944,062	1,217,840

All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised during the year.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	2023 £	£	2022 £	£
Current assets:					
Debtors	9	48,456		21,085	
Cash at bank and in hand		<u>2,929,127</u>		<u>3,009,073</u>	
Total current assets		2,977,583		3,030,158	
Liabilities:					
Creditors: amount falling due within one year	10	<u>(2,033,521)</u>		<u>(1,812,318)</u>	
Net current assets			<u>944,062</u>		<u>1,217,840</u>
Net assets less current liabilities			<u>944,062</u>		<u>1,217,840</u>
The funds of the charity:					
11					
Unrestricted:					
General			794,062		1,067,840
Designated			<u>150,000</u>		<u>150,000</u>
Total funds			<u>944,062</u>		<u>1,217,840</u>

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the Board on 10th July 2024 and signed on its behalf by:



S Turner – Trustee
Company Registration Number: 03527370

The notes on pages 13 to page 22 form part of these financial statements.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

	Note	£	2023 £	£	2022 £
Cash inflows from operating activities:					
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) operating activities</i>	12		(146,670)		39,609
Cash flows from investing activities:					
Interest receivable		66,724		24,189	
<i>Net cash provided by/(used in) investing activities</i>			66,724		24,189
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			(79,946)		63,798
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January 2023			3,009,073		2,945,275
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December 2023			2,929,127		3,009,073

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies

General information and basis of preparation

Lancashire Environmental Fund Limited is a company limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. The liability of the members is limited and is not to exceed £1 per member. The address of the registered office is given in the charity information on page 1 of these financial statements. The nature of the charity's operations and principal activities are detailed in the Trustees Report on pages 2 to 6.

The charity constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102), the Charities Act 2011, the Companies Act 2006 and UK Generally Accepted Accounting Practice.

The financial statements are prepared on a going concern basis under the historical cost convention, modified to include certain items at fair value. The financial statements are presented in sterling which is the functional currency of the charity and rounded to the nearest £.

The significant accounting policies applied in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all years presented unless otherwise stated.

Funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of the general objectives of the charity and which have not been designated for other purposes.

Designated funds comprise unrestricted funds that have been set aside by the trustees for particular purposes. The aim and use of each designated fund is set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Income recognition

Income arising from the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme is included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when the charity is legally entitled to the income after any performance conditions have been met, the amount can be measured reliably and it is probable that the income will be received.

No amount is included in the financial statements for volunteer time in line with the SORP (FRS 102). Further detail is given in the Trustees' Annual Report.

Investment income is earned through holding assets for investment purposes such as shares and property. It includes interest received from interest bearing deposit accounts. It is included when the amount can be measured reliably. Interest income is recognised using the effective interest method.

Expenditure recognition

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenditure is recognised where there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payments to third parties, it is probable that the settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably. It is categorised under the following headings:

- Expenditure on charitable activities includes grants awarded.

Irrecoverable VAT is charged as an expense against the activity for which expenditure arose.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

1 Accounting policies (continued)

Expenditure recognition (continued)

Grants payable to third parties are within the charitable objectives. Grants are due for payment when the grantee makes an approved claim. Previously grant liabilities were treated as falling due within one year unless the terms of the grant offer anticipated payment after one year from the balance sheet date and by reviewing the current status of the project at the year end and when it was anticipated to be completed.

Grants are released to the income and expenditure account when:

- projects are cancelled by the grant applicants;
- the original grant application exceeds the final amount claimed on project completion.

Support costs allocation

Support costs are those that assist the work of the charity but do not directly represent charitable activities and include office costs, governance costs, administrative payroll costs. They are incurred directly in support of expenditure on the objects of the charity.

The analysis of these costs is included in note 5.

Debtors and creditors receivable/payable within one year

Debtors and creditors with no stated interest rate and receivable or payable within one year are recorded at transaction price. Any losses arising from impairment are recognised in expenditure.

Employee benefits

When employees have rendered service to the charity, short-term employee benefits to which the employees are entitled are recognised at the undiscounted amount expected to be paid in exchange for that service. Staff costs are recharged to the charity by Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis as the trustees believe that no material uncertainties exist. The trustees have considered this when making assessment of the level of funds held and the expected level of income and expenditure for 12 months from authorising these financial statements. The budgeted income and expenditure is sufficient with the level of reserves for the charity to be able to continue as a going concern.

Judgements and key sources of estimation uncertainty

There have been no significant judgements (apart from those involving estimates) made in the process of preparing the financial statements.

There have been no key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

2 Donations and legacies

	2023 £	2022 £
Landfill tax income	1,258,513	1,265,423
	1,258,513	1,265,423

All of the income from donations and legacies in the current and previous year was unrestricted.

3 Investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Interest receivable from interest bearing deposit accounts	66,724	24,189

All of the income from investments in the current and previous year was unrestricted.

4 Charitable activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Grants (note 8)	1,482,859	1,219,051
Governance and support costs (note 5)	116,156	119,981
	1,599,015	1,339,032

All of the expenditure on charitable activities in the current and previous year was unrestricted.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

5 Governance and administration of the charitable company

2023	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Support costs £	2023 £
Entrust levy	Income	-	43,052	43,052
Staff costs	Staff time	-	57,020	57,020
Publicity	Usage	-	76	76
Audit fee	Usage	6,042	-	6,042
Stationery	Staff time	4	37	41
Senior mgt charge	Staff time	2,834	2,834	5,668
Office Expenditure	Staff time	383	3,448	3,831
Other	Staff time	426	-	426
		9,689	106,467	116,156

2022	Basis of apportionment	Governance £	Support costs £	2022 £
Entrust levy	Income	-	43,069	43,069
Staff costs	Staff time	-	60,276	60,276
Publicity	Usage	-	1,452	1,452
Audit fee	Usage	5,700	-	5,700
Stationery	Staff time	5	47	52
Senior mgt charge	Staff time	2,834	2,834	5,668
Office Expenditure	Staff time	351	3,158	3,509
Other	Staff time	255	-	255
		9,145	110,836	119,981

The 2023 and 2022 costs were all charged to unrestricted general funds.

During the year the charitable company, which has no employees of its own, subcontracted one (2022: one) full-time and two (2022: two) part-time employees from Lancashire Wildlife Trust to work exclusively on the charitable company's affairs. All these employees undertook work relating to the provision of grants.

The aggregate payroll costs of three persons were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Gross salaries	52,107	54,344
Social security costs	3,598	4,090
Pension contributions	1,315	1,842
	57,020	60,275

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

6 Auditor's remuneration

	2023 £	2022 £
Auditor's remuneration (net of VAT): For audit services	5,035	4,750

7 Trustee and key management personnel remuneration and expenses

The directors, who are also trustees, of the charitable company are non-executive, are not remunerated and as such are not regarded as employees. None of the trustees received any reimbursement of any expenses. Indemnity insurance of £995 (2022: £1,001) was purchased during the year, to protect the charity and its trustees from any loss arising from the actions of the trustees.

The key management personnel of the charity comprise only the fund manager. The total cost of key management personnel of the charity (including employer's pension and National Insurance contributions) was therefore £34,915 (2022: £41,372).

8 Grants

	2023 £	2022 £
Balance payable brought forward	1,637,692	1,558,240
Previously awarded grants released	(137,672)	(112,159)
New grants awarded in the year	1,620,531	1,331,210
Net grant cost in year (note 4)	1,482,859	1,219,051
	3,120,551	2,777,291
Grants paid in the year	(1,275,102)	(1,139,599)
Grants previously paid in advance returned	-	-
Balance payable carried forward	1,845,449	1,637,692
Being:		
Due within one year (note 10)	1,845,449	1,637,692

During the year the charitable company awarded 75 grants (2022: 68 grants). All grants in the year were awarded to institutions and all were amenity related.

An analysis of new commitments (grants awarded) in the year is shown below.

Previously awarded grants released relate to grants where the intended recipient no longer meets the criteria for grant award or does not require the full grant award any longer.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Grants (continued)

	Grant Awarded £
Community Facility Improvements	
Bolton le Sands Community Centre Solar panels	£2,480
Building for Growth, Moorlands Church, Lancaster	£40,000
Rammy Men Kitchen Expansion & Access, Stubbins Vale Mill, Ramsbottom	£18,960
Solar panels, Low Moor Reading Room and Club, Clitheroe	£14,250
Barton & Myerscough Village Hall Energy Generation and Storage	£36,630
Trawden Forest Community Centre, Modular Building and Sensory Garden	£20,000
New Pathway, West End Community Hall, Oswaldtwistle	£11,250
Hurst Green Village Hall Replacement Windows	£9,000
Sanctuary Cookalongs Kitchen Improvements, Catherine Beckett Centre, Preston	£40,000
New Roof at Cowpe Institute	£30,000
Storeroom Renovation, Mellor Brook Community Centre	£3,517
Rewiring Victoria Institute, Caton	£40,000
Washroom Refurbishment at Catterall Village Hall	£18,550
Kitchen Refurbishment at Padiham Road Methodist Church	£10,000
Cloughton Memorial Village Hall Regeneration	£40,000
West Bradford Community Hub Renovation	£40,000
Developing New Day Church Community Hub	£31,120
Efficient Warmth, Greenhill Community Hub, Skelmersdale	£48,280
Sound & IT at Garstang Methodist Community Hub	£7,000
Community Network Outreach Service, Leyland, Community Kitchen	£10,540
New Footpath at Salesbury Memorial Hall	£27,200
Ingol & Tanterton Community Trust, local Treasures Inextricably Linked	£39,890
Over Kelleet Jubilee Bells	£7,900
Kitchen Upgrade at West Craven Baptist Church	£3,950
Knowle Green Village Hall Net Zero	£20,000
PCC of St Michaels & All Angels Church, Croston, Boiler Replacement	£18,950
St Andrews Church Ashton, Roof Renovation	£21,430
Roof Replacement at Tarleton Scout Group Community Centre	£27,830
New Community Facilities at Whalley Old Grammar School Community Centre	£40,000
Community Kitchen at Williams Hall Vocational Centre, Nelson	£40,000
Solar Solution at Parbold Community Hall	£39,200
Central Heating Boiler at Sion Baptist Church, Burnley	£32,625
Young Inskip People Centre, Refurbishment and Development	£7,310
Solar panels at St Marys Clitheroe Community Hall	£16,630
Poulton Le Fylde Community Hall Sustainable Roof Phase 2	£40,000
St Pauls PCC Low Moor, Clitheroe Enhancing Community Space	£11,000
Community Kitchen at St Laurence's Church, Chorley Wellness Hub	£40,000
Total	£905,492
Habitat Creation and Management	
Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Aughton Woods & Lawsons Meadow Restoration	£40,000
Adlington Pollinator Project	£1,000
Lancashire Wildlife Trust Booths Invasive Species	£26,760
Woodlands Trust, Improvements at Swindells Woodland, Billington	£9,040
RSPB Leighton Moss, Lower Hide Replacement	£40,000
Total	£116,800

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

8 Grants (continued)

	Grant Awarded £
Parks, Gardens and Open Spaces	
Waterfoot Forward, Tricketts Memorial Ground Improvements	£40,000
Friends of Newton Community Park, Phase2 Transformation	£28,150
Enhancing Community Space at Padiham War Memorial Ground	£40,000
Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Paths for All At Boilton Woods, Brockholes	£32,750
Salterforth Parish Council Community Garden	£40,000
Hyndburn Leisure, Clayton Community Garden	£2,160
Making Freemans Wood, Lancaster, Accessible,	£40,000
Tanterton Village Centre Ltd, Garden Project	£17,000
Thornton Cleveleys FC Gamble Road Landscaping Scheme	£40,000
Total	£280,060
 General Environmental Improvements	
Stanhill Village Community Association, Kemp Delph Improvements	£40,000
Waddington Parish Council Village Habitat creation and Access	£11,075
Total	£51,075
 Play Areas and Recreational Facilities	
Sycamore Grove Playpark Refurbishment, Marsh Community Centre, Lancaster	£28,775
Carnforth Community Swimming Pool Extension	£40,000
Improvements to Draper Avenue Play Area, Ecclestone	£40,000
Thornton Cleveleys Sports Club Play Area	£5,000
Friends of Memorial Park, Padiham, Wheeled Sports Facility	£5,000
Childrens Play Equipment, Ribchester Playing Fields Trust	£16,500
Grindleton Recreation Ground, Multi Use Games Area Renovation	£13,060
Kidtopia, Mercer Park, Clayton with Altham Prospects	£40,000
The Last fence, Read & Simonstone Community Tennis Club	£20,250
Fell View Play Area Improvements, Caton with Littledale Parish Council	£13,500
Hapton Pump Track, Hapton Parish Council	£40,000
Total	£262,085
 Green Grants	
Balance Equipment at Bay Cottage Play Area, Heysham	£512
Garstang Millenium Trust Bird Hide & Feeding Station	£1,000
Friends of Whalley Moor Woodland, Queens Memorial Bench	£906
Friends of Haslingden Cemetery, Green Shoots Project	£1,000
Footpath Access Improvements, Ramsgrave Parish Council	£650
New Tools for Fairfield Association Nature Reserve	£951
Total	£5,019
Overall Total	£1,620,531

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

9 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Accrued income	48,456	21,085
All accrued income related to unrestricted general funds.		

10 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Grants awarded (note 8)	1,845,449	1,637,692
Other creditors	182,024	168,920
Accruals	6,048	5,706
	2,033,521	1,812,318

During the year ended 31 December 2023 Lancashire County Council paid £nil (2022: £nil) to the fund to cover the cost of third party contributions necessary to draw landfill tax income to finance the Green Grant Scheme going forward. In the event of the Green Grant Scheme ceasing to exist, the monies are to be used specifically to pay third party contributions to draw landfill tax income to be allocated to Lancashire Environmental Fund's other remaining grant schemes. At the year end an amount of £26,080 (2022: £24,487) was held within other creditors.

During the year ended 31 December 2023 Lancashire County Council paid £80,000 (2022: £80,000) to the fund to cover the cost of third party contributions necessary to draw landfill tax income to finance the Main Grant and Small Grant Schemes going forward. At the year end an amount of £140,001 (2022: £121,650) was held within other creditors.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

11 Summary of funds

	General fund £	Designated Fund £	Total unrestricted fund £
Fund balances at 31 December 2023			
Represented by:			
Current assets	2,827,583	150,000	2,977,583
Current liabilities	(2,033,521)	-	(2,033,521)
	794,062	150,000	944,062
Movements in funds			
Balance brought forward	1,067,840	150,000	1,217,840
Net outgoing funds	(273,778)	-	(273,778)
Balance carried forward	794,062	150,000	944,062
	General fund £	Designated Fund £	Total unrestricted fund £
Fund balances at 31 December 2022			
Represented by:			
Current assets	2,880,158	150,000	3,030,158
Current liabilities	(1,812,318)	-	(1,812,318)
	1,067,840	150,000	1,217,840
Movements in funds			
Balance brought forward	1,117,260	150,000	1,267,260
Net incoming funds	(49,420)	-	(49,420)
Balance carried forward	1,067,840	150,000	1,217,840

The general fund relates to surplus funds from landfill tax credit receipts not yet paid out as grants.

A designated fund of £150,000 has been set up by the Trustees to provide for future transitional expenses in the event that landfill operations cease.

LANCASHIRE ENVIRONMENTAL FUND LIMITED (BY GUARANTEE)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023

12 Reconciliation of net income/(expenditure) to net cash flow from operating activities

	2023 £	2022 £
Net income/(expenditure) for the year	(273,778)	(49,420)
Interest receivable	(66,724)	(24,189))
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(27,371)	(13,880)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors	221,203	127,098
	<u>(146,670)</u>	<u>39,609</u>

13 Related party transactions

SUEZ Recycling & Recovery UK Limited ('SUEZ') is a member of the charitable company with the power to appoint one trustee to the board. A J Hughes is a Director of Suez and a trustee of the charitable company. During the year landfill tax monies payable to the charitable company from SUEZ amounted to £1,258,513 (2022: £1,265,423).

Lancashire Wildlife Trust ('LWT') is a member of the charitable company with the power to appoint one trustee to the board. J Drury was a trustee of LWT until October 2019 and remains a trustee of LEF. During the year LWT provided management, organisational, administrative and supervision services to the charitable company for which £63,975 (2022: £67,283) was charged in the income and expenditure account. A balance of £179,207 (2022: £167,175) was due to LWT at 31 December 2023. This comprised outstanding grants of £172,965 (2022: £154,955) and service charges of £6,242 (2022: £12,220). Grants totalling £99,510 (2022: £135,755) were awarded to LWT during the year. Grants of £2,617 (2022: £nil) previously awarded to LWT have been written back during the year.

Lancashire County Council ('LCC') is a member of the charitable company with the power to appoint one trustee to the board. S Turner was the Chairman of the charitable company and a member of LCC. A balance of £nil (2022: £30,000) was due to LCC as at 31st December 2023 (2022: £30,000). Grants totalling £nil (2022: £30,000) were awarded to LCC during the year. Grants of £285 (2022: £nil) previously awarded to LCC have been written back during the year.

It is the company policy that trustees must inform the board of their interests in grant applications at the start of board meetings. The interested trustee will not participate during the consideration of these applications. In the case of the Chairman having an interest in an application, the chair is taken by the Vice-Chairman.