THE CENTRE FOR ENVIROMENTAL INITIATIVES

England & Wales · Charity number 1087782

Details

Other names	ECOLOCAL
Status	Registered
Legal form	Charitable company
Company number	04137305
Registered	2001-07-31
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	CEI EcoLocal The Lodge Honeywood Walk Carshalton SM5 3NX
Phone	02084041522
Email	info@ecolocal.org.uk
Website	www.ecolocal.org.uk

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Activities

Objects: THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY (THE OBJECTS) ARE FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT:- 3.1.1 TO PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC BY: (A) THE PRESERVATION, CONSERVATION AND THE PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PRUDENT USE OF RESOURCES; AND(B) THE PROMOTION OF SUSTAINABLE MEANS OF ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GROWTH AND REGENERATION.3.1.2 TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY IN SUBJECTS RELATING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE PROTECTION, ENHANCEMENT AND REHABILITATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND TO PROMOTE STUDY AND RESEARCH IN SUCH SUBJECTS PROVIDED THAT THE USEFUL RESULTS OF SUCH STUDY ARE DISSEMINATED TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT MEANS DEVELOPMENT WHICH MEETS THE NEEDS OF THE PRESENT WITHOUT COMPROMISING THE ABILITY OF FUTURE GENERATIONS TO MEET THEIR OWN NEEDS.3.1.3 TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROMOTING BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY.3.1.4 TO PROMOTE HEALTH, PARTICULARLY BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY BY PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSERVATION ORIENTATED ACTIVITIES IN THE OUTDOORS AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENTS.3.1.5 TO PROMOTE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC OF URBAN OR RURAL REGENERATION IN AREAS OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION (AND IN PARTICULAR THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON) BY ALL OR ANY OF THE FOLLOWING MEANS:(A) THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, TRAINING OR RETRAINING, PARTICULARLY AMONG UNEMPLOYED, UNDEREMPLOYED AND UNDERSKILLED PEOPLE, AND PROVIDING SUCH PEOPLE WITH WORK EXPERIENCE;(B) THE PROVISION OF FINANCIAL (WHETHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT) ASSISTANCE, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OR BUSINESS ADVICE OR CONSULTANCY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR UNEMPLOYED, UNDEREMPLOYED OR UNDERSKILLED PEOPLE IN CASES OF FINANCIAL OR OTHER CHARITABLE NEED THROUGH HELP: (I) IN SETTING UP THEIR OWN SOCIAL ENTERPRISE OR SUSTAINABILITY RELATED BUSINESS, OR (II) TO EXISTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES OR SUSTAINABILITY RELATED BUSINESSES;(C) THE CREATION OF TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES BY THE PROVISION OF WORKSPACE, BUILDINGS, AND/OR LAND FOR USE ON FAVOURABLE TERMS; AND(D) THE PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS OR SITES OF HISTORIC OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE OR OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE HERITAGE OF THE AREA.3.1.6 TO DEVELOP THE CAPACITY AND SKILLS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALLY AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON IN SUCH A WAY THAT THEY ARE BETTER ABLE TO IDENTIFY, AND HELP MEET, THEIR NEEDS AND TO PARTICIPATE MORE FULLY IN SOCIETY. 3.1.7 TO FURTHER OR BENEFIT THE RESIDENTS OF THE LONDON BOROUGH OF SUTTON, WITHOUT DISTINCTION OF SEX, SEXUAL ORIENTATION, RACE OR OF POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS OR OTHER OPINIONS BY ASSOCIATING TOGETHER THE SAID RESIDENTS AND THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES, VOLUNTARY AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS IN A COMMON EFFORT TO ADVANCE EDUCATION AND TO PROVIDE FACILITIES IN THE INTERESTS OF SOCIAL WELFARE FOR RECREATION AND LEISURE TIME OCCUPATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF IMPROVING THE CONDITIONS OF LIFE FOR THE RESIDENTS.IN FURTHERANCE OF THESE OBJECTS BUT NOT OTHERWISE, THE TRUSTEES SHALL HAVE POWER:TO ESTABLISH OR SECURE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY CENTRE AND TO MAINTAIN OR MANAGE OR CO-OPERATE WITH ANY STATUTORY AUTHORITY IN THE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF SUCH A CENTRE FOR ACTIVITIES PROMOTED BY THE CHARITY IN FURTHERANCE OF THE ABOVE OBJECTS.

Activities: We are an independent charity that acts as a hub for community led projects, events and activities. Our aim is to achieve strong, vibrant communities in a healthy environment. We act as a resource for people and organisations seeking to make a positive difference locally.

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Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** GREATER LONDON , SURREY, AND KENT
- Sutton

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-03-31	£337,327	£197,359	-	-
2024-03-31	£596,244	£241,544	£1,343,952	13
2023-03-31	£655,006	£143,259	£989,252	14
2022-03-31	£100,876	£69,543	-	-
2021-03-31	£63,789	£81,461	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ELIZABETH UDALL		2001-10-01
HAZEL GURR		2001-10-01
JIM BUSH		2008-07-12
MAUREEN PEGLAR		2001-10-01
Peter Struik		2023-03-08
TOM BRAKE MP		2001-12-06
TONY PATTISON		2001-10-01

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THE CENTRE FOR ENVIROMENTAL INITIATIVES

England & Wales - Charity number 1087782

Accounts

Company registration number 4137305 (England and Wales)

Charity registration number 1087782 (England and Wales)

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Trustees	Ms M Peglar H Gurr Mrs E Udall T Brake J P Bush A Pattison P Struik	
Secretary	Mr T Lancefield	
Senior management	Trevor Lancefield	Company Secretary/Chief Executive
	Tansy Honey	Deputy Chief Executive
Telephone	020 8404 1522	
E-mail	info@ecolocal.org.uk	
Main Website	www.ecolocal.org.uk	
Country of incorporation	United Kingdom (England and Wales)	4137305
Charity registration	England and Wales	1087782
Registered office	Ecolocal The Lodge Honeywood Walk Carshalton Surrey SM5 3NX	
Auditor	Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd 308 Ewell Road Surbiton Surrey KT6 7AL	
Bankers	Unity Trust Bank plc Nine Brindley Place Birmingham B1 2HB	

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

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THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

The trustees present their annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)".

The Board of Trustees presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2025.

EcoLocal is a Carshalton based charity which has a strong track record on building community and individual assets since its original establishment as a Charitable Trust in 1987 and as a Charitable Company since 2001. Our vision is to 'Achieve and sustain strong vibrant communities within a healthy environment'.

The objects of the Charity (the "Objects") are for the public benefit: -

I. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
   a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources; and
   b. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

II. To advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. Sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

III. To promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, particularly but not exclusively by promoting biological diversity.

IV. To promote health, particularly but not exclusively by providing environmental and conservation orientated activities in the outdoors and natural environments.

V. To promote for the benefit of the public of urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular the London Borough of Sutton) by all or any of the following means:

   a. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed, underemployed and underskilled people, and providing such people with work experience;
   b. the provision of financial (whether direct or indirect) assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed, underemployed or underskilled people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help: (i) in setting up their own social enterprise or sustainability related business, or (ii) to existing social enterprises or sustainability related businesses;
   c. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms; and
   d. the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance or of significance for the heritage of the area.

VI. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the London Borough of Sutton in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

VII. To further or benefit the residents of the London Borough of Sutton, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

VIII. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

EcoLocal serves as a hub for a wide range of community led activities, events, and projects. Our organisation's remit is comprehensive, covering all aspects of sustainability, including environmental, community, and economic dimensions. We work with a wide array of people and organisations including voluntary groups, small businesses, social enterprises, individuals with mental or physical health issues, older people, children, young people, offenders, people with disabilities, families, individuals from various ethnic backgrounds as well as statutory organisations.

As an integral part of the community, we recognise the significant potential of local resources. Annually, we engage with over 350 groups and organisations, reaching approximately 20,000 individuals. We facilitate over 400 people in volunteering each year, contributing more than 14,000 hours to local projects. Participation ranges from brief commitments, such as a two-hour shift as a steward at the Carshalton Eco-Fair, to several days per week. We provide an environment where individuals can support projects, engage in planning and delivering activities, and utilise their considerable experience, knowledge, skills, and passion for positive work in the community.

The Trustees, Staff and Volunteers all wish to record our sadness at the loss of Alistair Cruickshank during the year. Alistair had served as a Board member for many years and latterly as Chairman. Alistair's contribution to all our activities and in particular the Lodge project had been huge. He will be sadly missed by us all.

In alignment with our 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, the following Trustees' review summarises the achievements and key outcomes of our work over the past 12 months.

Public benefit

The trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the charitable company should undertake.

1. Transport and Travel

1.1 Inclusive Cycling:

These activities are designed to:

- engage the whole community and help make cycling accessible to new audiences
- encourage people of all abilities to take cycling up both for fun and fitness
- promote cycling as an alternative means of transport
- provide healthy outdoor activities that enable people to socialise, contribute to community life and avoid isolation
- encourage the involvement of volunteers and trackside supporters (peer supporters) at sessions in a variety of roles, providing work experience for unemployed people, trialling basic cycle maintenance training and enabling people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills.

During the year these activities were funded as follows:

- Donations from users & a Gift aid donation from Ecolocal Services Limited
- A grant from Go-London! (Mayor of London) to develop the involvement of younger people at sessions.

In 2024/25 we;

- delivered 137 inclusive cycling sessions at David Weir Leisure Centre, with 980 unique attendees. These are mostly people with disabilities and older people and their relatives/friends who were able to cycle in a safe, supportive environment, generating 6579 individual attendances.
- supported by Go-London we also ran 18 family sessions in the school holidays providing inclusive family cycling opportunities, we piloted a work experience scheme with 16 special needs students and trialed cycle maintenance training running 16 sessions with 35 young participants
- maintained our fleet of over 60 accessible cycles and support our Projects Maintenance group which comprises of technical / mechanically experienced volunteers working with unemployed and economically disadvantaged people. We also made some much needed upgrades to our cycle fleet.

In survey results from Feb 2025; 89% scored 8-10 out of 10 for 'sessions helping you become more active'; 89% reported sessions are very effective or extremely 'effective at helping your physical wellbeing'; 92% reported Improved or Significantly Improved 'physical wellbeing since starting the cycling sessions', 91% rated the cycling sessions as Good or Very Good 'opportunity to meet other people'. Most students started the work experience element in Spring Term and full feedback is yet to be obtained. However, of those providing feedback so far; 100% report Very Good or Good for the following skills: learning how to be part of a team, meeting and greeting people, following instructions, working with other people, keeping work area safe.

In the next year we will:

- Continue to deliver inclusive sessions 3 times per week
- Use Go-London funding to continue with cycle maintenance sessions and run the pilot work experience scheme for young people with learning disabilities
- Seek to work with other audiences not yet reached in particular families with children in disadvantaged areas, and more girls
- Engage more young people in the project
- Maintain our fleet of accessible cycles

2. Local Food / wildlife and nature conservation

2.1 Carshalton Community Allotment

We have a long established food growing project at our Community Allotment in Carshalton. The site is approximately 1400m2 and is fully cultivated. It includes raised beds accessible for both standing and wheelchair users, demonstration crop rotation, herb gardens, herb spirals and herb wheels, a fruit area, square foot garden, English and Kenyan keyhole gardens, container garden, poly- tunnels, storage hut, a classroom and a composting toilet.

During 2024/25 we delivered 143 therapeutic gardening sessions at Carshalton Community Allotment engaging 182 participants, generating 1,254 individual attendances. These sessions provided;

- healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enable people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- opportunities for people to benefit by volunteering to take part in their community
- work experience for unemployed people, and enable people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills
- accessible gardening opportunity for people of all abilities to take part and gain skills in growing organic food
- promotion of local food production as a benefit to environmental sustainability
- promotion of food growing as a means of leading a more healthy lifestyle
- opportunity to grow food. Approx 10% of produce was donated to the Sutton Women's Centre food bank. The remainder was shared among session participants enabling them to take home free, fresh produce that they have helped grow

During the year we increased staff and volunteer time for site maintenance and refurbishment. This included several clear up days, the installation of new shelving and a refurbished bench, more frequent mowing/strimming and new wooden edges for 18 growing beds.

Feedback from a survey with participants (in 2023) showed that 95% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at community allotment sessions as 'good' or 'very good'. 81% said they benefited from getting more exercise at the sessions. 95% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions and benefited from getting outdoors.

During the year these activities were funded as follows;

- donations (derived mainly from local events)
- income from our horticultural training activities

In the next year we will

- deliver 3 sessions per week at Carshalton Community Allotment
- seek opportunities to apply for further funding to develop this work
- further improve the infrastructure at the allotment
- support volunteers to raise funds through sale of plants and at local events
- carry out another feedback survey with participants

2.2 Victorian Walled Garden

The Victorian Walled Garden at the Lodge provides a tranquil space hidden away behind the historic walls and buildings. The garden was neglected for many years before we took it on as part of the Lodge project.

During 2024/25 we engaged the community to continue renovating and using the Victorian Walled Garden:

- we ran 43 volunteer sessions with 24 participants. This enabled volunteers to contribute their knowledge and skills and help with a variety of tasks, to develop fruit, flower and herb beds and manage vegetable growing areas, increase use of greenhouse for raising plants to sell and establish potted plants
- we engaged a further 6 skilled volunteers in renovating the garden at times throughout the year other than during volunteer sessions
- established a large new flower garden outside the front of the Garden Hall
- completed renovation of the South wall, continued renovations to the West wall and constructed a new west retaining wall with 3 sets of second hand stone steps
- completed the build and installation of a cold frame
- managed 5 large central growing beds organically, with crops harvested and given to volunteers and planted out the south facing bed
- we also managed trees in the garden in accord with conservation area requirements

Local people were able to contribute to improving their environment and local biodiversity, they benefitted their own wellbeing through taking part in sessions and activities in the garden, and used the greenhouse for plant propagation to help raise funds for the community allotment.

The garden was also used for numerous eco-wellbeing garden tea parties and horticultural training workshops.

During the we raised funds toward these as follows;

- £500 from the Wates Grant Foundation
- Just under £1,500 in private donations

In the next year we will:

- Seek opportunities to raise further funds for renovation works
- Continue renovation of the walled garden and in particular the west wall and the area around the main entrance
- Increase planting in the garden to grow a wider range of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers and establish a new shrub area to encourage birdlife
- Continue to provide healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- Seek to engage and support more volunteers

2.3 Horticultural Training

In 2024/25 we continued to develop our gardening workshops, We:

- delivered a ten-week Gardening Fundamentals course
- delivered 15 additional one-day workshops on a variety of horticultural subjects
- engaged 133 attendances which increased horticultural skills and knowledge
- supported 2 local schools with food growing gardens in their school grounds

In addition to the educational benefits, the courses helped raise funds towards our other community gardening activities.

In 2025/26 we plan further one-day workshops, another 10 week course and an organic gardening 6 week course.

3. Energy (Warm Rooms) - We continue to hold a small level of funds for this project which will be reviewed again in the coming months.

4. Recycling and Waste - In all our activities we encourage reuse, repair and recycling and we promote this message wherever possible. No specific funds were used against this heading during the year.

5. Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability

5.1 Eco-Fair

Held in the picturesque surrounds of Carshalton Park, we organise this community event annually with help from over 75 volunteers. The event enables us to raise funds for our charitable activities locally and helps promote pro-environmental behaviours and participation in community projects. It is one of the borough's largest public events with over 160 organisations participating. Around half of these are community and voluntary sector organisations attending to engage people in:

- environmental education and awareness raising
- social enterprise and skills development
- community wellbeing activities
- opportunities to take part in shaping their local communities throughout the year

A significant number of small local craft, wellbeing and environmentally sustainable businesses attend. Local bands and entertainers perform on three solar powered stages. We provid a free bus service to and from the event. The event provides a significant outlet for many of the community organisations and groups attending, both in terms of engaging with the public and for fundraising.

Our survey work indicates that the most typical visitors are people who are not averse to taking an interest in the environment and who, when information is made available to them, respond positively to it. 71% of those surveyed at the fair said that they would take, or would consider taking, further actions to do their bit for the environment as a result of attending the fair.

The 2024 event was a great success, enabling us to raise funds toward our local projects. We ran the event again in August 2025.

5.2 Frost Fair

This event was run in partnership with Friends of Honeywood Museum who are responsible for activities inside the museum.

The event was held in the picturesque setting surrounding Carshalton Ponds in December 2024 and was well attended by the local public. It featured entertainers, choirs and musicians and 39+ organisations of which at least 6 were community and voluntary sector and the rest were local food producers and crafts people. The event helped promote:

- opportunities to take part in local groups and local environment related activities
- volunteering opportunities for over 50 local people
- sustainable shopping
- social enterprise and skills development

5.3 Eco-Wellbeing/Eco-Tea Project ('Garden Tea')

Our eco-wellbeing project helps people with mild mental health conditions and / or older people to reduce social isolation and loneliness and improve mental health and wellbeing. The project comprises a weekly 'Garden Tea' party meet up at The Lodge combined with a range of ecotherapy activities.

In 2024/25 we delivered:

- 45 'Garden Tea' eco-wellbeing sessions at The Lodge attended by 55 unique attendees.
- Activities included; nature walks, art therapy, meditation, tai chi, drumming, aromatherapy, sound appreciation, chair based yoga, plant propagation, various nature based crafts and more
- Feedback from attendees during the year showed that: 100% rated the project a good or very good opportunity to meet others, 95% enjoyed the activities, and 86% rated sessions as good/very good at improving their mental wellbeing

The project was funded by approximately £11,000 from cash donations at events and at sessions

The project will continue next year in the same successful format.

5.4 Development of The Lodge Community Facilities

In January 2018, the charity secured a 125-year lease for premises to establish a community centre, benefiting local residents and preserving The Lodge buildings, which are of significant heritage value to the area. To support this development, the charity engaged architects, surveyors, solicitors, valuers, and accountants to provide expert advice. The Trustees diligently addressed the complex issues involved and are confident that the benefits to the charity in achieving its objectives are highly significant. The charity (along with the residents) makes a contribution towards the service charges of the site. In 2025 the costs contributed amounted to £9,274 (2024: £8,666).

This past year, efforts have been concentrated on the planned improvements to community facilities. These enhancements, affecting various parts of the site, will continue over several years. Our three new indoor spaces have been in use by a wide range of local community and charity organisations. Our offices and facilities on site provide a base for the charity to deliver our diverse activities and events within the local community. We also provide a base for groups such as Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers, Biodiversity Educators, the local branch of Tools for Self Reliance and others. Additionally, the Victorian Walled Garden at the rear of the site is utilised for a variety of community wellbeing activities. These enhancements have been supported by numerous skilled and enthusiastic local volunteers, to whom we extend our ongoing gratitude and thanks.

Over the next year, we will continue to:

- Provide facilities for various community organisations, social enterprises and individuals
- Carry out planned improvement works to enhance community facilities further
- Provide a significant number of volunteer opportunities as part of on-site activities.
- Deliver our own charitable and social enterprise activities based at The Lodge.
- Trustees have set aside an initial £370,000 for the development and maintenance of the facilities

6. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL)

EcoLocal Services Ltd is a social enterprise that collaborates closely with the EcoLocal charity to deliver activities requiring a more commercial approach. Staff payroll for ESL is managed by the charity, as some staff members are employed by both entities. ESL provides additional income to the charity through gift aid. All profits generated by ESL activities during the year are donated to the EcoLocal charity.

This year, ESL's activities focused on the operation of the Wallington Farmers' Market. Key activities included:

- Running 12 markets and enhancing the market offer by recruiting new stalls.
- Supporting local community groups by offering free stalls.
- Providing new business startup opportunities and assisting youth enterprise.
- Promoting and raising funds for the activities of the EcoLocal charity.

Next year we plan to develop a basic gardening service as part of ESL's activity.

7. Social Media

We maintained our social media presence and encouraged individuals to join our free email listing. Our aggregated contacts across all social media platforms, total over 16,000 people. Social media significantly enhances our ability to communicate with the public.

Financial review

At the end of the year, unrestricted funds carried forward amounted to £1,363,803, compared to £1,232,556 in the previous year. Restricted funds carried forward were £120,117, up from £111,396 in the previous year.

We received grants and donations totaling £170,078 during the year. Through our charitable activities, we raised an additional £40,893. Investment income including gift aid donations from our trading subsidiary, Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd and bank interest was £126,356. Total income for the year was £337,327, compared to £596,244 in the previous year.

Total expenditure amounted to £197,359, compared to £241,544 in the previous year.

Net assets carried forward on the balance sheet at the year-end were £1,483,920 compared to £1,343,952 in the previous year.

The charity successfully managed all funded projects in accordance with agreements made with funders.

Overhead costs were covered through a combination of grant contributions, recovery of project costs, contracts, general and gift aid donations.

The charity's financial management integrity is ensured by the diligence of its Trustees, staff, and volunteers. EcoLocal's principal funding sources were:

- Donations
- EcoLocal Services Ltd and Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd donations via gift aid and recovery of project costs
- Grants
- Investment income

Reserves policy

It is the policy of the charitable company that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The trustees consider that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the charitable company's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the charity's reserve requirements in light of the main risks to the organisation. A policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should be equivalent to 3-6 months of overall unrestricted revenue expenditure. The unrestricted general funds at year-end were £143,934.

EcoLocal holds general fund reserves for the following purposes:

To buffer fluctuations in income.

- To cover ongoing commitments, including the lease on premises at The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, and salary and associated payments for staff. Notice would need to be given and costs incurred if these commitments were to be cancelled.
- To fund projects, including improvements to our premises at The Lodge. The charity occasionally uses reserves to start projects or pilot schemes while awaiting funding application outcomes and to provide cash flow for projects and contracts funded in arrears.
- Restricted fund reserves are held as unexpended balances of trust funds and other grants and donations received for specific purposes.

Pensions

Pensions were provided in accordance with our pensions policy, which aligns with government policy. Four members of staff continued to participate in this scheme. Provision has been made in next year's budget to cover pension costs as required.

Investment Policy

Aside from maintaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are allocated to the Building Development and Maintenance Fund and to underwrite shortfalls in core costs. After considering the available options, the Board of Trustees has decided to maintain deposit and reserve accounts with established building societies or banks.

Designated Funds

- Building Development and Maintenance Fund

The charity has significant responsibilities in managing the premises at the Lodge. These responsibilities include a commitment to completing further works on the community hall, outhouses, workshops, offices and the Victorian walled garden in the short and medium term, bringing additional benefits to the local community as agreed via our original consultations. These responsibilities also include a requirement to maintain what is a significant sized estate on behalf of the community. The Trustees have therefore strategically planned beyond the annual operational plan and budget to identify risks and capital spending needs that cannot be met from a single year's anticipated income. As such, Building Development and Maintenance funds have needed to be set aside to finance these works and to manage the existing assets for the local community.

- Reorganisation Fund

This fund reflects potential redundancy costs that the charity could incur if it were to cease operations.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees has identified and assessed risks that could face the charity:

- Covering Core Management Costs: This risk can be mitigated by:
    - Diversifying and broadening the charity's funding base and ensuring adequate levels of management capacity and accommodation costs are included in grant applications
    - Maintaining the 'social enterprise' culture within the organisation so that relevant projects work toward self-funding/income generation in the medium term. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL), an unconnected social enterprise contributes annually through gift aid profits to the EcoLocal charity
    - Ensuring that the best investment return possible is achieved from the premises, which includes two residential flats and facilities for hire
    - Highlighting the organisation's success in delivering required outcomes at good value for money to users, donors and relevant funding bodies

- Premises Management and Maintenance: There are significant responsibilities in managing the premises at the Lodge. Risks can be mitigated by:
    - Investing in and fundraising for further improvements to the community facilities so that their value to the charity and the local community are maximised
    - Ensuring that all maintenance and safety checks are carried out by competent individuals as required e.g. gas safety checks, fire system checks etc
    - Ensuring that all policies and procedures are up to date and that staff and volunteers are sufficiently trained in these
    - Ensuring sufficient designated funds are held in reserve in order to cover future maintenance costs for the estate
    - Provision of skilled volunteering opportunities

- Lack of Recognition of Our Work: This risk can be mitigated by:
    - Using the 'working name' EcoLocal and its branding, alongside our website, Mailchimp email system, and various social network to regularly communicate the charity's activities.

- Data Privacy: We seek to mitigate the risk of data privacy breaches by:
    - ensuring that our policies and procedures have been implemented to ensure compliance with GDPR legislation.

Plans for future periods
2025-2026 Budget

The charity's budget for the 2025/26 financial year anticipates further investment costs for The Lodge premises project, maintenance and insurance costs, expenditure on core staff, project costs, and necessary overheads. Restricted fund projects will align with agreements made with funders and donors as appropriate.

Structure, governance and management
Governing Document

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (CEI), now known as EcoLocal, is a company limited by guarantee (incorporated on 8 January 2001) and registered as a charity (registered on 31 July 2001). Following a strategic review, which included detailed communication with current beneficiaries and the wider local community, the charity modernised its governance arrangements by adopting new Articles of Association and expanded its charitable activities in June 2015. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association reflect recent legal updates since the Charities Act 2006 and consolidated into the Charities Act 2011. Legal advice was sought, and agreement from the Charity Commission was obtained for these changes.

In the event of the CEI charitable company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

The trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms M Peglar
H Gurr
Mrs E Udall
T Brake
J P Bush
A Pattison
P Struik
Alistair Cruickshank (Resigned 25 August 2024)

Recruitment and Appointment of The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees manages the charity's business. It consists of between three and ten Trustees appointed by the Board. All Trustees automatically become members of the charity, and their names are entered into the charity's register of members.

Trustees are eligible for re-appointment at the third AGM (or Appointment Board Meeting) after their last appointment. Membership ceases if a Trustee resigns from the Board.

All appointments, retirements, or removals of Trustees and the Company Secretary must be notified to the Registrar of Companies at Companies House.

In the event of losing particular skills from the Board due to retirements, replacement Trustees are sought from the charity's local networks to maintain a broad mix of skills and experience relevant to the charity's work and reflective of the communities served.

The Board currently consists of seven members: four male and three female; four describe themselves as having a disability. Trustees are provided with additional training as needed.

Trustee Induction and Training

Candidates are typically familiar with one or more of EcoLocal's activities. New Trustees are recruited for specific duties or to complement the skills of existing Board members. An initial interview with the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees is held to discuss the candidate's potential role. A further meeting with the Chief Executive defines the induction and training process.

New Trustees receive:

- A summary of the main duties and responsibilities of Board members.
- A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (and related rules).
- Copies of the last two years' Trustee's Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements.
- Additional publications from the Charity Commission.
- Copies of recent Board meeting minutes.
- Key operational documents, including policies and procedures.

New Trustees must attend three introductory training sessions to familiarise themselves with staff, volunteers, current projects, objectives, and future plans. These sessions usually involve the Chief Executive, the Chair of Trustees, and other personnel as needed. A training plan is agreed upon and integrated into the overall training strategy. An initial work plan is established to outline main duties and routines. After three months, new Trustees provide feedback on their induction.

Organisational Structure

EcoLocal's Board of Trustees consists of between 3 and 10 members who typically meet quarterly to oversee the strategic direction and policies of the charity. Currently, the Board has seven members from diverse professional backgrounds relevant to the charity's work. The Company Secretary/Chief Executive and Dept, Chief Executive attend Board meetings but do not have voting rights. Three sub-committees have been established: Business Planning Sub-Committee, Finance Sub-Committee, and Personnel Sub-Committee. The maintenance and development of these committees is ongoing as a part of a governance review. The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining and developing the charity's strategic planning in collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the Business Planning Sub-Committee.

The Chief Executive has day-to-day operational responsibility for service provision, which includes:

- Ensuring the charity delivers specified services and meets key performance indicators.
- Managing the building, ICT, and resources.
- Supervising and developing staff in line with best practices.
- Maintaining financial and budgetary control in overall charity operations and individual projects, in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee.
- Conducting fundraising activities, in conjunction with the Business Planning Sub-Committee.
- Overseeing public relations efforts.
- Acting as Company Secretary.

The Deputy Chief Executive handles the daily operations of individual projects, fundraising activities, building management, business development, and contributes to strategic planning and public relations work.

The trustees are responsible for setting the remuneration of the CEO and Deputy CEO. This is reviewed annually as part of the Budget process and with regard to the rates for similar roles in the sector.

Ensuring Work Delivers the Charity's Aim

EcoLocal's Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy guides the assessment of potential projects and the review of existing projects to ensure alignment with our broader charitable objectives and community benefit. Each Trustee is also responsible for a Governance review of an individual project. The Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit is also considered when reviewing aims and objectives and planning future activities. In this way, the Trustees ensure planned activities contribute to the established aims and objectives.

Statement of trustees' responsibilities

The trustees, who are also the directors of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives for the purpose 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 that 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- 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.

Auditor

In accordance with the company's articles, a resolution proposing that Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd be reappointed as auditor of the company will be put at a General Meeting.

Disclosure of information to auditor

Each of the trustees has confirmed that there is no information of which they are aware which is relevant to the audit, but of which the auditor is unaware. They have further confirmed that they have taken appropriate steps to identify such relevant information and to establish that the auditor is aware of such information.

Exemption Statement

The Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

The trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.

T Brake
Treasurer

A Pattison
Chair of Trustees

19 December 2025

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2025 which comprise the statement of financial activities, the balance sheet, the statement of cash flows 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 March 2025 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 concem 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 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.

Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2006

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

- the information given in the trustees' report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, is consistent with the financial statements; and
- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the 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 included within the trustees' 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 trustees' 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' exemptions in preparing the trustees' report and from the requirement to prepare a strategic report.

Responsibilities of trustees

As explained more fully in the statement of trustees' responsibilities, the trustees, who are also the directors of the charitable company for the purpose 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud, is detailed below.

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

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/auditorsresponsibilities. 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.

K.C. Fisher

Kevin Fisher BA FCA CTA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd, Statutory Auditor
Chartered Accountants
308 Ewell Road
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 7AL
Date: 22-12-25

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Restricted funds 2025 £	Total 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
Income from:							
Donations and legacies	3	82,202	87,876	170,078	87,864	87,888	175,752
Charitable activities	4	-	40,893	40,893	-	37,180	37,180
Investments	5	126,356	-	126,356	383,312	-	383,312
Total income		208,558	128,769	337,327	471,176	125,068	596,244
Expenditure on:							
Raising funds	6	2,514	-	2,514	2,219	-	2,219
Charitable activities	7	74,797	120,048	194,845	133,319	106,006	239,325
Total expenditure		77,311	120,048	197,359	135,538	106,006	241,544
Net income and movement in funds		131,247	8,721	139,968	335,638	19,062	354,700
Reconciliation of funds:							
Fund balances at 1 April 2024		1,232,556	111,396	1,343,952	896,918	92,334	989,252
Fund balances at 31 March 2025		1,363,803	120,117	1,483,920	1,232,556	111,396	1,343,952

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. All income and expenditure derive from continuing activities.

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	13		447,453		379,693
Investment property	14		380,000		380,000
Investments	15		1		1
			827,454		759,694
Current assets					
Debtors	17	11,267		26,350	
Cash at bank and in hand		648,101		565,928	
		659,368		592,278	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	18	(2,902)		(8,020)	
Net current assets			656,466		584,258
Total assets less current liabilities			1,483,920		1,343,952
The funds of the charitable company					
Restricted income funds	19		120,117		111,396
Unrestricted funds - General funds	20	143,934		80,447	
Unrestricted funds - Designated funds	20	1,219,869		1,152,109	
Total unrestricted funds			1,363,803		1,232,556
			1,483,920		1,343,952

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

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the trustees on 19 December 2025

T Brake
Treasurer

A Pattison
Chair of Trustees

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

	Notes	2025 £	2025 £	2024 £	2024 £
Cash flows from operating activities					
Cash generated from operations	**24**		23,577		10,781
Investing activities					
Purchase of tangible fixed assets		(67,760)		-	
Investment income received		126,356		383,312	
Net cash generated from investing activities			58,596		383,312
Financing activities					
Repayment of bank loans		-		(19,060)	
Net cash used in financing activities			-		(19,060)
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents			82,173		375,033
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year			565,928		190,895
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year			648,101		565,928

The notes on pages 21 to 33 form part of these financial statements.

1 Accounting policies

Charity information

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives is a private company limited by guarantee incorporated in England and Wales. The registered office is Ecolocal, The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3NX.

1.1 Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the charitable company's governing document, the Companies Act 2006, FRS 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" and the Charities SORP "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 (FRS 102)". The charitable company is a Public Benefit Entity as defined by FRS 102.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charitable company. Monetary amounts in these financial statements are rounded to the nearest £.

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, modified to include the revaluation of freehold properties and to include investment properties and certain financial instruments at fair value. The principal accounting policies adopted are set out below.

1.2 Going concern

At the time of approving the financial statements, the trustees have a reasonable expectation that the charitable company has adequate resources to continue in operational existence for the foreseeable future. Thus the trustees continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in preparing the financial statements.

1.3 Charitable funds

Unrestricted funds are available for use at the discretion of the trustees in furtherance of their charitable objectives.

Restricted funds are subject to specific conditions by donors or grantors as to how they may be used. The purposes and uses of the restricted funds are set out in the notes to the financial statements.

Endowment funds are subject to specific conditions by donors that the capital must be maintained by the charitable company.

1.4 Income

Income is recognised when the charitable company is legally entitled to it after any performance conditions have been met, the amounts can be measured reliably, and it is probable that income will be received.

Cash donations are recognised on receipt. Other donations are recognised once the charitable company has been notified of the donation, unless performance conditions require deferral of the amount. Income tax recoverable in relation to donations received under Gift Aid or deeds of covenant is recognised at the time of the donation.

Legacies are recognised on receipt or otherwise if the charitable company has been notified of an impending distribution, the amount is known, and receipt is expected. If the amount is not known, the legacy is treated as a contingent asset.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.5 Expenditure

Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to transfer economic benefit to a third party, it is probable that a transfer of economic benefits will be required in settlement, and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

Expenditure is classified by activity. The costs of each activity are made up of the total of direct costs and shared costs, including support costs involved in undertaking each activity. Direct costs attributable to a single activity are allocated directly to that activity. Shared costs which contribute to more than one activity and support costs which are not attributable to a single activity are apportioned between those activities on a basis consistent with the use of resources. Central staff costs are allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges are allocated on the portion of the asset's use.

1.6 Tangible fixed assets

Tangible fixed assets are initially measured at cost and subsequently measured at cost or valuation, net of depreciation and any impairment losses.

Depreciation is recognised so as to write off the cost or valuation of assets less their residual values over their useful lives on the following bases:

Leasehold land and buildings	Land not depreciated. Buildings at 2% straight line basis
Plant and equipment	20% straight line basis

The gain or loss arising on the disposal of an asset is determined as the difference between the sale proceeds and the carrying value of the asset, and is recognised in the statement of financial activities.

Assets costing less than £350 are not capitalised.

The assets under construction additions represent costs incurred in the course of development and construction of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey and so no depreciation is required to be charged at this stage.

Assets under construction includes its purchase price, including legal fees, design and other direct costs attributable to the development including borrowing costs.

1.7 Investment property

Investment property, which is property held to earn rentals and/or for capital appreciation, is initially recognised at cost, which includes the purchase cost and any directly attributable expenditure. Subsequently it is measured at fair value at the reporting end date. The surplus or deficit on revaluation is recognised in profit or loss.

1.8 Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments are initially measured at transaction price excluding transaction costs, and are subsequently measured at fair value at each reporting date. Changes in fair value are recognised in net income/(expenditure) for the year. Transaction costs are expensed as incurred.

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the charitable company. Control is the power to govern the financial and operating policies of the entity so as to obtain benefits from its activities.

1 Accounting policies **(Continued)**

1.9 Impairment of fixed assets

At each reporting end date, the charitable company reviews the carrying amounts of its tangible assets to determine whether there is any indication that those assets have suffered an impairment loss. If any such indication exists, the recoverable amount of the asset is estimated in order to determine the extent of the impairment loss (if any).

1.10 Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents include cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts. Bank overdrafts are shown within borrowings in current liabilities.

1.11 Financial instruments

The charitable company has elected to apply the provisions of Section 11 'Basic Financial Instruments' and Section 12 'Other Financial Instruments Issues' of FRS 102 to all of its financial instruments.

Financial instruments are recognised in the charitable company's balance sheet when the charitable company becomes party to the contractual provisions of the instrument.

Financial assets and liabilities are offset, with the net amounts presented in the financial statements, when there is a legally enforceable right to set off the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Basic financial assets

Basic financial assets, which include debtors and cash and bank balances, are initially measured at transaction price including transaction costs and are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the transaction is measured at the present value of the future receipts discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial assets classified as receivable within one year are not amortised.

Basic financial liabilities

Basic financial liabilities, including creditors and bank loans are initially recognised at transaction price unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, where the debt instrument is measured at the present value of the future payments discounted at a market rate of interest. Financial liabilities classified as payable within one year are not amortised.

Debt instruments are subsequently carried at amortised cost, using the effective interest rate method.

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of operations from suppliers. Amounts payable are classified as current liabilities if payment is due within one year or less. If not, they are presented as non-current liabilities. Trade creditors are recognised initially at transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Derecognition of financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the charitable company's contractual obligations expire or are discharged or cancelled.

1.12 Employee benefits

The cost of any unused holiday entitlement is recognised in the period in which the employee's services are received.

Termination benefits are recognised immediately as an expense when the charitable company is demonstrably committed to terminate the employment of an employee or to provide termination benefits.

2 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

In the application of the charitable company's accounting policies, the trustees are required to make judgements, estimates and assumptions about the carrying amount of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are considered to be relevant. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised where the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods where the revision affects both current and future periods.

3 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024	Restricted funds 2024	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Donations and gifts	82,202	87,876	170,078	3,741	87,888	91,629
Legacies	-	-	-	84,123	-	84,123
	82,202	87,876	170,078	87,864	87,888	175,752

4 Income from charitable activities

	Restricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2024
	£	£
Various grants and contracts for green and environmental projects		
Performance related grants	40,893	37,180

5 Income from investments

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Unrestricted funds 2024
	£	£
Rental income	47,979	34,361
Gift aid donations from subsidiary	72,563	347,418
Interest receivable	5,814	1,533
	126,356	383,312

6 Expenditure on raising funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025 £	Unrestricted funds 2024 £
Fundraising and publicity		
Support costs	2,514	2,219

7 **Expenditure on charitable activities**

	Transport and Travel	Growing and Greening	Cross-cutting environmental sustainability	Total	Transport and Travel	Growing and Greening	Cross-cutting environmental sustainability	Total
	2025	2025	2025	2025	2024	2024	2024	2024
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Direct costs								
Staff costs	39,800	36,014	18,003	93,817	29,093	30,904	19,456	79,453
Volunteer expenses	256	169	1,162	1,587	90	102	1,056	1,248
Printing, Design and Exhibitions	242	-	3,089	3,331	-	235	3,161	3,396
Training	10	10	15	35	67	67	89	223
Equipment and Materials Purchase	3,846	6,301	7,314	17,461	5,005	5,334	3,529	13,868
Project Costs	8,971	1,402	21,104	31,477	8,056	3,070	19,370	30,496
Lodge comm facility improvements	4,093	4,093	5,459	13,645	22,493	22,493	29,991	74,977
	57,218	47,989	56,146	161,353	64,804	62,205	76,652	203,661
Share of support and governance costs (see note 8)								
Support	7,557	4,130	16,136	27,823	8,189	6,611	15,487	30,287
Governance	1,701	1,701	2,267	5,669	1,614	1,614	2,149	5,377
	66,476	53,820	74,549	194,845	74,607	70,430	94,288	239,325
Analysis by fund								
Unrestricted funds	22,439	22,439	29,919	74,797	39,997	39,997	53,325	133,319
Restricted funds	44,037	31,381	44,630	120,048	34,610	30,433	40,963	106,006
	66,476	53,820	74,549	194,845	74,607	70,430	94,288	239,325

8 Support costs allocated to activities

	2025 £	2024 £
Staff costs	2,500	2,161
Provision of premises	17,441	18,896
Office Administration	5,045	6,438
Insurance, Professional and Bank costs	5,351	5,010
Governance costs	5,669	5,378
	36,006	37,883
Analysed between:		
Fundraising	2,514	2,219
Transport and Travel	9,258	9,803
Growing and Greening	5,831	8,225
Cross-cutting environmental sustainability	18,403	17,636
	36,006	37,883

9 Net movement in funds

	2025 £	2024 £
The net movement in funds is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Fees payable for the audit of the charity's financial statements	2,353	2,209

10 Trustees

None of the trustees (or any persons connected with them) received any remuneration or benefits from the charitable company during the year.

11 Employees

The average monthly number of employees during the year was:

	2025 Number	2024 Number
Average number of employees	13	13

Employment costs	2025 £	2024 £
Wages and salaries	98,817	83,775

There were no employees whose annual remuneration was more than £60,000.

11 Employees (Continued)

Remuneration of key management personnel

The remuneration of key management personnel was as follows:

	2025	2024
	£	£
Aggregate compensation	45,613	37,790

12 Taxation

The charity is exempt from taxation on its activities because all its income is applied for charitable purposes.

13 Tangible fixed assets

	Leasehold land and buildings	Assets under construction	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2024	-	379,693	379,693
Additions	447,453	67,760	515,213
Other changes	-	(447,453)	(447,453)
At 31 March 2025	447,453	-	447,453
Carrying amount			
At 31 March 2025	447,453	-	447,453
At 31 March 2024	-	379,693	379,693

14 Investment property

	2025
	£
Fair value	
At 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025	380,000

15 Fixed asset investments

	Other investments
	£
Cost or valuation	
At 1 April 2024 & 31 March 2025	1
Carrying amount	
At 31 March 2025	1
At 31 March 2024	1

15 Fixed asset investments (Continued)

Other investments comprise:	Notes	2025 £	2024 £
Investments in subsidiaries	23	1	1

The company's investment in its subsidiary company represents the cost of acquisition of the whole of the ordinary share capital of EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd which was set up to participate in the development of a property. The aggregate capital and reserves at 31 March 2025 was £10,631 (2024: £92,575). The company reported a loss for the year of £81,944 (2024: a loss of £411,885).

16 Contingent assets

Contingent assets
Total grant funding awarded as at 31 March 2025 but not yet received and recognised as income due to the recognising criteria not being met amounts to £10,153 (2024: £Nil).

17 Debtors

Amounts falling due within one year:	2025 £	2024 £
Other debtors	8,707	21,631
Prepayments and accrued income	2,560	4,719
	11,267	26,350

18 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2025 £	2024 £
Trade creditors	-	2,360
Amounts owed to subsidiary undertakings	1	1
Other creditors	-	627
Accruals and deferred income	2,901	5,032
	2,902	8,020

19 Restricted funds

The restricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants held on trust subject to specific conditions by donors as to how they may be used.

	At 1 April 2024 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2025 £
Inclusive Cycling/Gear-Up	21,979	36,131	(34,400)	23,710
Carshalton Community Allotment	18,071	13,895	(13,574)	18,392
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	27
Vitorian Walled Green	1,970	1,986	(3,905)	51
Horticultutal Training	1,650	8,323	(4,628)	5,345
Eco-tea	13,337	11,013	(9,276)	15,074
Volunteer Celebration Event	-	150	-	150
Warm Rooms/LBS	1,611	-	-	1,611
Eco-Fair	46,544	39,886	(38,304)	48,126
Frost Fair	6,207	6,904	(6,326)	6,785
Go-London	-	10,481	(9,635)	846
	111,396	128,769	(120,048)	120,117

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	At 31 March 2024 £
Inclusive Cycling/Gear-Up	21,441	35,149	(34,611)	21,979
Carshalton Community Allotment	12,151	16,321	(10,401)	18,071
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	27
Victorian Walled Green	661	4,066	(2,757)	1,970
Horticultural Training	3,505	3,648	(5,503)	1,650
Eco-tea	6,939	17,451	(11,053)	13,337
Volunteer Celebration Event	720	-	(720)	-
Warm Rooms/LBS	1,611	-	-	1,611
Community Hall (Awards for All)	(9)	-	9	-
Eco-Wellbeing	3,839	-	(3,839)	-
Eco-Fair	37,471	40,940	(31,867)	46,544
Frost Fair	3,978	7,493	(5,264)	6,207
	92,334	125,068	(106,006)	111,396

20 Unrestricted funds

The unrestricted funds of the charity comprise the unexpended balances of donations and grants which are not subject to specific conditions by donors and grantors as to how they may be used. These include designated funds which have been set aside out of unrestricted funds by the trustees for specific purposes.

	At 1 April 2024	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2025
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	80,447	208,558	(77,311)	(67,760)	143,934
Tangible Fixed Asset Fund	379,693	-	-	67,760	447,453
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Building Development and Maintenance Fund	370,000	-	-	-	370,000
Investment Property Fund	380,000	-	-	-	380,000
	1,232,556	208,558	(77,311)	-	1,363,803

Previous year:	At 1 April 2023	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	At 31 March 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
General Fund	114,809	471,176	(135,538)	(370,000)	80,447
Tangible Fixed Asset Fund	759,693	-	-	(380,000)	379,693
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Building Development and Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	370,000	370,000
Investment Property Fund	-	-	-	380,000	380,000
	896,918	471,176	(135,538)	-	1,232,556

21 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted funds 2025	Restricted funds 2025	Total 2025
	£	£	£
At 31 March 2025:			
Tangible assets	447,453	-	447,453
Investment properties	380,000	-	380,000
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	536,349	120,117	656,466
	1,363,803	120,117	1,483,920

21 Analysis of net assets between funds (Continued)

	Unrestricted funds 2024 £	Restricted funds 2024 £	Total 2024 £
At 31 March 2024:			
Tangible assets	379,693	-	379,693
Investment properties	380,000	-	380,000
Investments	1	-	1
Current assets/(liabilities)	472,862	111,396	584,258
	1,232,556	111,396	1,343,952

22 Related party transactions

2025

Related party	Relationship	Details	Amount	Balance
Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£Nil	(£1)
Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary	Gift aid donations	£72,563	£Nil
Ecolocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£15,357	£Nil
Ecolocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Recharged expenses	£4,246	£Nil

2024

Related party	Relationship	Details	Amount	Balance
Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£Nil	(£1)
Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary	Gift aid donations	£347,418	£Nil
Ecolocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£Nil	£Nil
Ecolocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Recharged expenses	£3,768	£Nil

23 Subsidiaries

These financial statements are separate charitable company financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2025.

Details of the charitable company's subsidiaries at 31 March 2025 are as follows:

Name of undertaking	Registered office	Nature of business	Class of shares held	% Held Direct	% Held Indirect
Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd	Ecolocal, The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, England, SM5 3NX	Development of the property known as 'The Lodge', Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3NX	Ordinary shares	100.00	

24 Cash generated from operations

	2025 £	2024 £
Surplus for the year	139,968	354,700
Adjustments for:		
Investment income recognised in statement of financial activities	(126,356)	(383,312)
Movements in working capital:		
Decrease in debtors	15,083	45,531
(Decrease) in creditors	(5,118)	(6,138)
Cash generated from operations	23,577	10,781

25 Analysis of changes in net funds

The charitable company had no material debt during the year.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIROMENTAL INITIATIVES

England & Wales - Charity number 1087782

Accounts

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT & AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity
TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

The Board of Trustees presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31st March 2024.

EcoLocal is a Carshalton based charity which has a strong track record on building community and individual assets since its original establishment as a Charitable Trust in 1987 and as a Charitable Company since 2001. Our vision is to 'Achieve and sustain strong vibrant communities within a healthy environment'.

The objects of the Charity (the "Objects") are for the public benefit: -

I. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
   a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources; and
   b. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

II. To advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. Sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

III. To promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, particularly but not exclusively by promoting biological diversity.

IV. To promote health, particularly but not exclusively by providing environmental and conservation orientated activities in the outdoors and natural environments.

V. To promote for the benefit of the public of urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular the London Borough of Sutton) by all or any of the following means:

   a. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed, underemployed and underskilled people, and providing such people with work experience;
   b. the provision of financial (whether direct or indirect) assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed, underemployed or underskilled people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help: (i) in setting up their own social enterprise or sustainability related business, or (ii) to existing social enterprises or sustainability related businesses;
   c. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms; and
   d. the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance or of significance for the heritage of the area.

VI. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the London Borough of Sutton in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

VII. To further or benefit the residents of the London Borough of Sutton, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

VIII. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

EcoLocal serves as a hub for a wide range of community led activities, events, and projects. Our organisation's remit is comprehensive, covering all aspects of sustainability, including environmental, community, and economic dimensions. We work with a wide array of people and organisations including voluntary groups, small businesses, social enterprises, individuals with mental or physical health issues, older people, children, young people, offenders, people with disabilities, families, individuals from various ethnic backgrounds as well as statutory organisations.

As an integral part of the community, we recognise the significant potential of local resources. Annually, we engage with over 350 groups and organisations, reaching approximately 20,000 individuals. We facilitate over 200 people in volunteering each year, contributing more than 14,000 hours to local projects. Participation ranges from brief commitments, such as a two-hour shift as a steward at the Carshalton Eco-Fair, to several days per week. We provide an environment where individuals can support projects, engage in planning and delivering activities, and utilise their considerable experience, knowledge, skills, and passion for positive work in the community.

In alignment with our 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, the following Trustees' review summarises the achievements and key outcomes of our work over the past 12 months:

1. Transport and Travel

1.1 Inclusive Cycling:

These activities are designed to:

- engage the whole community and help make cycling accessible to new audiences
- encourage people of all abilities to take cycling up both for fun and fitness
- promote cycling as an alternative means of transport
- provide healthy outdoor activities that enable people to socialise, contribute to community life and avoid isolation
- encourage the involvement of volunteers and trackside supporters (peer supporters) at sessions in a variety of roles, providing work experience for unemployed people, and enabling people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills.

During the year these activities were funded as follows:

- Donations from users & a Gift aid donation from Ecolocal Services Limited
- A small grant from the Hedley Foundation for accessible cycle purchase (awarded at the end of the previous year)
- We applied to Go-London! Mayor of London funding which was successful and will provide significant funding to develop the involvement of younger people at sessions for 2024/25 and 2025/26.

In 2023/24 we;

- delivered 136 inclusive cycling sessions at David Weir Leisure Centre, with 988 unique attendees. These are mostly people with disabilities and older people and their relatives/friends who were able to cycle in a safe, supportive environment, generating 6986 individual attendances. We also ran extended sessions in the school holidays to provide inclusive family cycling opportunities.
- maintained our fleet of over 60 accessible cycles and support our Projects Maintenance group which comprises of technical / mechanically experienced volunteers working with unemployed and economically disadvantaged people

In survey results from summer 2021; 91% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at cycling sessions as 'good' or 'very good', 91% said they benefited from getting more exercise and 89% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions.

In the next year we will:

- Continue to deliver sessions 3 times per week
- Seek further funding to develop the project
- Develop a work experience scheme for young people with learning disabilities
- Seek to work with other audiences not yet reached in particular families with children in disadvantaged areas, and girls
- Engage more young people in the project
- Pilot cycle maintenance training at the track side during our cycling sessions
- Maintain our fleet of accessible cycles
- Carry out participant feedback surveys

1.2 Interactive School Travel Experience

We renovated parts of this equipment for use at the EcoFair to promote walking and cycling to school.

1.3 Bikestreet Project

The project ended in 2023 and the remaining funds were transferred to our Inclusive Cycling project to help cover the cost of training volunteers to maintain our fleet of cycles.

2. Local Food / wildlife and nature conservation

2.1 Carshalton Community Allotment

We have a long established Community Allotment in Carshalton. The site is approximately 1400m2 and is fully cultivated. It includes raised beds accessible for both standing and wheelchair users, demonstration crop rotation, herb gardens, herb spirals and herb wheels, a fruit area, square foot garden, English and Kenyan key hole gardens, container garden, poly- tunnels, storage hut, a classroom and a composting toilet.

During 2023/24 we delivered 138 therapeutic gardening sessions at Carshalton Community Allotment engaging 230 participants, generating 1,638 individual attendances. These sessions provided;

- healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enable people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- opportunities for people to benefit by volunteering to take part in their community
- work experience for unemployed people, and enable people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills
- accessible gardening opportunity for people of all abilities to take part and gain skills in growing organic food
- promotion of local food production as a benefit to environmental sustainability
- promotion of food growing as a means of leading a more healthy lifestyle
- opportunity to grow approx. 0.4 tonnes of food. 10% of this was donated to the Sutton Women's Centre food bank. The remainder was shared among session participants enabling them to take home free, fresh produce that they have helped grow

Feedback from a survey of participants in 2023 showed that 95% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at community allotment sessions as 'good' or 'very good'. 81% said they benefited from getting more exercise at the sessions. 95% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions and benefited from getting outdoors.

During the year these activities were funded as follows;

- £350 from Alpkit Foundation
- £500 from Wates
- £13,349 of donations (derived mainly from local events)
- £1,000 from our horticultural training income

In the next year we will

- deliver 3 sessions per week at Carshalton Community Allotment
- seek opportunities to apply for further funding to develop this work
- seek funding to improve the infrastructure at the allotment
- support volunteers to raise funds through sale plants propagated on allotment/walled garden.

2.2 Victorian Walled Garden

The Victorian Walled Garden is situated behind the main Lodge building providing a tranquil space hidden away behind the historic walls and buildings. The garden was neglected for many years before we took it on as part of the The Lodge project. During 2023/24 we:

- ran 46 gardening sessions during which 54 volunteers contributed, including a corporate volunteer team
- enabled volunteers to contribute their knowledge and skills to finish clearing the garden of many years of weeds and rubble, start renovating walls, improve pathing, lay new lawn, create bed edging, start building a cold frame, develop fruit and herb beds and vegetable growing areas, increase use of greenhouse for raising plants to sell, establish potted plants
- provided healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- created a space for wellbeing, volunteering, training, fundraising and biodiversity

During the year these activities were funded as follows;

- £3,016 from Wild Isles/Aviva crowd funding campaign
- £1,000 from our horticultural training income
- Small donations

In the next year we will:

- Continue renovation of the walled garden, increasing the opportunities to use the garden for the benefit of the community
- Increase the planting in the garden to grow a range of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers
- Continue to provide healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- Seek to engage and support more volunteers
- Seek opportunities to raise funds for further renovation works

2.3 Horticultural Training

In 2023/24 we continued to develop our one-day and half-day gardening workshops, We delivered:

- 1 six-week Organic Food Growing Training course
- 13 one-day workshops
- 104 attendances which increased horticultural skills and knowledge
- Supported 2 local schools to start food growing gardens in their school grounds
- Planned further one-day workshops to start in 2024/25. Courses helped raise funds towards our community gardening projects.

In the next year we will develop our horticulture training opportunities further.

3. **Energy (Warm Rooms)** - We continue to hold a small level of funds for this project which will be reviewed again in the coming months.

4. **Recycling and Waste** - In all our activities we encourage reuse, repair and recycling and we promote this message wherever possible. No specific funds were used against this heading during the year.

5. Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability

5.1 Eco-Fair

EcoLocal organises this event annually with help from over 60 volunteers. Held in the picturesque surrounds of Carshalton Park, the event helps promote pro-environmental behaviours, encourages participation in community projects and enables us to raise funds for our charitable activities locally. It is one of the borough's largest public events with over 160 organisations participating. Around half of these are community and voluntary sector organisations attending to communicate a variety of messages and engage people in:

- environmental education and awareness raising
- social enterprise and skills development
- community wellbeing activities
- opportunities to take part in shaping their local communities throughout the year

A significant number of small local craft, wellbeing and environmentally sustainable businesses also attend. Local bands and entertainers performed on three solar powered stages. We provided a free bus service to and from the event. The event provides a significant outlet for many of the organisations and groups attending, both in terms of engaging with the public and for fundraising.

Our survey work indicates that the most typical visitors are people who are not averse to taking an interest in the environment and who, when information is made available to them, respond positively to it. 71% of those surveyed at the fair said that they would take, or would consider taking, further actions to do their bit for the environment as a result of attending the fair.

The 2023 event was a great success, enabling us to raise funds toward our local projects. We plan to run the event again in August 2024.

5.2 Frost Fair

This annual event is run in partnership with Friends of Honeywood Museum who are responsible for activities inside the museum.

The event was held in the picturesque setting surrounding Carshalton Ponds and was well attended by the local public. It featured entertainers, choirs and musicians and 39+ organisations of which at least 6 are community and voluntary sector and the rest are local food producers and crafts people. The event helps promote:

- sustainable shopping
- social enterprise and skills development
- opportunities to take part in local groups and promote the local environment and related activities and provides over 50 volunteering opportunities

We plan to run this popular event again in December 2024.

5.3 Eco-Wellbeing/Eco-Tea Project ('Garden Tea')

Our eco-wellbeing project helps people with mild mental health conditions and / or older people to reduce social isolation and loneliness and improve mental health and wellbeing. The project comprises a weekly 'Garden Tea' party meet up at The Lodge combined with a range of ecotherapy activities, and the promotion of existing healthy outdoor activities to target audiences.

In 2023/24 we delivered:

- 46 'Garden Tea' eco-wellbeing sessions at The Lodge attended by 55 unique attendees.
- Activities included; nature walks, art therapy, meditation, tai chi, drumming, aromatherapy, sound appreciation, chair based yoga, plant propagation, various nature based crafts and more
- Feedback from Garden Tea attendees showed that 95% rated the sessions as good/very good opportunity to meet others, 90% enjoyed the activities and 100% rated them as good/very good at improving their mental wellbeing. Typical comments included: *"Really enjoyed today's activity. Very relaxing + positive feeling." "I felt refreshed afterwards", "I felt relaxed and invigorated. It helps concentration and co-ordination."*

The project was funded as follows:

- £10,000 from donations at events
- £2,408 donations from participants attending sessions
- £5,000 from Our Wild Isles/Aviva crowd funding campaign.

The project will continue next year in the same successful format.

5.4 Development of The Lodge Community Facilities

In January 2018, the charity secured a 125-year lease for premises to establish a community centre, benefiting local residents and preserving The Lodge buildings, which are of significant heritage value to the area. To support this development, the charity engaged architects, surveyors, solicitors, valuers, and accountants to provide expert advice. The Trustees diligently addressed the complex issues involved and are confident that the benefits to the charity in achieving its objectives are highly significant. The charity (along with the residents) makes a contribution towards the service charges of the site. In 2024 the costs contributed amounted to £8,666 (2023 : £9,969).

This past year, efforts have been concentrated on planned improvements to community facilities not covered by the initial contracted works. These enhancements, affecting various parts of the site, will continue over several years. In 2023 a small grant was received and spent from Awards for All towards the refurbishment costs of the community hall. By March 2024, three new indoor spaces for community use have been introduced: the Cicely Conference Room, the Garden Hall, and a Small Meeting Room. Additionally, the Victorian Walled Garden at the rear of the site has been further renovated and is utilised for various activities. These efforts have been supported by numerous skilled and enthusiastic local volunteers, to whom we extend our gratitude.

The offices and facilities are used to support our diverse activities and events within the local community, as well as those of other groups such as Sutton Nature Conservation Volunteers, Biodiversity Educators, the local branch of Tools for Self Reliance and many others.

Over the next year, we will:

- Continue planned improvement works to enhance community facilities.
- Provide facilities for various community organisations and individuals so that they can benefit from the use of these facilities.
- Continue to provide a significant number of volunteer opportunities as part of on-site activities.
- Deliver our own project activities based at The Lodge.
- Trustees have set aside an initial £370,000 for the development and maintenance of the facilities

5.5 Volunteer Celebration Event

We received a small grant from the Mayor of London to fund a volunteer celebration event, which was held in the spring of 2023 and attended by over 70 people. This funding enabled us to stock the Garden Hall kitchenette with crockery and cutlery.

6. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL)

EcoLocal Services Ltd is a social enterprise that collaborates closely with the EcoLocal charity to deliver activities requiring a more commercial approach. Staff payroll for ESL is managed by the charity, as some staff members are employed by both entities. ESL provides additional income to the charity through gift aid. All profits generated by ESL activities during the year are donated to the EcoLocal charity.

This year, ESL's activities focused on the operation of the Wallington Farmers' Market. Key activities included:

- Running 12 markets and enhancing the market offer by recruiting new stalls.
- Supporting local community groups by offering free stalls.
- Providing new business startup opportunities and assisting youth enterprise.
- Promoting and raising funds for the activities of the EcoLocal charity.

7. Social Media

We maintained our social media presence and encouraged individuals to join our free email listing. Our aggregated contacts across all social media platforms, including email, total over 12,000 people. Social media has significantly enhanced our ability to communicate with the public.

Financial Review

At the end of the year, unrestricted funds carried forward amounted to £1,232,556, compared to £896,918 in the previous year. Restricted funds carried forward were £111,396, up from £92,334 in the previous year.

We received grants and donations totalling £523,170 during the year. This includes gift aid donations from our trading subsidiary, Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd, which significantly increased the charity's general unrestricted funds. A transfer has been made to the charity's free unrestricted funds from designated funds to reflect the value of the property intended for community activities (refer to notes 2, 14, and 20). Through our charitable activities, we raised an additional £37,180. Other trading activities generated £34,361. Additionally, £1,533 was accrued from bank account interest. Total income for the year was £596,244, compared to £655,006 in the previous year.

Total expenditure amounted to £241,544, compared to £143,259 in the previous year.

Net assets carried forward on the balance sheet at the year-end were £1,343,952, compared to £989,252 in the previous year.

The charity successfully managed all funded projects in accordance with agreements made with funders.

Overhead costs were covered through a combination of grant contributions, recovery of project costs, contracts, general and gift aid donations.

The charity's financial management integrity is ensured by the diligence of its Trustees, staff, and volunteers. EcoLocal's principal funding sources were:

- Donations
- EcoLocal Services Ltd and ELD Ltd donations via gift aid and recovery of project costs
- Grants
- Investment income

Reserves Policy

EcoLocal holds general fund reserves for the following purposes:

To buffer fluctuations in income.

- To cover ongoing commitments, including the lease on premises at The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, and salary and associated payments for staff. Notice would need to be given and costs incurred if these commitments were to be cancelled.
- To fund projects, including improvements to our premises at The Lodge. The charity occasionally uses reserves to start projects or pilot schemes while awaiting funding application outcomes and to provide cash flow for projects and contracts funded in arrears.
- Restricted fund reserves are held as unexpended balances of trust funds and other grants and donations received for specific purposes.

The Board of Trustees has reviewed the charity's reserve requirements in light of the main risks to the organisation. A policy has been established whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets should be equivalent to 3-6 months of overall unrestricted revenue expenditure. The unrestricted general funds at year-end were £80,447.

Pensions

Pensions were provided in accordance with our pensions policy, which aligns with government policy. Four members of staff continued to participate in this scheme. Provision has been made in next year's budget to cover pension costs as required.

Investment Policy

Aside from maintaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are allocated to the Building Acquisition and Development Fund and to underwrite shortfalls in core costs. After considering the available options, the Board of Trustees has decided to maintain deposit and reserve accounts with established building societies or banks.

Designated Funds

- Building Development and Maintenance Fund

The charity has significant responsibilities in managing the premises at the Lodge. These responsibilities include a commitment to completing further works on the community hall, outhouses, workshops, offices and the Victorian walled garden in the short and medium term, bringing additional benefits to the local community as agreed via our original consultations. These responsibilities also include a requirement to maintain what is a significant sized estate on behalf of the community. The Trustees have therefore strategically planned beyond the annual operational plan and budget to identify risks and capital spending needs that cannot be met from a single year's anticipated income. As such, Building Development and Maintenance funds have needed to be set aside to finance these works and to manage the existing assets for the local community (refer to note 20).

- Reorganisation Fund

This fund reflects potential redundancy costs that the charity could incur if it were to cease operations.

2024-2025 Budget

The charity's budget for the 2024/25 financial year anticipates further investment costs for The Lodge premises project, maintenance and insurance costs, expenditure on core staff, project costs, and necessary overheads. Restricted fund projects will align with agreements made with funders and donors as appropriate.

Governing Document

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (CEI), now known as EcoLocal, is a company limited by guarantee (incorporated on 8 January 2001) and registered as a charity (registered on 31 July 2001). Following a strategic review, which included detailed communication with current beneficiaries and the wider local community, the charity modernised its governance arrangements by adopting new Articles of Association and expanded its charitable activities in June 2015. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association reflect recent legal updates since the Charities Act 2006 and consolidated into the Charities Act 2011. Legal advice was sought, and agreement from the Charity Commission was obtained for these changes.

In the event of the CEI charitable company being wound up, members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Organisational Structure

EcoLocal's Board of Trustees consists of between 3 and 10 members who typically meet quarterly to oversee the strategic direction and policies of the charity. Currently, the Board has seven members from diverse professional backgrounds relevant to the charity's work. The Company Secretary/Chief Executive and Dept, Chief Executive attend Board meetings but do not have voting rights. Three sub-committees have been established: Business Planning Sub-Committee, Finance Sub-Committee, and Personnel Sub-Committee. The maintenance and development of these committees is ongoing as a part of a governance review. The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining and developing the charity's strategic planning in collaboration with the Board of Trustees and the Business Planning Sub-Committee.

The Chief Executive has day-to-day operational responsibility for service provision, which includes:

- Ensuring the charity delivers specified services and meets key performance indicators.
- Managing the building, ICT, and resources.
- Supervising and developing staff in line with best practices.
- Maintaining financial and budgetary control in overall charity operations and individual projects, in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee.
- Conducting fundraising activities, in conjunction with the Business Planning Sub-Committee.
- Overseeing public relations efforts.
- Acting as Company Secretary.

The Deputy Chief Executive handles the daily operations of individual projects, fundraising activities, building management, business development, and contributes to strategic planning and public relations work.

The trustees are responsible for setting the remuneration of the CEO and Deputy CEO. This is reviewed annually as part of the Budget process and with regard to the rates for similar roles in the sector.

Ensuring Work Delivers the Charity's Aim

EcoLocal's Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy guides the assessment of potential projects and the review of existing projects to ensure alignment with our broader charitable objectives and community benefit. Each Trustee is also responsible for a Governance review of an individual project. The Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit is also considered when reviewing aims and objectives and planning future activities. In this way, the Trustees ensure planned activities contribute to the established aims and objectives.

Recruitment and Appointment of The Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees manages the charity's business. It consists of between three and ten Trustees appointed by the Board. All Trustees automatically become members of the charity, and their names are entered into the charity's register of members.

Trustees are eligible for re-appointment at the third AGM (or Appointment Board Meeting) after their last appointment. Membership ceases if a Trustee resigns from the Board.

All appointments, retirements, or removals of Trustees and the Company Secretary must be notified to the Registrar of Companies at Companies House.

In the event of losing particular skills from the Board due to retirements, replacement Trustees are sought from the charity's local networks to maintain a broad mix of skills and experience relevant to the charity's work and reflective of the communities served.

The Board currently consists of seven members: four male and three female; four describe themselves as having a disability. Trustees are provided with additional training as needed.

Trustee Induction and Training

Candidates are typically familiar with one or more of EcoLocal's activities. New Trustees are recruited for specific duties or to complement the skills of existing Board members. An initial interview with the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees is held to discuss the candidate's potential role. A further meeting with the Chief Executive defines the induction and training process.

New Trustees receive:

- A summary of the main duties and responsibilities of Board members.
- A copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (and related rules).
- Copies of the last two years' Trustee's Annual Report and Audited Financial Statements.
- Additional publications from the Charity Commission.
- Copies of recent Board meeting minutes.
- Key operational documents, including policies and procedures.

New Trustees must attend three introductory training sessions to familiarise themselves with staff, volunteers, current projects, objectives, and future plans. These sessions usually involve the Chief Executive, the Chair of Trustees, and other personnel as needed. A training plan is agreed upon and integrated into the overall training strategy. An initial work plan is established to outline main duties and routines. After three months, new Trustees provide feedback on their induction.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees has identified and assessed risks that could face the charity:

- Covering Core Management Costs: This risk can be mitigated by:
  - Diversifying and broadening the charity's funding base and ensuring adequate levels of management capacity and accommodation costs are included in grant applications.
  - Maintaining the 'social enterprise' culture within the organisation so that relevant projects work toward self-funding/income generation in the medium term. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL), an unconnected social enterprise established by a Trustee and two staff members, contributes annually through gift aid profits to the EcoLocal charity.
  - Ensuring that the best investment return possible is achieved from the premises, which includes two residential flats
  - Highlighting the organisation's success in delivering required outcomes at good value for money to funding bodies.

- Premises Management and Maintenance: There are significant responsibilities in managing the premises at the Lodge. Risks can be mitigated by:
  - Investing in and fundraising for further improvements to the community facilities so that their value to the charity and the local community are maximised
  - Ensuring that all maintenance and safety checks are carried out by competent individuals as required e.g. gas safety checks, fire system checks etc
  - Ensuring that all policies and procedures are up to date and that staff and volunteers are sufficiently trained in these
  - Ensuring sufficient designated funds are held in reserve in order to cover future maintenance costs
  - Provision of skilled volunteering opportunities

- Lack of Recognition of Our Work: This risk can be mitigated by:
  - Using the 'working name' EcoLocal and its branding, alongside our website, Mailchimp email system, and various social network to regularly communicate the charity's activities.

- Data Privacy: We seek to mitigate the risk of data privacy breaches by:
  - ensuring that our policies and procedures have been implemented to ensure compliance with GDPR legislation.

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name:	The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (known as EcoLocal)
Charity Number:	1087782
Company Number:	4137305
Registered and operational address:	Ecolocal, The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3NX.
Contact details:	
Telephone	020 8404 1522
E-mail	info@ecolocal.org.uk
Main Website	www.ecolocal.org.uk

Board of Trustees:

Tom Brake	(Treasurer from May 24)
Jim Bush	(Treasurer until May 24)
Alistair Cruickshank	(resigned on 25 August 24)
Hazel Gurr	
Tony Pattison	(Chair)
Maureen Peglar	
Peter Struik	
Liz Udall	(Deputy Chair)

Company Secretary/Chief Executive:
Trevor Lancefield

Deputy Chief Executive:
Tansy Honey

Auditor:
Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd, 308 Ewell Road, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7AL

Bankers:
Unity Trust Bank Plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also directors of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 that period. 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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.

AUDITOR
A resolution to reappoint the auditor, Kingston Burrowes, and authorise the Trustees to fix their remuneration will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

EXEMPTION STATEMENT
The Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the board and signed on its behalf of the trustees.

Tony Pattison
(Chair of Trustees)

Tom Brake
(Treasurer)

Dated: 26th January 2025

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2024 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows 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 March 2024, 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 trustees' 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.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

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, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the 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 included within the trustees' 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' exemptions 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 11, 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

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: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. 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.

K. C. Fisher

Kevin Fisher BA FCA CTA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Kingston Burrowes Audit Ltd
Statutory Auditors
308 Ewell Road
Surbiton
Surrey
KT6 7AL

27 - 1 - 2025

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	Total Unrestricted funds £	Total Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2024 £	Total Funds 2023 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	435,282	87,888	523,170	592,802
Charitable activities	3	-	37,180	37,180	25,344
Other trading activities	4	34,361	-	34,361	36,580
Investments	5	1,533	-	1,533	280
Total		471,176	125,068	596,244	655,006
Expenditure					
Raising funds	6	2,219	-	2,219	414
Charitable activities	7	133,319	106,006	239,325	142,845
Total		135,538	106,006	241,544	143,259
Net income	11	335,638	19,062	354,700	511,747
Transfers between funds	20	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		335,638	19,062	354,700	511,747
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward	20	896,918	92,334	989,252	477,505
Total funds carried forward	20	£1,232,556	£111,396	£1,343,952	£989,252

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024		2023	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14		379,693		759,693
Investments	15		380,001		1
			759,694		759,694
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	26,350		71,881	
Cash at bank and in hand		565,928		190,895	
		592,278		262,776	
LIABILITIES					
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	17	8,020		18,688	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			584,258		244,088
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			1,343,952		1,003,782
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18		-		14,530
TOTAL NET ASSETS	19		£1,343,952		£989,252
TOTAL FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds - General funds	20	80,447		114,809	
Designated funds	20	1,152,109		782,109	
			1,232,556		896,918
Restricted funds	20		111,396		92,334
TOTAL FUNDS			£1,343,952		£989,252

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 26th January 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Tony Pattison
Trustee

Tom Brake
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
AS AT 31 MARCH 2024

	Notes	2024 £	2023 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net income for the reporting period (as per the statement of financial activities		354,700	511,747
Adjustments for:			
Interest from investments	5	(1,533)	(280)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors		45,531	(2,225)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors		(25,198)	(503,922)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) operating activities		373,500	5,320
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest from investments	5	1,533	280
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	-	(23,579)
Net cash provided by/ (used in) investing activities		1,533	(17,979)
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period			
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		190,895	208,874
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period		£565,928	£190,895

The notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information and basis of preparation
The Centre for Environmental Initiatives is a registered charity (no. 1087782) and private company limited by guarantee (no. 4137305) registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is given in the reference and administrative information on page 11.

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 have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention.

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.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Contract income is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through the performance of its services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are those funds which are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life. Depreciation is provided on plant and machinery on a straight line basis at 20% per annum.
Assets costing less than £350 are not capitalised.

The assets under construction additions represent costs incurred in the course of development and construction of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey and so no depreciation is required to be charged at this stage.

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.../Cont'd

Assets under construction includes its purchase price, including legal fees, design and other direct costs attributable to the development including borrowing costs.

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less depreciation. Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the cost of fixed assets, less their estimated residual value, over their expected useful lives on the following bases:

Buildings - 2% straight line
Land - not depreciated

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate.

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

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Government Grants
Grants received under Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Bounce Back Loan interest is accounted for on the performance model.

Investments
Investment in subsidiaries are measured at cost less impairment.

Construction in progress in a part is completed and was available for letting as an investment properties.

Investment properties are initially recognised at cost and subsequently restated at market value at the end of each accounting period. Revaluation gains and loses are recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities. Formal valuations are not carried out by appropriately qualified persons. Due to the cost of obtaining professional valuations, these are carried out periodically but not annually. In the intervening years, the market value is determined by the trustees taking into account the last formal valuation and their assessment of the property market.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Gift aid donation from Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd (Note 21)	347,418	-	347,418	508,433
Grants and donations	3,741	87,888	91,629	84,369
Legacies	84,123	-	84,123	-
	£435,282	£87,888	£523,170	£592,802

Of the £592,802 recognised in 2023, £508,531 was unrestricted funds and £84,271 was restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Grants and contracts	£Nil	£37,180	£37,180	£25,344

Of the £25,344 recognised in 2023, £Nil related to the Government grant for Bounce Back Loan interest which was allocated to unrestricted funds. Of the remaining £25,344 recognised in 2023, £340 related to unrestricted funds and £25,004 related to restricted funds.

4. INCOME FROM OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Rental income	£34,361	£Nil	£34,361	£36,580

All of the £36,580 recognised in 2023 related to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Bank interest	£1,533	£Nil	£1,533	£280

All of the £280 recognised in 2023 related to unrestricted funds.

6. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2024	Total 2023
Fundraising activities	£Nil	£2,219	£2,219	£414

All costs for raising funds were unrestricted for the current and prior years.

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Transport and Travel	64,804	9,803	74,607	39,695
Growing and Greening	62,205	8,225	70,430	22,854
Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability	76,652	17,636	94,288	80,296
	£203,661	£35,664	£239,325	£142,845

Of the £239,325 expenditure recognised in 2024 (2023: £142,845), £133,319 (2023: £35,083) was charged to unrestricted funds and £106,006 (2023: £107,762) was charged to restricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Wages, social security and other staff related costs	-	79,452	79,452	45,937
Project costs	-	30,497	30,497	32,221
Volunteer expenses	-	1,247	1,247	1,290
Printing, design and exhibitions	-	3,396	3,396	3,619
Training	-	224	224	576
Equipment and material purchases	-	88,845	88,845	27,217
	£Nil	£203,661	£203,661	£110,860

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities (inc.Governance) £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,161	-	2,161	324
Provision of premises	-	18,896	18,896	14,982
Office administration	58	6,380	6,438	5,300
Insurance, professional and bank costs	-	5,010	5,010	8,861
Governance (Note 10)	-	5,378	5,378	2,932
	£2,219	£35,664	£37,883	£32,399

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	2,161	324
Auditor's remuneration	2,209	1,860
Provision of premises	950	658
Office administration	58	90
	£5,378	£2,932

11. NET INCOME

	2024	2023
Net income for the year is stated after charging:		
Auditor's remuneration - Audit Services	£2,209	£1,860
- Non-audit services	£960	£984

12. TRUSTEES' REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2023: £Nil). No expenses were reimbursed to any trustees during the year (2023: £Nil).

13. STAFF COSTS

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries	86,491	64,742
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	1,051	1,053
	£87,542	£65,795

Out of the total staff costs of £87,542 (2023: £65,795), £3,768 (2023: £3,169) was recharged to Ecolocal Services Ltd and £Nil (2023: £16,041) was charged to Land & Buildings (2023: Assets under construction) (Note14). Therefore, the net costs charged to statement of financial activities was £83,774 (2023: £46,585).

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 in either year.

The average number of employees, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by function was:

	2024 Number	2023 Number
Direct charitable activities	3	3
Management and administration	1	1
	4	4

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £37,790 (2023: £30,013). Under FRS 102, employee benefits include gross salaries, employer's national insurance, employer's pension costs and benefits in kind.

	2024	2023
Average number of employees	13	13

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Assets under construction £	Plant and Machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2023	759,693	80,597	840,290
Additions	-	-	-
Reclassified - Transferred to Investments (Note 15)	(380,000)		(380,000)
At 31 March 2024	379,693	80,597	460,290
Depreciation			
At 1 April	-	80,597	80,597
Charge for the year	-	-	-
	-	80,597	80,597
Net book value			
At 31 March 2024	£379,693	£Nil	£379,693
At 31 March 2023	£759,693	£Nil	£759,693

15. FIXED INVESTMENTS

Cost or valuation	Shares in group undertakings	Investment properties	Total
	£	£	£
Balance brought forward	1	-	1
Reclassified - Transferred from Tangible Fixed Assets (Note 14)	-	380,000	380,000
Balance carried forward	1	380,000	380,001

Subsidiary Undertaking

The company's investment in its subsidiary company represents the cost of acquisition of the whole of the ordinary share capital of EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd which was set up to participate in the development of a property. The aggregate capital and reserves at 31 March 2024 was £89,376 (2023: £504,460). The company reported a loss for the year of £415,084 (2023: a profit of £153,893) and has subsequently made a distribution under Gift Aid rules to the charity.

16. DEBTORS

	2024	2023
	£	£
Prepayment	4,719	2,225
Accrued income	21,631	
Other debtors	-	446
Amounts owed from group undertaking	-	69,210
	£26,350	£71,881

17. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Trade creditors	2,360	-
Taxation and social security	-	285
Accrued expenses	5,032	4,767
Other creditors	-	9,106
Bounce back loan	-	4,530
Amounts owed to group undertakings	1	-
Other creditors	627	-
	£8,020	£18,688

18. CREDITORS – Amounts falling due after more than one year

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Bounce back loan	-	14,530
Bank loan	-	-
	£Nil	£14,530

A bounce back loan of £22,651 was received in 2021 in connection with COVID disruptions. The loan was repayable over 6 years with no repayment during the first 12 months. The loan was guaranteed by the UK Government. Interest rate was 2.5% per annum fixed for the duration of the loan with first 12 months, the UK Government paid the interest due to Bank. The bounce back loan was repaid during the year in full.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2024	Unrestricted General Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2024 £
Fixed assets	1	759,693	-	759,694
Current assets	88,466	392,416	111,396	592,278
Current liabilities	(8,020)	-	-	(8,020)
Long-term liabilities	-	-	-	-
As at 31 March 2024	£80,447	£1,152,109	£111,396	£1,343,952

Comparative information for the analysis of net assets between funds in the previous year is as follows:

2023	Unrestricted Funds £	Designated Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	1	759,693	-	759,694
Current assets	148,026	22,416	92,334	262,776
Current liabilities	(18,688)	-	-	(18,688)
Long-term liabilities	(14,530)	-	-	(14,530)
As at 31 March 2023	£114,809	£782,109	£92,334	£989,252

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

2024	At 1 April 2023 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2024 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	21,441	35,149	(34,611)	-	21,979
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Carshalton Community Allotment	12,151	16,321	(10,401)	-	18,071
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Victorian Walled Garden	661	4,066	(2,757)	-	1,970
Horticultural Training	3,505	3,648	(5,503)	-	1,650
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Community Hall (Awards for All)	(9)	-	9	-	-
Eco-tea	6,939	17,451	(11,053)	-	13,337
Eco-Wellbeing	3,839	-	(3,839)	-	-
Volunteer Celebration Event	720		(720)		
Eco-Fair	37,471	40,940	(31,867)	-	46,544
Frost Fair	3,978	7,493	(5,264)	-	6,207
Total Restricted Funds	**92,334**	**125,068**	**(106,006)**	**-**	**111,396**
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	114,809	471,176	(135,538)	(370,000)	80,447
Designated Funds:					
Building Development and Maintenance Fund	-	-	-	370,000	370,000
Tangible Fixed Asset Fund	759,693	-	-	(380,000)	379,693
Investment Property Fund	-	-	-	380,000	380,000
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Designated Funds	782,109	-	-	370,000	1,152,109
Total Unrestricted Funds	**896,918**	**471,176**	**(135,538)**	**-**	**1,232,556**
Total Funds	**£989,252**	**£596,244**	**£ (241,544)**	**£Nil**	**£1,343,952**

A transfer has been made from the charity's tangible fixed asset designated fund to the investment property designated fund to reflect the value of the rental property held.

Details of the restricted funds and designated funds can be found within the Trustees' Annual Report.

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS.../Cont'd

Comparative information for the movement in funds in the previous year is as follows

2023	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	(1,630)	26	-
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	(839)	-
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	23,074	25,068	(27,540)	839	21,441
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Carshalton Community Allotment	10,582	10,879	(9,310)	-	12,151
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Victorian Walled Garden	959	173	(471)	-	661
Horticultural Training	1,728	4,325	(2,548)	-	3,505
Eco-tea	-	6,939	-	-	6,939
Volunteer Celebration Event	-	720	-	-	720
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Community Hall (Awards for All)	8,276	-	(8,285)	-	(9)
Eco-Wellbeing	22,141	-	(18,302)	-	3,839
Schools	940	-	(940)	-	-
Eco-Fair	15,424	53,965	(31,918)	-	37,471
Frost Fair	3,590	7,206	(6,818)	-	3,978
Total Restricted Funds	90,795	109,275	(107,762)	26	92,334
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	103,713	545,731	(35,497)	(499,138)	114,809
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition and Development Fund	260,581	-	-	499,112	759,693
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Designated Funds	282,997	-	-	499,112	782,109
Total Unrestricted Funds	**386,710**	**545,731**	**(35,497)**	**(26)**	**896,918**
Total Funds	**£477,505**	**£655,006**	**£ (143,259)**	**£Nil**	**£989,252**

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

Related Party	Relationship	Details	Amount	Balance
2024				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£Nil	£Nil
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Gift aid donations	£347,418	£Nil
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£7,762	£Nil

Comparative information for related party transactions in the previous year is as follows:

2023				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£69,210	£69,210
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Gift aid donations	£508,433	£Nil
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£8,389	£Nil

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – UNRESTRICTED FUNDS INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024

	General Fund	Building Development and Maintenance Fund	Building Acquisition Fund	Reorganisation Fund	Total Unrestricted Funds 2024
	£	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and Legacies	435,282	-	-	-	435,282
Charitable activities	-	-	-	-	-
Other trading activities	34,361	-	-	-	34,361
Investments	1,533	-	-	-	1,533
Total	471,176	-	-	-	471,176
Expenditure					
Raising funds	2,219	-	-	-	2,219
Charitable activities	133,319	-	-	-	133,319
Total	135,538	-	-	-	135,538
Net income	335,638	-	-	-	335,638
Transfers between funds	(370,000)	370,000	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(34,362)	370,000	-	-	335,638
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward	114,809	-	759,693	22,416	896,918
Fund balances carried forward	**£80,447**	**£370,000**	**£759,693**	**£22,416**	**£1,232,556**

This page does not form part of the Statutory Accounts.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIROMENTAL INITIATIVES

England & Wales - Charity number 1087782

Accounts

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
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ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

The Board of Trustees presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31March 2023.

Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

EcoLocal is a Carshalton based charity which has a strong track record on building community and individual assets since its original establishment in 1987. Our vision is to 'Achieve and sustain strong vibrant communities within a healthy environment'.

The objects of the Charity (the "Objects") are for the public benefit:-

i. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
   a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources; and
   b. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

ii. To advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. Sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet theirown needs."

iii. To promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, particularly but not exclusively by promoting biological diversity.

iv. To promote health, particularly but not exclusively by providing environmental and conservation orientated activities in the outdoors and natural environments.

v. To promote for the benefit of the public urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economicdeprivation (and in particular the London Borough of Sutton) by all or any of the following means:
   a. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed, underemployed and underskilled people, and providing such people with work experience;
   b. the provision of financial (whether direct or indirect) assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed, underemployed or underskilled people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help: (i) in setting up their own social enterprise or sustainability related business, or (ii) to existing social enterprises or sustainability related businesses;
   c. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms; and
   d. the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance or of significancefor the heritage of the area.

vi. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantagedcommunity of the London Borough of Sutton in such a way that they are better able to identify, andhelp meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

vii. To further or benefit the residents of the London Borough of Sutton, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residentsand the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

viii. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with anystatutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted bythe charity in furtherance of the above objects.

The remit of our organisation is very broad, encompassing all aspects of sustainability; environment, community and economy. We work with very diverse sectors of the community; e.g. voluntary groups, smallbusinesses, people with mental or physical health problems, older people, children, young people, offenders, people with disabilities as well as families and people not defined by any health issue or disabilityand reflecting local ethnic diversity.

We are a part of the community and we believe that the combined resources of local people are potentiallyhuge. In a typical year we work with over 350 groups/organisations and engage with approximately 20,000 individuals. We usually enable over 200 people to volunteer in a year and contribute over 14,000 hours towards a sustainable community. Participation ranges from one off volunteering of for example 2 hours as a steward at the Carshalton Eco-Fair to several days per week. We provide an environment where people can assist with projects, get involved in planning and delivering activities and use their experience, knowledge, skills capacity and passion.

In accordance with our 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, the following Trustees' review provides a summary of achievements and the key outcomes of our work over the last 12 months. EcoLocal delivers its objects through a range of activities, subdivided under the following main headings:

1. Transport and Travel

1.1 Inclusive Cycling:

These activities are designed to:

- engage the whole community and help make cycling accessible to new audiences
- encourage people of all abilities to take cycling up both for fun and fitness
- promote cycling as an alternative means of transport
- provide healthy outdoor activities that enable people to socialise, contribute to community life and avoidisolation
- encourage the involvement of volunteers and trackside supporters (peer supporters) at sessions in a variety of roles, providing work experience for unemployed people, and enabling people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills.

During the year these activities were funded as follows:

- Gear-Up: donations from users
- A small grant from the The Baily Thomas Charitable Fund (awarded at the end of the previous year)
- Gift aid donation from Ecolocal Services Limited

In 2022/23 this funding enabled us to;

- engage more volunteers in particular to help with the new covid hygiene systems.
- deliver 127 inclusive cycling sessions at David Weir Leisure Centre, with 995 unique attendees. These are mostly people with disabilities and older people and their relatives/friends who were able to cycle in a safe, supportive environment, generating 6986 individual attendances. We also ran extended sessions in the school holidays to provide inclusive family cycling opportunities.
- run an additional 10 lunchtime club sessions for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 'SEND' school students. This was part funded by Sutton School Sport Partnership. 33 students took part with a total of 151 attendances
- maintain our fleet of over 60 accessible cycles and support our Projects & Maintenance group which comprises of technical / mechanically experienced volunteers working with unemployed and economically disadvantaged people

In survey results from summer 2021; 91% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at cycling sessions as 'good' or 'very good', 91% said they benefited from getting more exercise and 89% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions.

In the next year we will:
- Seek further funding to develop the project
- Engage more track side supporter volunteers
- Seek to work with other audiences not yet reached
- Develop social enterprise opportunities including the delivery of roadshows
- Maintain our fleet of accessible cycles

1.2 Interactive School Travel Experience
We are renovated parts of this equipment for use at the EcoFair to promote walking and cycling to school.

1.3 Bikestreet Project
Remaining funds were transferred to our Inclusive Cycling project to help cover the cost of training volunteers to maintain our fleet of cycles

2. Local Food / wildlife and nature conservation

2.1 Carshalton Community Allotment
We have a long established Community Allotment in Carshalton. The site is approximately 1400m2 and is fully cultivated. It includes raised beds accessible for both standing and wheelchair users, demonstration crop rotation, herb gardens, herb spirals and herb wheels, a fruit area, square foot garden, English and Kenyan key hole gardens, container garden, poly-tunnels, storage hut, a classroom and a composting toilet

During 2022/23 we delivered 135 therapeutic gardening sessions at Carshalton Community Allotment engaging 115 participants, generating 1,098 individual attendances. These sessions provided;
- healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enable people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- opportunity for people to benefit by volunteering to take part in their community
- work experience for unemployed people, and enable people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills
- accessible gardening opportunity for people with of all abilities to take part and gain skills in growing organic food
- promotion of local food production as a benefit to environmental sustainability
- promotion of food growing as a means of leading a more healthy lifestyle
- opportunity to grow approx. 0.4 tonnes of food. 14% of this was donated to the Sutton Women's Centre food bank. The remainder was shared among session participants enabling them to take home free, fresh produce that they have helped grow

Feedback from a survey of participants in 2023 showed that 95% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at community allotment sessions as 'good' or 'very good'. 81% said they benefited from getting more exercise at the sessions. 95% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions and benefited from getting outdoors.

During the year these activities were funded as follows;
- £2,000 Arnold Clark funding
- £2,000 Yorkshire Building Society
- £2,500 from The Shanly Foundation for running costs (awarded the previous year)
- £500 from Community Matters, Cheam Waitrose
- donations from sale of plants at markets £2,400
- other donations of £2,800
- ESL Gift Aid £1,000

In the next year we will
- deliver activities at Carshalton Community Allotment
- seek opportunities to apply for further funding to develop this work
- support volunteers to raise funds through sale plants propagated on allotment/walled garden
- seek to improve the infrastructure at the allotment

2.2 Victorian Walled Garden

The Victorian Walled Garden is situated behind the main Lodge building providing a tranquil space hidden away behind the historic walls and buildings. The garden was neglected for many years before we took it on as part of the The Lodge project. During 2022/23 we:

- ran 42 gardening sessions during which 48 volunteers contributed including police cadets aged 14-18 who gained new experiences and skills in gardening
- enabled volunteers to contribute their knowledge and skills to continue clearing the garden of many years of weeds and rubble, and to establish/develop cordon trained currants, fan trained peach, bud-grafted apple trees, Mediterranean herb bed, trained fig tree, new vegetable growing areas, new lawn and paths
- provided healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise

In the next year we will:

- Continue renovation of the walled garden, increasing the opportunities to use the garden for the benefit of the community
- Increase the planting in the garden to grow a range of fruit, vegetables, herbs and flowers
- Continue to provide healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- Seek to engage and support more volunteers
- Seek opportunities to raise funds for further renovation works

2.3 Horticultural Training

In 2022/23 we established an increased range of one-day and half-day gardening workshops. We delivered:

- 1 six-week Organic Food Growing Training course
- 8 one-day workshops
- Trained 80 people who gained skills in growing food and horticulture
- Planned a further one-day workshops to start in 2022/23

Courses helped raise funds towards our community gardening projects.

In the next year we will develop our horticulture training opportunities further.

2.4 Greener Schools Network (GSN)

This project provided free support to schools in the London Borough of Sutton and the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic activities were suspended.

The focus was on helping with school grounds development projects by providing design and advice on rejuvenating wildlife and / or sensory gardens, forest areas and quiet 'natural' areas. Help was also provided on how to set up staff and pupil environmental groups, encouraging a team effort to sustain nature areas once they have been set up. Over 139 schools (including Special Schools, Children's Centre's and Nurseries) and 4 community groups were supported by this project across the 2 Boroughs over the past 21 years. The project was volunteer led by Trustee Hazel Gurr.

3. Energy

3.1 Warm Rooms

We continue to hold a small level of funds for this project which will be reviewed again in the coming months.

4. Recycling and Waste

In all our activities we encourage reuse, repair and recycling and we promote this message wherever possible. No specific funds were used against this heading during the year.

5. Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability

5.1 Eco-Fair

EcoLocal organises this event annually with help from over 60 volunteers. Held in the picturesque surrounds of Carshalton Park, the event helps promote pro-environmental behaviours, encourages participation in community projects and enables us to raise funds for our charitable

activities locally. It is one of the borough's largest public events with over 160 organisations participating. Around half of these are community and voluntary sector organisations attending to communicate a variety of messages and engage people in:

- environmental education and awareness raising
- social enterprise and skills development
- community wellbeing activities
- opportunities to take part in shaping their local communities throughout the year.

A significant number of small local craft and environmentally sustainable businesses also attend. Local bands and entertainers performed on three solar powered stages. We provided a free bus service to and from the event. Our social value analysis concludes that the event provides a significant outlet for many of the organisations and groups attending, both in terms of engaging with the public and for fundraising.

Visitors come from a cross section of the local population ranging from people with high levels of knowledge of environmental sustainability to those who have lower levels of understanding. Our survey work indicates that the most typical visitors are people who are not averse to taking an interest in the environment and who, when information is made available to them, respond positively to it. 79% of those surveyed at the fair said that they would take, or would consider taking, further actions to do their bit for the environment as a result of attending the fair.

The 2022 event was a great success, enabling us to raise funds toward our local projects. We plan to run the event again in 2023.

5.2 Frost Fair

This annual event is run in partnership with Friends of Honeywood Museum who are responsible for activities inside the museum.

The event was held in the picturesque setting surrounding Carshalton Ponds and was well attended by the local public. It featured entertainers, choirs and musicians and 39+ organisations of which at least 6 are community and voluntary sector and the rest are local farmers stalls and crafts people. The event helps promote:

- energy conservation
- social enterprise and skills development
- opportunities to take part in local groups and promote the local environment and related activities

and provides over 50 volunteering opportunities

We plan to run this popular event again in 2023.

5.3 Eco-Wellbeing Project ('Garden Tea')

In 2022 we established a new eco-wellbeing project to help people with mental health conditions and older people to reduce social isolation and loneliness and improve mental health and wellbeing. The project comprised a new weekly 'Garden Tea' party meet up at The Lodge combined with a range of ecotherapy activities, and the promotion of existing healthy outdoor activities to target audiences. We engaged two new part time sessional staff to work on this project. The project was seed funded by London Borough of Sutton's Covid Rebuild fund.

In 2022/23 we delivered:

- 46 'Garden Tea' eco-wellbeing sessions at The Lodge attended by 68 unique attendees. 22 people attended more than 5 sessions.
- Activities at Garden Tea included; nature walks, art therapy, meditation, tai chi, 'forest bathing' mindfulness, chair based yoga, lavender activity, plant propagation, various nature based crafts and more
- Feedback from Garden Tea attendees showed that 97% rated the sessions as good/very good opportunity to meet others, 96% enjoyed the activities and 94% rated them as good/very good at improving their mental wellbeing. Typical comments included: "Very calm - really made a difference to how I feel, and I loved learning about trees and how they connect and communicate with one another." "It was very relaxing and peaceful. A great opportunity to meet nice people and enjoy the garden together." "Never done chair yoga

before - but it was an eye opener - I can now do chair yoga at home." "Upbeat - always good to spend time outside - with good people - doing interesting stuff" "Nice to meet new people and make friends. Go home with a smile." "Enjoyed being outside again + in touch with earth. Also enjoyed talking with new people afterwards."

- 54 new people joined at least one community based healthy outdoor activity in 2022/23, 53 people attended at least 5 or more sessions, 32 attended at least 10 times

The project will continue next year due to our success in raising necessary funds.

5.4 Development of The Lodge

The charity secured premises at on a 125 year lease from January 2018 in order to establish a community centre for the benefit of local people and to preserve The Lodge buildings which are of significance for the heritage of the area. Architects, surveyors, solicitors, valuers and accountants were engaged to advise on the development. Trustees carefully addressed the complex issues involved and were satisfied that the benefits to the charity in achieving its objectives are very significant. The initial phase of contracted works were completed last year.

This year we have been working on the planned improvements to community facilities not covered by the initial contracted works. These works, to different parts of the site, will be ongoing for several years. By March 2023 we were close to being able to offer 3 new indoor spaces for community use: The Cicely Conference Room, the Garden Hall and a Small Meeting Room, as well as the further renovation of the Victorian Walled Garden at the rear of the site. This activity has been supported by many skilled and enthusiastic local volunteers as well as a small Grant from Awards for All toward materials costs for the Garden Hall refurbishment.

During the next year we will:

- continue further planned improvement works to community facilities
- increase the number of community organisations and individuals benefitting from use of the facilities
- continue to provide a significant number of volunteer opportunities as part of activities on site
- build on our project activities based at The Lodge

5.5 Volunteer Celebration Event

We received a small grant from the Mayor of London toward the cost of a volunteer celebration event this coming spring.

6. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL)

EcoLocal Services Ltd is a social enterprise which works closely in conjunction with the EcoLocal charity todeliver activities which require a more commercial approach. Staff PAYE for ESL is handled by the charity(staff working for ESL are sometimes also employed by the charity). ESL provides additional income to the charity by way of gift aid. All profits resulting from ESL activity during the year will be donated to the EcoLocal charity.

ESL activity during the year focused on delivery of the Wallington Farmers' Market. Key activities included:

- running 12 markets and developing the market offer by recruiting new stalls post Covid
- supporting local community groups by offering free stalls
- providing new business start up oportunities
- provide opportunities to promote and raise funds toward the activities of the charity

7. Social Media

We maintained our social media profile and encouraged people to join our free e-mail listing. Our aggregated contacts across all social media platforms including email sits at over 12,000 people. Social media has significantly improved our ability to communicate with the public.

Finance Review

Unrestricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £896,918 compared with £386,710 the previous year. Restricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £92,334 compared with £90,795 the previous year.

We received grants and donations of £592,802 during the year. This includes gift aid donations received from our trading subsidiary, Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd, which significantly increased the charity's general unrestricted funds. A transfer has been made from the charity's free unrestricted funds to designated funds to reflect the value of the property which will be used for community purposes (refer notes 2, 14 and 20). Through our charitable activities we raised a further £25,344. We also raised £36,580 from other trading activities. An additional £280 was generated from bank account interest. Total income for the year was £655,006 compared to £100,876 the previous year.

Total expenditure was £143,259 compared to £69,543 the previous year. The loan from Charity Bank plc toward our premises development project was paid off as a result of a loan in lieu of gift aid from ELD. In relation to the premises development project the charity was owed £69,210 from group undertakings at the year end.

Net assets carried forward on the balance sheet at the year end were £989,252 compared with £477,505 the previous year.

The charity successfully managed all funded projects in accord with agreements made with funders.

Overhead costs have been met via a mix of grant contributions, recovery of project costs, contracts, general and gift aid donations.

The soundness of the charity's financial management is ensured by the diligence of its Trustees, staff and volunteers. EcoLocal's principal funding sources were:

- Donations
- EcoLocal Services Ltd and ELD donations by way of gift aid and recovery of project costs
- Grants
- Investment income

Reserves Policy

EcoLocal holds general fund reserves for the following:

- To provide for fluctuations in income.
- To provide for ongoing commitments. The charity has commitments in the form of a lease on premises occupied at The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton and also by way of salary and associated payments for staff. Notice would need to be given and costs incurred if we were obliged to cancel these.
- To fund projects. The charity, from time to time, uses reserves (a) to start projects or pilot schemes whilst awaiting the outcome of funding applications, which may not always be successful, and (b) to provide cash-flow in the case of projects and contracts which are funded in arrears. Additionally restricted fund reserves are held, being the unexpended balances of trust fund and other grants received for specific purposes.

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 - 6 months of the overall unrestricted revenue expenditure. The unrestricted general funds at the year end were £114,809.

Pensions

Pensions were provided in accord with our pensions policy (which is based on government policy). Four members of staff continued to take up this option. Provision has been made in next year's budget to cover pension costs, as required.

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are set aside toward the Building Acquisition and Development Fund and to underwrite shortfalls in core costs. Having considered the options available the Board of Trustees have previously decided to maintain deposit and reserve accounts with established building societies or banks.

Designated Funds

Building Acquisition and Development Fund.

Following a detailed community consultation and business planning exercise the charity took on a 125 year lease for new premises in January 2018. These premises comprise of offices, a separate community hall, outhouses, workshops, a Victorian walled garden and two separate flats to let as an investment in the charity's activities. A phased development plan has been implemented since 2018 with works to the main building completed in 2021. However, the charity is committed to completing further works to the separate community hall, outhouses, workshops and Victorian walled garden over the short to medium term bringing further benefit to the local community as envisaged, as well as maintaining all the buildings on an ongoing basis. As part of our strategic planning for this project the trustees have had to look beyond the annual operational plan and annual budget to identify risks and capital spending plans that cannot be met from a single year's anticipated future income alone. As such, within Designated Funds the Trustees have set aside a Building Acquisition and Development fund which in future will be used to help finance these further works to the community premises and to cover the risks associated with developing and managing these assets for the local community. These funds are detailed on the movement in funds (refer to note 20) and currently comprise of fixed assets reflecting the value of the property which will be used for community purposes (see also note 19).
Reorganisation Fund

These funds reflect the potential redundancy costs which the charity could face if it were to close down.

2023-2024 Budget

The charity's budget for the coming 2023/24 financial year anticipates recovery of investment costs on the Lodge project as well expenditure on core staff, project costs and overheads. We have included provision for premises costs associated with the new site and for income generation activities. Savings made against staff costs in the past year, partly due to the effect on income resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and partly due to delays to the completion of our premises project, will be maintained until additional funds are generated in the coming year and the position can be re-assessed.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (CEI), now known as EcoLocal, is a company limited by guarantee (incorporated January 2001) and registered as a charity (registered July 2001). Following a strategic review, which included a detailed communications exercise with current beneficiaries of the Charity and the wider local community, the Charity modernised its governance arrangements by adopting new Articles of Association and expanded its charitable activities in June 2015. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association reflect more recent law since the inception of the Charities Act 2006 - now consolidated into the Charities Act 2011. The charity took legal advice and obtained the agreement of the Charity Commission in making these changes.

In the event of the CEI charitable company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Organisational Structure

EcoLocal's Board of Trustees comprises between 3 and 10 members who normally meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. Currently the Board of Trustees has seven members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Company Secretary/Chief Executive attends Board meetings but has no voting rights. Three sub-committees have been established: Business Planning Sub-Committee; Finance Sub-Committee; Personnel Sub-Committee. Maintenance and development of these committees is ongoing. The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining and developing the charity's strategic planning, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees and the Business Planning Sub-Committee.
Day to day operational responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Chief Executive whose duties include:

- ensuring the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met
- day to day operational management of the EcoLocal building, ICT and resources
- individual supervision and development of staff in line with good practice
- ensuring financial and budgetary control is maintained, both in the overall running of the charity and within individual projects, in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee
- fundraising activities, in conjunction with the Business Planning Sub-Committee
- overseeing PR work
- acting as Company Secretary

The Deputy Chief Executive has day to day operational responsibility for individual projects, fundraising activities and business development and contributes to strategic planning and PR work.

Ensuring Work Delivers the Charity's Aim

EcoLocal's 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' provides guidance on assessment of potential projects and on review of existing projects to ensure that activities fall within the remit of our broader charitable objectives and that these are of benefit to the community. We have also referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In this way, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they set.

Recruitment and Appointment of The Board of Trustees

The business of the Charity is managed by the Board of Trustees. The Board consists of not fewer than three and no more than 10 Trustees who are appointed by the Board. All Trustees automatically become members of the Charity and their names are entered into the Charity's register of members.

Trustees are eligible for re-appointment at the third AGM (or Appointment Board Meeting) after their last appointment. A member stops being a member of the Charity if he or she ceases to be a Trustee.

All appointments, retirements or removals of Trustees and the Company Secretary must also be notified to the Registrar of Companies at Companies House.

In the event of particular skills being lost from the Board of Trustees due to retirements, replacement Trustees are sought from the charity's local networks. The Board maintains a broad mix of skills and experience in relation to the diversity of work carried out by the charity as well as to reflect the demography of the communities and organisations served.

Traditional business skills such as finance, staff management and strategic management are represented on the Board of Trustees as well as environmental sustainability knowledge, teaching, social work, journalistic, scientific, youth work, and community representation skills. Currently the Board of Trustees has 8 members: 5 are male and 3 female; 3 describe themselves as having a disability. Trustees receive additional training where a need is identified.

Trustee Induction and Training

Candidates will normally be acquainted with one or more of the activities of EcoLocal. New Trustees are recruited for a specific set of duties or because they have skills which will complement those of existing Board of Trustees members. An initial interview is held with the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees to discuss the candidate's potential role within the organisation. This is followed up with a further meeting with the Chief Executive to define precisely how their induction and training will proceed. New Trustees receive:

- a summary of the main duties and responsibilities of Board of Trustees members
- a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (and related rules)
- copies of the last two years' audited Annual Report and Accounts
- additional publications from the Charity Commission
- copies of recent Board of Trustees minutes
- key operational documents including agreed policies and procedures

New Trustees are required to attend three introductory training sessions, so as to familiarise themselves with staff, volunteers, current projects, objectives and future plans generally. These meetings are usually held with the Chief Executive, but also involve the Chair of Trustees and other personnel as required. A training plan is agreed with the new trustee and incorporated into the overall training plan. An initial 'work plan' is agreed to establish main duties and routines. After three months, new trustees are invited to give feedback on their induction.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees have considered the major risks facing the charity:

- Covering the cost of Core / Management Funding: a primary risk to the organisation is considered to be loss of funding for management capacity and premises costs. Trustees consider that this risk can be offset by:
  - Diversifying and broadening the charity's funding base and ensuring that adequate levels of management capacity and accommodation costs are included in grant applications
  - Developing a 'social enterprise' culture within the organisation so that relevant projects work toward self-funding / income generation in the medium term. An unconnected social enterprise, EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL), which gift aids profits to the EcoLocal charity, has previously been established by a Trustee and two members of staff and this makes annual contributions
  - Maximising income generation from our new premises
  - Tendering for contracts issued by public authorities and ensuring that these tenders are written on a full cost recovery basis
  - Ensuring that funding bodies are aware of the organisation's success in delivering required outcomes at good value for money
- Accommodation: we have invested in improved premises with a long-term lease. The main building and two separate flats for rental have been refurbished and converted as a part of our mixed use development of the site. Ongoing improvements are being made as envisaged, to other areas of the site. The premises need to be managed and maintained and consideration of this has been made in setting aside Designated funds.
- Recognition of our work: our 'working name' (EcoLocal) and branding is regularly used alongside our website, mail-chimp email system, social network sites such as twitter, instagram and facebook to help communicate the charity's activities efficiently
- Data Privacy: we have created new policies and procedures to ensure that we are compliant with GDPR legislation

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name:	The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (known as EcoLocal)
Charity Number:	1087782
Company Number:	4137305
Registered and operational address:	Ecolocal, The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3NX.
Contact details:	
Telephone	020 8404 1522
E-mail	trevor@ecolocal.org.uk
Main Website	www.ecolocal.org.uk

Board of Trustees:

Tom Brake	
Jim Bush	(Treasurer)
Alistair Cruickshank	(Chair until Sept 2022)
Hazel Gurr	
Tony Pattison	(Chair from Sept 2022)
Maureen Peglar	
Peter Struik	(joined March 2023)
Liz Udall	(Deputy Chair)

Company Secretary/Chief Executive:
Trevor Lancefield

Auditor:
Myrus Smith, Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4BW

Bankers:
Unity Trust Bank Plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also directors of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charitable company and of the incoming resources and applicationof resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable company for that period. In preparingthese 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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 theassets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection offraud 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.

AUDITORS
A resolution to reappoint the auditors, Myrus Smith, and authorise the Trustees to fix their remuneration will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

EXEMPTION STATEMENT
The Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and signed on behalf of the trustees.

.....
Tony Pattison
(Chair of Trustees)

.....
Jim Bush
(Trustee)

Date: 27/12/23

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2023 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flow 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 March 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' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees' 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.

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, which includes the directors' report prepared for the purposes of company law, for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and

- the directors' report included within the trustees' report has been prepared in accordance with applicable legal requirements.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the 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 included within the trustees' 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' exemptions 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 11, 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

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: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. 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.

Stephen Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

27 December 2023

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	Total Unrestricted funds £	Total Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2023 £	Total Funds 2022 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	508,531	84,271	592,802	45,310
Charitable activities	3	340	25,004	25,344	41,029
Other trading activities	4	36,580	-	36,580	14,310
Investments	5	280	-	280	227
Total		545,731	109,275	655,006	100,876
Expenditure					
Raising funds	6	414	-	414	427
Charitable activities	7	35,083	107,762	142,845	69,116
Total		35,497	107,762	143,259	69,543
Net income/(expenditure)	11	510,234	1,513	511,747	31,333
Transfers between funds	20	(26)	26	-	-
Net movement in funds		510,208	1,539	511,747	31,333
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward	20	386,710	90,795	477,505	446,172
Fund balances carried forward	20	£896,918	£92,334	£989,252	£477,505

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023		2022	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14		759,693		736,114
Investments	15		1		1
			759,694		736,115
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	71,881		69,656	
Cash at bank and in hand		190,895		208,874	
		262,776		278,530	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	18,688		518,264	
NET CURRENT ASSETS/ (LIABILITIES)/			244,088		(239,734)
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			1,003,782		496,381
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18		14,530		18,876
NET ASSETS	19		£989,252		£477,505
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds - General funds	20	114,809		103,713	
Designated funds	20	782,109		282,997	
			896,918		386,710
Restricted funds	20		92,334		90,795
TOTAL FUNDS			£989,252		£477,505

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 27 December 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Tony Pattison
Trustee

Jim Bush
Trustee

The notes form part of these financial statements.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Notes	2023 £	2022 £
Cash flows from operating activities			
Net movement in funds per statement of financial activities		511,747	31,333
Adjustments for:			
Interest receivable	5	(280)	(227)
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(2,225)	1,034
(Decrease)/increase in creditors		(503,922)	49,401
Net cash (used in)/provided by operating activities		5,320	81,541
Cash flows from investing activities			
Interest received	5	280	227
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets	14	(23,579)	(22,879)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(17,979)	58,889
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year			
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward		208,874	149,985
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward		£190,895	£208,874

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information and basis of preparation
The Centre for Environmental Initiatives is a registered charity (no. 1087782) and private company limited by guarantee (no. 4137305) registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is given in the reference and administrative information on page 11.

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 have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention.

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.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Contract income is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through the performance of its services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are those funds which are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life.
Depreciation is provided on plant and machinery on a straight line basis at 20% per annum.
Assets costing less than £350 are not capitalised.

The assets under construction additions represent costs incurred in the course of development and construction of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey and so no depreciation is required to be charged at this stage.

Assets under construction includes its purchase price, including legal fees, design and other direct costs attributable to the development including borrowing costs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.../Cont'd

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate.

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

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Government Grants
Grants received under Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Bounce Back Loan interest is accounted for on the performance model.

Investments
Investments in subsidiaries are measured at cost less impairment.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Gift aid donation from Ecolocal Lodge Development Ltd (Note 21)	508,433	-	508,433	-
Grants and donations	98	84,271	84,369	£45,310
	£508,531	£84,271	£592,802	£45,310

Of the £45,310 recognised in 2022, £12,136 was unrestricted funds and £33,174 was restricted funds.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Grants and contracts	£340	£25,004	£25,344	£41,029

Of the £41,029 recognised in 2022, £566 related to the Government grant for Bounce Back Loan interest which was allocated to unrestricted funds. Of the remaining £40,463 recognised in 2022, £956 related to unrestricted funds and £39,507 related to restricted funds.

4. OTHER TRADING ACTIVITIES INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Rental income	£36,580	£Nil	£36,580	£14,310

All of the £14,310 recognised in 2022 related to unrestricted funds.

5. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
Bank interest	£280	£Nil	£280	£227

All of the £227 recognised in 2022 related to unrestricted funds.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

6. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2023	Total 2022
Fundraising activities	£Nil	£414	£414	£427

All costs for raising funds were unrestricted for the current and prior years.

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Transport and Travel	30,230	9,465	39,695	30,742
Growing and Greening	15,695	7,159	22,854	18,621
Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability	64,935	15,361	80,296	19,753
	£110,860	£31,985	£142,845	£69,116

Of the £142,845 expenditure recognised in 2023 (2022: £69,116), £35,083 (2022 : £30,012) was charged to unrestricted funds and £107,762 (2022 : £39,104) was charged to restricted funds.

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages, social security and other staff related costs	-	45,937	45,937	30,789
Project costs	-	32,221	32,221	11,062
Volunteer expenses	-	1,290	1,290	148
Printing, design and exhibitions	-	3,619	3,619	-
Training	-	576	576	260
Equipment and material purchases	-	27,217	27,217	3,037
	£Nil	£110,860	£110,860	£45,296

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities (inc.Governance) £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Wages and salaries	324	-	324	400
Provision of premises	-	14,982	14,982	14,836
Office administration	90	5,210	5,300	3,233
Insurance, professional and bank costs	-	8,861	8,861	2,183
Governance (Note 10)	-	2,932	2,932	3,595
	£414	£31,985	£32,399	£24,247

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	324	400
Auditor's remuneration	1,860	1,824
Provision of premises	658	1,344
Office administration	90	27
	£2,932	£3,595

11. NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME

Net (expenditure)/income for the year is stated after charging:	2023	2022
Auditor's remuneration - Audit Services	£1,860	£1,824
- Non-audit services	£984	£984

12. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2022: £Nil). No expenses were reimbursed to any trustees during the year (2022 : £Nil).

13. STAFF COSTS

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries	64,742	51,071
Social security costs	-	-
Pension costs	1,053	755
	£65,795	£51,826

Out of the total staff costs of £65,795 (2022: £51,826), £3,169 (2022: £4,721) was recharged to Ecolocal Services Ltd and £16,041 (2022: £15,516) was charged to Assets under construction (Note14). Therefore, the net costs charged to statement of financial activities was £46,585 (2022: £31,589).

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 in either year.

The average number of employees, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by function was:

	2023 Number	2022 Number
Direct charitable activities	3	3
Management and administration	1	1
	4	4

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £30,013 (2022: £25,785). Under FRS 102, employee benefits include gross salaries, employer's national insurance, employer's pension costs and benefits in kind.

	2023	2022
Average number of employees	13	9

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Assets under Construction	Plant and Machinery	Total
	£	£	£
Cost			
At 1 April 2022	736,114	80,597	816,711
Additions	23,579	-	23,579
At 31 March 2023	759,693	80,597	840,290
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2022 and at 31 March 2023	-	80,597	80,597
Net book value			
At 31 March 2023	£759,693	£Nil	£759,693
At 31 March 2022	£736,114	£Nil	£736,114

The leasehold additions represents costs incurred in the course of development and construction of part of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey for use by the charity for community activities.

15. Investments

Cost

As at 31 March 2022 and 31 March 2023	£1

Subsidiary Undertaking

The company's investment in its subsidiary company represents the cost of acquisition of the whole of the ordinary share capital of EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd which was set up to participate in the development of a property. The aggregate capital and reserves at 31 March 2023 was £506,077 (2022 : £350,567). The company reported a profit for the year of £155,510 (2022 : £371,181) and has subsequently made a distribution under Gift Aid rules to the charity.

16. DEBTORS

	2023	2022
	£	£
Prepayment	2,225	-
Other debtors	446	446
Amounts owed from group undertaking	69,210	69,210
	£71,881	£69,656

17. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Taxation and social security	285	-
Accrued expenses	4,767	4,704
Other creditors	9,106	8,890
Bounce back loan	4,530	3,775
Bank loan	-	500,895
	£18,688	£518,264

The bank loan from The Charity Bank Ltd is secured on the company's leasehold property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey. The loan bears interest at a rate of 4% above the base rate of the Bank of England and the final repayment was made in July 2022.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

18. CREDITORS – Amounts falling due after more than one year

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Bounce back loan	14,530	18,876
Bank loan	-	-
	£14,530	£18,876

A Bounce Back loan of £22,651 was received in the previous year in connection with COVID disruptions. The loan is repayable over 6 years with no repayment during the first 12 months. The loan is guaranteed by the UK Government. Interest rate is 2.5% per annum fixed for the duration of the loan with first 12 months, the UK Government paid the interest due to Bank.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2023	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Fixed assets	759,694	-	759,694
Current assets	170,442	92,334	262,776
Current liabilities	(18,688)	-	(18,688)
Long-term liabilities	(14,530)	-	(14,530)
As at 31 March 2023	£896,918	£92,334	£989,252

Comparative information for the analysis of net assets between funds in the previous year is as follows:

2022	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets	736,115	-	736,115
Current assets	187,735	90,795	278,530
Current liabilities	(518,264)	-	(518,264)
Long-term liabilities	(18,876)	-	(18,876)
As at 31 March 2022	£386,710	£90,795	£477,505

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

2023	At 1 April 2022 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2023 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	1,630	26	-
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	(839)	-
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	23,074	25,068	27,540	839	21,441
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Local Food	10,582	10,879	9,310	-	12,151
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Walled Garden	959	173	471	-	661
Food Growing Training	1,728	4,325	2,548	-	3,505
Eco-tea	-	6,939	-	-	6,939
Volunteer Celebration Event	-	720	-	-	720
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Community Hall (Awards for All)	8,276	-	8,285	-	(9)
Eco-Wellbeing	22,141	-	18,302	-	3,839
Schools	940	-	940	-	-
Environmental Fair	15,424	53,965	31,918	-	37,471
Frost Fair	3,590	7,206	6,818	-	3,978
Total Restricted Funds	**90,795**	**109,275**	**107,762**	**26**	**92,334**
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	103,713	545,731	35,497	(499,138)	114,809
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition and Development Fund	260,581	-	-	499,112	759,693
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Designated Funds	282,997	-	-	499,112	782,109
Total Unrestricted Funds	**386,710**	**545,731**	**35,497**	**(26)**	**896,918**
Total Funds	**£477,505**	**£655,006**	**£143,259**	**£Nil**	**£989,252**

A transfer has been made from the charity's free unrestricted funds to designated funds to reflect the value of the property which will be used for community purposes.

Details of the restricted funds and designated funds can be found within the Trustees' Report.

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS.../Cont'd

Comparative information for the movement in funds in the previous year is as follows

2022	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	-	-	1,604
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	-	839
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	11,961	32,852	21,739	-	23,074
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Local Food	12,904	7,127	9,449	-	10,582
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Walled Garden	936	191	168	-	959
Food Growing Training	-	1,728	-	-	1,728
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Community Hall (Awards for All)	-	8,642	366	-	8,276
Eco-Wellbeing	-	22,141	-	-	22,141
Schools	940	-	-	-	940
Environmental Fair	18,231	-	2,807	-	15,424
Frost Fair	3,835	-	245	-	3,590
COVID fund	4,330	-	4,330	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	**57,218**	**72,681**	**39,104**	**-**	**90,795**
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	105,957	28,195	30,439	-	103,713
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition and Development Fund	260,581	-	-	-	260,581
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Unrestricted Funds	**388,954**	**28,195**	**30,439**	**-**	**386,710**
Total Funds	**£446,172**	**£100,876**	**£69,543**	**£Nil**	**£477,505**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

Related Party	Relationship	Details	Amount	Balance
2023				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£69,210	£69,210
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Gift aid donations	£508,433	£Nil
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£8,389	£Nil

Comparative information for related party transactions in the previous year is as follows:

2022				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£69,210	£69,210
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Gift aid donations	£Nil	£Nil
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£2,000	£Nil

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – UNRESTRICTED FUNDS INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	General Fund £	Building Acquisition Fund £	Reorganisation Fund £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2023 £
Income				
Donations and Legacies	508,531	-	-	508,531
Charitable activities	340	-	-	340
Other trading activities	36,580	-	-	36,580
Investments	280	-	-	280
Total	545,731	-	-	545,731
Expenditure				
Raising funds	414	-	-	414
Charitable activities	35,083	-	-	35,083
Total	35,497	-	-	35,497
Net income	510,234	-	-	510,234
Transfers between funds	(499,138)	499,112	-	(26)
Net movement in funds	11,096	499,112	-	510,208
Reconciliation of funds				
Fund balances brought forward	103,713	260,581	22,416	386,710
Fund balances carried forward	**£114,809**	**£759,693**	**£22,416**	**£896,918**

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIROMENTAL INITIATIVES

England & Wales - Charity number 1087782

Accounts

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

The Board of Trustees presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2022.

Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

EcoLocal is a Carshalton based charity which has a strong track record on building community and individual assets since its original establishment in 1987. Our vision is to 'Achieve and sustain strong vibrant communities within a healthy environment'.

The objects of the Charity (the "Objects") are for the public benefit:-

i. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
   a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources; and
   b. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.
ii. To advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. Sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
iii. To promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, particularly but not exclusively by promoting biological diversity.
iv. To promote health, particularly but not exclusively by providing environmental and conservation orientated activities in the outdoors and natural environments.
v. To promote for the benefit of the public urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular the London Borough of Sutton) by all or any of the following means:
   a. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed, underemployed and underskilled people, and providing such people with work experience;
   b. the provision of financial (whether direct or indirect) assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed, underemployed or underskilled people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help: (i) in setting up their own social enterprise or sustainability related business, or (ii) to existing social enterprises or sustainability related businesses;
   c. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms; and
   d. the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance or of significance for the heritage of the area.
vi. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the London Borough of Sutton in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.
vii. To further or benefit the residents of the London Borough of Sutton, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.
viii. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

The remit of our organisation is very broad, encompassing all aspects of sustainability; environment, community and economy. We work with very diverse sectors of the community; e.g. voluntary groups, small businesses, people with mental or physical health problems, older people, children, young people, offenders, people with disabilities as well as families and people not defined by any health issue or disability and reflecting local ethnic diversity.

We are a part of the community and we believe that the combined resources of local people are potentially huge. In a typical year we work with over 350 groups/organisations and engage with approximately 20,000 individuals. We usually enable over 200 people to volunteer in a year and contribute over 14,000 hours towards a sustainable community. Participation ranges from one off volunteering of for example 2 hours as a steward at the Carshalton Eco-Fair to several days per week. We provide an environment where people can assist with projects, get involved in planning and delivering activities and use their experience, knowledge, skills capacity and passion. Clearly this past year has had its challenges with the Covid-19 pandemic, but as the year ends the situation is improving generally.

In accordance with our 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, the following Trustees' review provides a summary of achievements and the key outcomes of our work over the last 12 months. EcoLocal delivers its objects through a range of activities, subdivided under the following main headings:

1. Transport and Travel

1.1 Inclusive Cycling:

These activities are designed to:

- engage the whole community and help make cycling accessible to new audiences
- encourage people of all abilities to take cycling up both for fun and fitness
- promote cycling as an alternative means of transport
- provide healthy outdoor activities that enable people to socialise, contribute to community life and avoid isolation
- encourage the involvement of volunteers and trackside supporters (peer supporters) at sessions in a variety of roles, providing work experience for unemployed people, and enabling people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills.

During the year these activities were funded as follows:

- Gear-Up: donations from users
- Small grants from trusts and Sutton Council Covid Restart funds
- (normally also from delivery of cycle roadshows via the social enterprise Ecolocal Services Limited in non-pandemic years)

This funding enabled us to build on our covid safe re-established service, to;

- engage more volunteers in particular to help with the new covid hygiene systems.
- deliver 131 inclusive cycling sessions at David Weir Leisure Centre (normally over 120 pre-covid), with 981 unique attendees. These are mostly people with disabilities and older people and their relatives/friends who were able to cycle in a safe, supportive environment, generating 7,786 individual attendances. We also ran extended sessions in the school holidays to provide inclusive family cycling opportunities.
- run an additional 13 lunchtime club sessions for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities 'SEND' school students. This was part funded by Sutton School Sport Partnership. 27 students took part with a total of 131 attendances
- maintain our fleet of over 60 accessible cycles and support our Projects & Maintenance group which comprises of technical/mechanically experienced volunteers working with unemployed and economically disadvantaged people

In survey results from summer 2021; 91% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at cycling sessions as 'good' or 'very good', 91% said they benefited from getting more exercise and 89% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions.

In the next year we will:

- Seek further funding to develop the project and meet the needs of those most impacted by covid
- Engage more track side supporter volunteers
- Seek to work with other audiences not yet reached, especially those disadvantaged people whose physical and mental health has been most impacted by covid
- Develop social enterprise opportunities including the delivery of road shows
- Maintain our fleet of accessible cycles

1.2 Interactive School Travel Experience
We are renovating this equipment for use at the coming year's EcoFair and remaining funds held will be used for this purpose.

1.3 Bikestreet Project
Remaining funds will be transferred to our Inclusive Cycling project to help cover the cost of training volunteers to maintain our fleet of cycles

2. Local Food / wildlife and nature conservation

2.1 Carshalton Community Allotment
We have a long established Community Allotment in Carshalton. The site is approximately 1400m^2 and is fully cultivated. It includes raised beds accessible for both standing and wheelchair users, demonstration crop rotation, herb gardens, herb spirals and herb wheels, a fruit area, square foot garden, English and Kenyan key hole gardens, container garden, poly-tunnels, storage hut, a classroom and a composting toilet

During 2021/22 we delivered 131 therapeutic gardening sessions at Carshalton Community Allotment engaging 119 participants, generating 1,443 individual attendances. These sessions provided;
- healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enable people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- opportunity for people to benefit by volunteering to take part in their community
- work experience for unemployed people, and enable people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills
- accessible gardening opportunity for people of all abilities to take part and gain skills in growing organic food
- promotion of local food production as a benefit to environmental sustainability
- promotion of food growing as a means of leading a more healthy lifestyle
- opportunity to grow approx. 0.7 tonnes of food. 20% of this was donated to the Sutton Women's Centre food bank (along with an additional 0.13 tonnes of donated fruit/veg). The remainder was shared among session participants enabling them to take home free, fresh produce that they have helped grow

Feedback from a survey of participants in 2021 showed that 89% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at community allotment sessions as 'good' or 'very good'. 80% said they benefited from getting more exercise at the sessions. 95% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions. 100% thought the staff were 'good' or 'very good'. 95% thought the activity overall was good or very good.

During the year these activities were funded as follows;
- £3,449 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust (Dec 2020- Nov 2021)
- £4,000 D'Oyle Cart (Dec 2020- Nov 2021)
- £2,500 from Shanly for running costs (Jan 22- Dec 23)
- donations from sale of plants at markets £2,756
- other donations of £1,648

In the next year we will
- deliver activities at Carshalton Community Allotment
- seek opportunities to apply for further funding to develop this work
- support volunteers to raise funds through sale of excess plants and produce from the allotment
- seek to improve the infrastructure at the allotment

2.2 Victorian Walled Garden

The Victorian Walled Garden is situated behind the main Lodge building providing a tranquil space hidden away behind the historic walls and buildings. The garden was neglected for many years before we took it on as part of the The Lodge project. During 2021/22 we:
- ran 38 gardening sessions during which 42 volunteers contributed 905 volunteer hours towards renovation of the Victorian walled garden

- engaged a range of volunteers including police cadets aged 14-18 who gained new experiences and skills in gardening
- enabled volunteers to contribute their knowledge and skills to clear the garden of many years of weeds and rubble, and to establish new beds including a fan trained peach, bud-grafted apple trees, Mediterranean herb bed, trained fig tree, and a vegetable patch.
- provided healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise

These activities enabled people to contribute to improving their environment, creating a valuable resource for the community;

- The garden was valuable during covid for holding covid safe outdoor meetings.
- The garden greenhouse was used for propagation of plants by volunteers for sale to raise funds for Carshalton Community Allotment.
- The garden was renovated to a stage where it was possible to apply successfully for funds to run therapeutic activities in the garden and to plan a range of horticultural courses based in the garden, both due to start in 2022/23

In the next year we will:

- Continue renovation of the walled garden, increasing the opportunities to use the garden for the benefit of the community
- Continue to provide healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enabling people to socialise, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- Seek to engage and support more volunteers
- Seek opportunities to raise funds for renovation works

2.3 Horticultural Training

Training courses were reduced during this period due to covid. We:

- Delivered one 6-week Organic Food Growing Training
- Delivered one 1-day working on Currant Growing
- Trained 22 people who gained skills in growing food and horticulture
- Planned a new range of one-day workshops to start in 2022/23

Courses helped raise funds towards our community gardening projects.

In the next year we will develop our horticulture training opportunities further.

2.4 Greener Schools Network (GSN)

This project provides free support to schools in the London Borough of Sutton and the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic activities were suspended during the year.

The focus had been on helping with school grounds development projects by providing design and advice on rejuvenating wildlife and / or sensory gardens, forest areas and quiet 'natural' areas. Advice was also provided on how to set up staff and pupil environmental groups, encouraging a team effort to sustain nature areas once they have been set up. Over 139 schools (including Special Schools, Children's Centres and Nurseries) and 4 community groups have now been supported by this project across the 2 Boroughs over the past 21 years. The project is volunteer led by Trustee Hazel Gurr. Staff, pupils (often via School Councils) and parents are all encouraged to get involved. We will review future activities once the situation regarding Covid 19 in schools is clearer.

3. Energy

3.1 Warm Rooms

We continue to hold a small level of funds for this project which will be reviewed again in the coming months.

4. Recycling and Waste

In all our activities we encourage reuse, repair and recycling and we promote this message wherever possible. No specific funds were used against this heading during the year.

5. Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability

5.1 Eco-Fair

EcoLocal organises this event annually with help from over 60 volunteers who assist with planning and delivery. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the event had to be cancelled in 2020 and in 2021. Normally held in the picturesque surrounds of Carshalton Park, the event is one of the borough's largest public events andusually hosts in excess of 163 organisations. Around half of these are community and voluntary sector organisations attending to communicate a variety of messages and engage people in:

- environmental education and awareness raising
- social enterprise and skills development
- community wellbeing activities
- opportunities to take part in shaping their local communities throughout the year.

A significant number of small local craft and environmentally sustainable businesses also usually attend. Local bands and entertainers performed on three stages. We provide a free bus service to and from the event. Our social value analysis concludes that the event provides a significant outlet for many of the organisations and groups attending, both in terms of engaging with the public and for fundraising.

In normal times visitors come from a cross section of the local population ranging from people with high levels of knowledge of environmental sustainability to those who have lower levels of understanding. Our surveywork indicates that the most typical visitors are people who are not averse to taking an interest in the environment and who, when information is made available to them, respond positively to it. 91% of those previously surveyed at the fair said that they would take, or would consider taking, further actions to do their bit for the environment as a result of attending the fair.

The decision not to run the event in 2021 due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic was taken in order to protect our limited event reserve funds to ensure that the fair can run again in future years. We expect to be able to run the event again in 2022.

5.2 Frost Fair

This annual event is run in partnership with Friends of Honeywood Museum who are responsible for activities inside the museum.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the event had to be cancelled in 2021. Normally held in the picturesque setting surrounding Carshalton Ponds the event is usually well attended by the local public. It usually features entertainers, choirs and musicians and 39+ organisations of which at least 6 are community and voluntary sector and the rest are local farmers stalls and crafts people. The event helps promote:

- energy conservation
- social enterprise and skills development
- opportunities to take part in local groups and promote the local environment and related activities and provides over 50 volunteering opportunities

We expect to be able to run the event again in 2022.

5.3 AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance) Accredited Training

During the year we were unable to delivered AQA units due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic. We plan to reintroduce AQA qualifications in future, as activities recover from Covid.

5.4 Development of The Lodge

The charity secured The Lodge premises on a 125 year lease from January 2018. The plan is that charity will increasingly be able to provide improved facilities for the local community and will have much greater scope to expand activities and related social enterprise services for local people.

EcoLocal engaged architects, surveyors, solicitors, valuers and accountants to advise on the development. Trustees continue to carefully address the complex issues involved, and are satisfied that the benefits to the charity in achieving its objectives are very significant. The charity experienced issues with significant delays in completion of contracted building works and during the year the Trustees took the decision to claim against performance bonds included as part of the Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) contracts for the works. The Trustees can report that the initial main phase of contracted works were subsequently completed during the year and signed off by our Architects.

In order to finance the development our wholly owned subsidiary company Ecolocal Lodge Development Limited (ELD) has created 7 flats for sale at The Lodge and these sales are now progressing. The development has been financed with a loan from the Charity Bank and we expect to repay our loan in the new financial year once the 7 long lease flats have been sold by ELD. Trustees are confident that the costs of the development will be recovered and that the charity will, much delayed, be able to move forward as planned. As a part of the planned works the charity has also converted an out-building into two further flats and these are now rented, providing ongoing investment income as a part of the envisaged sustainable financing of the project.

During 2021/22 we started work on the next phase of The Lodge project. We;

- moved our charity offices from their temporary location in the old 'chapel' at The Lodge to the newly renovated office spaces in the main Lodge building. This enabled us to provide indoor office volunteer opportunities, and to have the space to begin coordinating the re-establishment of our projects and events post-covid, as well as to start providing small meeting room facilities for community groups
- engaged skilled volunteers to work on installing new IT networking and alarm systems in the new office spaces
- were successful with a grant application to the National Lottery Awards for All for £8,642 towards renovation of the old 'chapel' into a community hall
- established a new team of volunteers to start renovation of the old 'chapel' into a community hall. This project includes upgrading insulation, installing new electrics, lighting, radiators and a new kitchen, floor renovation, repairs and extensive re-decoration.
- Continued with renovation of the Victorian Walled Garden (see section above)

During the next year we will:

- be in a position to benefit from recovery of the costs of developing the site
- continue further planned improvement works to community facilities
- increase the number of community organisations and individuals benefitting from use of the facilities
- continue to provide a significant number of volunteer opportunities as part of activities on site
- build on our project activities based at The Lodge

6. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL)

EcoLocal Services Ltd is a social enterprise which works closely in conjunction with the EcoLocal charity to deliver activities which require a more commercial approach. Staff PAYE for ESL is handled by the charity (staff working for ESL are sometimes also employed by the charity).

The work done by ESL has a symbiotic relationship to the charity in that it builds on work in conjunction with the charity and provides additional income to the charity by way of gift aid. As such, profits from all ESL activity held at the end of March 2022 will be gift aided to the charity toward various activities. ESL activity during the year focused on delivering the Wallington Farmers' Market and key activity included:

- running 12 markets and developing the market offer by recruiting new stalls post Covid
- supporting local community groups by offering free stalls
- providing new business start up oportunities
- promoting the activities of the charity and raising funds for it

7. Social Media

We maintained our social media profile and encouraged people to join our free e-mail listing. Our aggregated contacts across all social media platforms including email sits at over 12,000 people. Social media has significantly improved our ability to communicate with the public.

Finance Review

Unrestricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £386,710 compared with £388,954 the previous year. Restricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £90,795 compared with £57,218 the previous year.

We received grants and donations of £45,310 during the year. Through our charitable activities we raised a further £41,029. An additional £227 was generated from bank account interest. We also received rental income of £14,310 during the year compared to £Nil in the previous year. Total income for the year was £100,876 compared to £63,789 the previous year.

Total expenditure was £69,543 compared to £81,461 the previous year. Additional loan interest of £20,334 was accrued toward our premises development project and the balance at the end of the year is £500,895. In relation to the premises development project the charity was owed £69,210 from group undertakings at the year end.

Net assets carried forward on the balance sheet at the year end were £477,505 compared with £446,172 the previous year.

The charity successfully managed all funded projects in accord with agreements made with funders.

Overhead costs have been met via a mix of grant contributions, contracts, general and gift aid donations.

The soundness of the charity's financial management is ensured by the diligence of its Trustees, staff and volunteers. EcoLocal's principal funding sources were:

- Donations
- EcoLocal Services Ltd social enterprise donations by way of gift aid
- Grants
- Investment income

Reserves Policy

EcoLocal holds general fund reserves for the following:

- To provide for fluctuations in income.
- To provide for ongoing commitments. The charity has commitments in the form of a lease on premises occupied at The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton and also by way of salary and associated payments for staff. Notice would need to be given and costs incurred if we were obliged to cancel these.
- To fund projects. The charity, from time to time, uses reserves (a) to start projects or pilot schemes whilst awaiting the outcome of funding applications, which may not always be successful, and (b) to provide cash-flow in the case of projects and contracts which are funded in arrears. Additionally restricted fund reserves are held, being the unexpended balances of trust fund and other grants received for specific purposes.

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 - 6 months of the overall unrestricted revenue expenditure. The unrestricted general funds at the year end were £103,713.

Pensions

Pensions were provided in accord with our pensions policy (which is based on government policy). Four members of staff continued to take up this option with one new addition early in the following financial year. Provision has been made in next year's budget to cover pension costs, as required.

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are set aside to underwrite shortfalls in core costs and to invest in new premises. Having considered the options available the Board of Trustees have previously decided to maintain deposit and reserve accounts with established building societies or banks.

Designated Funds:

Building Acquisition and Development

Following a detailed community consultation and business planning exercise the charity took on a 125 year lease for new premises in January 2018. These premises comprise of offices, a separate community hall, outhouses, workshops, a Victorian walled garden and flats to let as an investment in the charity's activities. A phased development plan has been implemented since 2018 with works to the main building completed in 2021. However, the charity is committed to completing further works to the separate community hall, outhouses, workshops and Victorian walled garden over the short to medium term bringing further benefit to the local community as envisaged. As part of our strategic planning for this project the trustees have had to look beyond the annual operational plan and annual budget to identify risks and capital spending plans that cannot be met from a single year's anticipated future income alone. As such, within Designated Funds the Trustees have set aside a Building Acquisition and Development fund in order to help finance these further works to the community premises and to cover the risks associated with developing and managing these assets for the local community. These funds are detailed on the balance sheet.

Reorganisation Fund

These funds reflect the potential redundancy costs which the charity could face if it were to close down.

2022-2023 Budget

The charity's budget for the coming 2022/23 financial year anticipates recovery of investment costs on the Lodge project as well as expenditure on core staff, project costs and overheads. We have included provision for premises costs associated with the new site and for income generation activities. Savings made against staff costs in the past year, partly due to the effect on income resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and partly due to delays to the completion of our premises project, will be maintained until additional funds are generated in the coming year and the position can be re-assessed.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (CEI), now known as EcoLocal, is a company limited by guarantee (incorporated January 2001), and registered as a charity (registered July 2001). Following a strategic review, which included a detailed communications exercise with current beneficiaries of the Charity and the wider local community, the Charity modernised its governance arrangements by adopting new Articles of Association and expanded its charitable activities in June 2015. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association reflect more recent law since the inception of the Charities Act 2006 - now consolidated into the Charities Act 2011. The charity took legal advice and obtained the agreement of the Charity Commission in making these changes.

In the event of the CEI charitable company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Organisational Structure

EcoLocal's Board of Trustees comprises between 3 and 10 members who normally meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. Currently the Board of Trustees has seven members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Company Secretary/Chief Executive attends Board meetings but has no voting rights. Three sub-committees have been established: Business Planning Sub-Committee; Finance Sub-Committee; Personnel Sub-Committee. Maintenance and development of these committees is ongoing. The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining and developing the charity's strategic planning, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees and the Business Planning Sub-Committee.

Day to day operational responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Chief Executive whose duties include:

- ensuring the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met
- day to day operational management of the EcoLocal building, ICT and resources
- individual supervision and development of staff in line with good practice
- ensuring financial and budgetary control is maintained, both in the overall running of the charity and within individual projects, in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee
- fundraising activities, in conjunction with the Business Planning Sub-Committee
- overseeing PR work
- acting as Company Secretary

The Deputy Chief Executive has day to day operational responsibility for individual projects, fundraising activities and business development and contributes to strategic planning and PR work.

Ensuring Work Delivers the Charity's Aim

EcoLocal's 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' provides guidance on assessment of potential projects and on review of existing projects to ensure that activities fall within the remit of our broader charitable objectives and that these are of benefit to the community. We have also referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In this way, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they set.

Recruitment and Appointment of The Board of Trustees

The business of the Charity is managed by the Board of Trustees. The Board consists of not fewer than three and no more than 10 Trustees who are appointed by the Board. All Trustees automatically become members of the Charity and their names are entered into the Charity's register of members.

Trustees are eligible for re-appointment at the third AGM (or Appointment Board Meeting) after their last appointment. A member stops being a member of the Charity if he or she ceases to be a Trustee.

All appointments, retirements or removals of Trustees and the Company Secretary must also be notified to the Registrar of Companies at Companies House.

In the event of particular skills being lost from the Board of Trustees due to retirements, replacement Trustees are sought from the charity's local networks. The Board maintains a broad mix of skills and experience in relation to the diversity of work carried out by the charity as well as to reflect the demography of the communities and organisations served.

Traditional business skills such as finance, staff management and strategic management are represented on the Board of Trustees as well as environmental sustainability knowledge, teaching, social work, journalistic, scientific, youth work, and community representation skills. Currently the Board of Trustees has 7 members: 4 are male and 3 female; 3 describe themselves as having a disability. Trustees receive additional training where a need is identified.

Trustee Induction and Training

Candidates will normally be acquainted with one or more of the activities of EcoLocal. New Trustees are recruited for a specific set of duties or because they have skills which will complement those of existing Board of Trustees members. An initial interview is held with the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees to discuss the candidate's potential role within the organisation. This is followed up with a further meeting with the Chief Executive to define precisely how their induction and training will proceed. New Trustees receive:

- a summary of the main duties and responsibilities of Board of Trustees members
- a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (and related rules)
- copies of the last two years' audited Annual Report and Accounts
- additional publications from the Charity Commission
- copies of recent Board of Trustees minutes
- key operational documents including agreed policies and procedures

New Trustees are required to attend three introductory training sessions, so as to familiarise themselves with staff, volunteers, current projects, objectives and future plans generally. These meetings are usually held with the Chief Executive, but also involve the Chair of Trustees and other personnel as required. A training plan is agreed with the new trustee and incorporated into the overall training plan. An initial 'work plan' is agreed to establish main duties and routines. After three months, new trustees are invited to give feedback on their induction.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees have considered the major risks facing the charity:

- Covering the cost of Core / Management Funding: a primary risk to the organisation is considered to be loss of funding for management capacity and premises costs. Trustees consider that this risk can be offset by:
  - Diversifying and broadening the charity's funding base and ensuring that adequate levels of management capacity and accommodation costs are included in grant applications
  - Developing a 'social enterprise' culture within the organisation so that relevant projects work toward self-funding / income generation in the medium term. An unconnected social enterprise, EcoLocalServices Ltd (ESL), which gift aids profits to the EcoLocal charity, has previously been established by a Trustee and two members of staff and this makes annual contributions
  - Maximising income generation from our new premises
  - Tendering for contracts issued by public authorities and ensuring that these tenders are written on a full cost recovery basis
  - Ensuring that funding bodies are aware of the organisation's success in delivering required outcomes at good value for money
- Accommodation: we have invested in improved premises with a long term lease that will provide the scope to implement a business plan to enable the charity to be financially sustainable. Work on this project has included the establishment of a wholly owned trading subsidiary called EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd (ELD). More information on the premises project is summarised above.
- Recognition of our work: our 'working name' (EcoLocal) and branding is regularly used alongside a deliverable marketing plan. We use our new website, the mail-chimp email system, plus social network sites such as twitter, instagram and facebook to help communicate the charity's activities efficiently
- Data Privacy: we have created new policies and procedures to ensure that we are compliant with GDPR legislation

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name:	The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (known as EcoLocal)
Charity Number:	1087782
Company Number:	4137305
Registered and operational address:	Ecolocal, The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3NX.

Contact details:	
Telephone	020 8404 1522
E-mail	trevor@ecolocal.org.uk
Main Website	www.ecolocal.org.uk

Board of Trustees:

Tom Brake	
Jim Bush	(Treasurer)
Helen Craig	(left the board in June 2021)
Alistair Cruickshank	(Chair to 29 September 2022)
Hazel Gurr	
Tony Pattison	(Chair from 29 September 2022)
Maureen Peglar	
Liz Udall	(Deputy Chair)

Company Secretary/Chief Executive:
Trevor Lancefield

Auditor:
Myrus Smith, Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4BW

Bankers:
Unity Trust Bank Plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also directors of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 that period. 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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.

AUDITORS
A resolution to reappoint the auditors, Myrus Smith, and authorise the Trustees to fix their remuneration will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

EXEMPTION STATEMENT
The Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and signed on behalf of the trustees.





…….. ……..
Alistair Cruickshank Jim Bush
Trustee (Treasurer)

29 January 2023.

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2022 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, 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 March 2022, 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' report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees' 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.

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 the 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' exemptions 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 11, 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

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: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. 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.



Stephen Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

29 January 2023

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	Total Unrestricted funds £	Total Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2022 £	Total Funds 2021 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	12,136	33,174	45,310	18,434
Charitable activities	3	1,522	39,507	41,029	45,137
Investments	4	227	-	227	218
Other income	5	14,310	-	14,310	-
Total		28,195	72,681	100,876	63,789
Expenditure					
Raising funds	6	427	-	427	1,286
Charitable activities	7	30,012	39,104	69,116	80,175
Total		30,439	39,104	69,543	81,461
Net income/(expenditure)	11	(2,244)	33,577	31,333	(17,672)
Transfers between funds	20	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(2,244)	33,577	31,333	(17,672)
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward	20	388,954	57,218	446,172	463,844
Fund balances carried forward	20	£386,710	£90,795	£477,505	£446,172

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2022

	Notes	2022		2021	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	14		736,114		713,235
Investments	15		1		1
			736,115		713,236
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	16	69,656		70,690	
Cash at bank and in hand		208,874		149,985	
		278,530		220,675	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	17	518,264		13,576	
NET CURRENT (LIABILITIES)/ ASSETS			(239,734)		207,099
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			496,381		920,335
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	18		18,876		474,163
NET ASSETS	19		£477,505		£446,172
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds - General funds	20	103,713		105,957	
Designated funds	20	282,997		282,997	
			386,710		388,954
Restricted funds	20		90,795		57,218
TOTAL FUNDS			£477,505		£446,172

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 29 January 2023 and signed on their behalf by

Alistair Cruickshank
Trustee

Jim Bush
(Trustee)

The notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information and basis of preparation
The Centre for Environmental Initiatives is a registered charity (no. 1087782) and private company limited by guarantee (no. 4137305) registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is given in the reference and administrative information on page 11.

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 have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention.

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.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Contract income is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through the performance of its services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are those funds which are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life. Depreciation is provided on plant and machinery on a straight line basis at 20% per annum.
Assets costing less than £350 are not capitalised.

The assets under construction additions represent costs incurred in the course of development and construction of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey and so no depreciation is required to be charged at this stage.

Assets under construction includes its purchase price, including legal fees, design and other direct costs attributable to the development including borrowing costs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES…/Cont'd

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate.

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

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Government Grants
Grants received under Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is accounted for on the performance model.

Investments
Investments in subsidiaries are measured at cost less impairment.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Grants and donations	£12,136	£33,174	£45,310	£18,434

Of the £18,434 recognised in 2021, £8,858 was unrestricted funds and £9,576 was restricted funds.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Grants and contracts	£1,522	£39,507	£41,029	£45,137

Of the £45,137 recognised in 2021, £28,827 related to the Job Retention Scheme, where £11,060 was allocated to unrestricted funds and £17,767 was allocated to restricted funds. Of the remaining £16,310 recognised in 2021, £160 related to unrestricted funds and £16,150 related to restricted funds.

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Bank interest	£227	£Nil	£227	£218

All of the £218 recognised in 2021 related to unrestricted funds.

5. OTHER INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Rental income	£14,310	£Nil	£14,310	£Nil

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

6. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2022	Total 2021
Fundraising activities	£Nil	£427	£427	£1,286

All costs for raising funds were unrestricted for the current and prior years.

7. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Transport and Travel	23,384	7,358	30,742	24,938
Growing and Greening	12,457	6,164	18,621	19,340
Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability	9,455	10,298	19,753	35,897
	£45,296	£23,820	£69,116	£80,175

Of the £69,116 expenditure recognised in 2022 (2021: £80,175), £30,012 (2021 : £34,530) was charged to unrestricted funds and £39,104 (2021 : £45,645) was charged to restricted funds.

8. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages, social security and other staff related costs	-	30,789	30,789	47,638
Project costs	-	11,062	11,062	2,401
Volunteer expenses	-	148	148	27
Printing, design and exhibitions	-	-	-	125
Training	-	260	260	44
Equipment and material purchases	-	3,037	3,037	3,866
	£Nil	£45,296	£45,296	£54,101

9. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities (inc.Governance) £	Total 2022 £	Total 2021 £
Wages and salaries	400	-	400	1,216
Provision of premises	-	14,836	14,836	13,347
Office administration	27	3,206	3,233	4,409
Insurance, professional and bank costs	-	2,183	2,183	4,393
Governance (Note 10)	-	3,595	3,595	3,995
	£427	£23,820	£24,247	£27,360

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

10. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	400	1,216
Auditor's remuneration	1,824	1,860
Provision of premises	1,344	849
Office administration	27	70
	£3,595	£3,995

11. NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME

Net (expenditure)/income for the year is stated after charging:	2022	2021
Auditor's remuneration - Audit Services	£1,824	£1,860
- Non-audit services	£984	£966

12. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2021: £Nil). No expenses were reimbursed to any trustees during the year (2021 : £Nil).

13. STAFF COSTS

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries	30,640	46,675
Social security costs	-	1,940
Pension costs	755	1,455
	£31,395	£50,070

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 in either year.

The average number of employees, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by function was:

	2022 Number	2021 Number
Direct charitable activities	3	3
Management and administration	1	1
	4	4

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £25,785 (2021 : £53,658). Under FRS 102, employee benefits include gross salaries, employer's national insurance, employer's pension costs and benefits in kind.

	2022	2021
Average number of employees	9	14

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

14. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Assets under Construction £	Plant and Machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2021	713,235	80,597	793,832
Additions	22,879	-	22,879
At 31 March 2022	736,114	80,597	816,711
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2021 and at 31 March 2022	-	80,597	80,597
Net book value			
At 31 March 2022	£736,114	£Nil	£736,114
At 31 March 2021	£713,235	£Nil	£713,235

The leasehold additions represents costs incurred in the course of development and construction of part of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey.

15. Investments

Cost	
As at 31 March 2021 and 31 March 2022	£1

Subsidiary Undertaking

The company's investment in its subsidiary company represents the cost of acquisition of the whole of the ordinary share capital of EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd which was set up to participate in the development of a property. The aggregate capital and reserves at 31 March 2022 was £347,231 (2021 : £(20,614). The company reported a profit for the year of £367,845 (2021 : loss of £11,949) and has subsequently made a distribution under Gift Aid rules to the charity.

16. DEBTORS

	2022 £	2021 £
Other debtors	446	6,636
Amounts owed from group undertaking	69,210	64,054
	£69,656	£70,690

17. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2022 £	2021 £
Other creditors and accruals	13,594	13,576
Bounce back loan	3,775	-
Bank loan	500,895	-
	£518,264	£13,576

The bank loan from The Charity Bank Ltd is secured on the company's leasehold property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey. The loan bears interest at a rate of 4% above the base rate of the Bank of England and the final repayment was made in July 2022.

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NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

18. CREDITORS – Amounts falling due after more than one year

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2022 £	2021 £
Bounce back loan	18,876	-
Bank loan	-	474,163
	£18,876	£474,163

A Bounce Back loan of £22,651 was received during the year in connection with COVID disruptions. The loan is repayable over 6 years with no repayment during the first 12 months. The loan is guaranteed by the UK Government. Interest rate is 2.5% per annum fixed for the duration of the loan with first 12 months, the UK Government will pay the interest due to Bank.

19. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2022	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2022 £
Fixed assets	736,115	-	736,115
Current assets	187,735	90,795	278,530
Current liabilities	(518,264)	-	(518,264)
Long-term liabilities	(18,876)	-	(18,876)
As at 31 March 2022	£386,710	£90,795	£477,505

Comparative information for the analysis of net assets between funds in the previous year is as follows:

2021	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Fixed assets	713,236	-	713,236
Current assets	163,457	57,218	220,675
Current liabilities	(13,576)	-	(13,576)
Long-term liabilities	(474,163)	-	(474,163)
As at 31 March 2021	£388,954	£57,218	£446,172

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

2022	At 1 April 2021 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2022 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	-	-	1,604
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	-	839
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	11,961	32,852	21,739	-	23,074
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Local Food	12,904	7,127	9,449	-	10,582
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Walled Garden	936	191	168	-	959
Food Growing Training	-	1,728	-	-	1,728
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Community Hall (Awards for All)	-	8,642	366	-	8,276
Eco-Wellbeing	-	22,141	-	-	22,141
Schools	940	-	-	-	940
Environmental Fair	18,231	-	2,807	-	15,424
Frost Fair	3,835	-	245	-	3,590
COVID fund	4,330	-	4,330	-	-
Total Restricted Funds	**57,218**	**72,681**	**39,104**	**-**	**90,795**
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	105,957	28,195	30,439	-	103,713
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition and Development Fund	260,581	-	-	-	260,581
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Unrestricted Funds	**388,954**	**28,195**	**30,439**	**-**	**386,710**
Total Funds	**£446,172**	**£100,876**	**£69,543**	**£Nil**	**£477,505**

Details of the restricted funds and designated funds can be found within the Trustees' Report.

20. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS…/Cont'd

Comparative information for the movement in funds in the previous year is as follows

2021	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	-	-	1,604
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	-	839
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	16,590	9,951	14,580	-	11,961
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Local Food	7,382	14,880	8,981	(377)	12,904
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Walled Garden	-	559	-	377	936
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Schools	940	-	-	-	940
Environmental Fair	25,420	8,103	15,292	-	18,231
Frost Fair	4,957	-	1,122	-	3,835
COVID fund	-	10,000	5,670	-	4,330
Total Restricted Funds	**59,370**	**43,493**	**45,645**	**-**	**57,218**
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	121,477	20,296	35,816	-	105,957
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition and Development Fund	260,581	-	-	-	260,581
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Unrestricted Funds	**404,474**	**20,296**	**35,816**	**-**	**388,954**
Total Funds	**£463,844**	**£63,789**	**£81,461**	**£Nil**	**£446,172**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2022

21. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

Related Party	Relationship	Details	Amount	Balance
2022				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£69,210	£69,210
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£2,000	£Nil

Comparative information for related party transactions in the previous year is as follows:

2021				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£64,054	£64,054
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£2,136	£Nil

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIROMENTAL INITIATIVES

England & Wales - Charity number 1087782

Accounts

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

ANNUAL REPORT

1 April 2020 – 31 March 2021

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THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity
TRUSTEES' REPORT AND ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

The Board of Trustees presents its report and audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2021.

Objectives, Activities, Achievement and Performance

EcoLocal is a Carshalton based charity which has a strong track record on building community and individual assets since its original establishment in 1987. Our vision is to 'Achieve and sustain strong vibrant communities within a healthy environment'.

The objects of the Charity (the "Objects") are for the public benefit:-

i. To promote sustainable development for the benefit of the public by:
   a. the preservation, conservation and the protection of the environment and the prudent use of resources; and
   b. the promotion of sustainable means of achieving economic growth and regeneration.

ii. To advance the education of the public particularly but not exclusively in subjects relating to sustainable development and the protection, enhancement and rehabilitation of the environment and to promote study and research in such subjects provided that the useful results of such study are disseminated to the public at large. Sustainable development means "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

iii. To promote for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment, particularly but not exclusively by promoting biological diversity.

iv. To promote health, particularly but not exclusively by providing environmental and conservation orientated activities in the outdoors and natural environments.

v. To promote for the benefit of the public urban or rural regeneration in areas of social and economic deprivation (and in particular the London Borough of Sutton) by all or any of the following means:
   a. the advancement of education, training or retraining, particularly among unemployed, underemployed and underskilled people, and providing such people with work experience;
   b. the provision of financial (whether direct or indirect) assistance, technical assistance or business advice or consultancy in order to provide training and employment opportunities for unemployed, underemployed or underskilled people in cases of financial or other charitable need through help: (i) in setting up their own social enterprise or sustainability related business, or (ii) to existing social enterprises or sustainability related businesses;
   c. the creation of training and employment opportunities by the provision of workspace, buildings, and/or land for use on favourable terms; and
   d. the preservation of buildings or sites of historic or architectural importance or of significance for the heritage of the area.

vi. To develop the capacity and skills of the members of the socially and economically disadvantaged community of the London Borough of Sutton in such a way that they are better able to identify, and help meet, their needs and to participate more fully in society.

vii. To further or benefit the residents of the London Borough of Sutton, without distinction of sex, sexual orientation, race or of political, religious or other opinions by associating together the said residents and the local authorities, voluntary and other organisations in a common effort to advance education and to provide facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation and leisure time occupation with the objective of improving the conditions of life for the residents.

viii. In furtherance of these objects but not otherwise, the trustees shall have power to establish or secure the establishment of a community centre and to maintain or manage or co-operate with any statutory authority in the maintenance and management of such a centre for activities promoted by the charity in furtherance of the above objects.

The remit of our organisation is very broad, encompassing all aspects of sustainability; environment, community and economy. We work with very diverse sectors of the community; e.g. voluntary groups, small businesses, people with mental or physical health problems, older people, children, young people, offenders, people with disabilities as well as families and people not defined by any health issue or disability and reflecting local ethnic diversity.

We are a part of the community and we believe that the combined resources of local people are potentially huge. In a typical year we work with over 350 groups/organisations and engage with approximately 20,000 individuals. We usually enable over 200 people to volunteer in a year and contribute over 14,000 hours towards a sustainable community. Participation ranges from one off volunteering of for example 2 hours as a steward at the Carshalton Environmental Fair to several days per week. We provide an environment where people can instigate their own projects, get involved in planning and delivering activities and use their experience, knowledge, skills capacity and passion. Clearly this past year has had its challenges with the advent of the Covid-19 pandemic. This has affected some of our activities negatively and others, to an extent, positively.

In accordance with our 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' and the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, the following Trustees' review provides a summary of achievements and the key outcomes of our work over the last 12 months. EcoLocal delivers its objects through a range of activities, subdivided under the following main headings:

1. Transport and Travel

1.1 Inclusive Cycling:

These activities are designed to:

- engage the whole community and help make cycling accessible to new audiences
- encourage people of all abilities to take cycling up both for fun and fitness
- promote cycling as an alternative means of transport
- provide healthy outdoor activities that enable people to socialise, contribute to community life and avoid isolation
- encourage the involvement of volunteers and trackside supporters (peer supporters) at sessions in a variety of roles, providing work experience for unemployed people, and enabling people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills.

During the year these activities were funded as follows:

- Gear-Up: donations from users
- Small grants from trusts and Sutton Council Covid Restart funds
- (normally also from delivery of cycle roadshows via the social enterprise Ecolocal Services Limited in non-pandemic years)

This funding enabled us to:

- Redesign the activity to be delivered in a covid-safe manner and restart sessions when covid caused attendance to be low
- maintain our established and inclusive cycling hub at the David Weir Leisure Centre in the London Borough of Sutton
- deliver 19 inclusive cycling sessions at David Weir Leisure Centre (normally over 120 pre-covid), with 205 unique attendees (normally over 1,000 pre-covid). These are mostly people with disabilities and older people and their relatives/friends who were able to cycle in a safe, supportive environment, generating 725 individual attendances (normally over 6,000 pre-covid). Due to covid we did not run our usual inclusive family cycling sessions in the school holidays.
- Due to covid we did not run our usual cycle roadshows (usually 5 – 10 roadshows to over 500 people pre-covid).
- maintain our fleet of over 60 accessible cycles and support our Projects & Maintenance group which comprises of technical / mechanically experienced volunteers working with unemployed and economically disadvantaged people
- Previous surveys (results combined with Community Food Growing activity) show that 87% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at sessions as 'good' or 'very good'. 93% said they benefited from getting more exercise at the sessions. 80% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions. 98% thought the staff were 'good' or 'very good'. 100% thought the activity overall was good or very good.

In the next year we will:

- Seek further funding to support the re-establishment of the project and meet the needs of those most impacted by covid
- Engage more track side supporter volunteers, especially to help with new covid hygiene systems

- Seek to work with other audiences not yet reached, especially those disadvantaged people whose physical and mental health has been most impacted by covid
- Develop social enterprise opportunities including the delivery of road shows as covid allows
- Maintain our fleet of accessible cycles
- Promote our website at www.ecolocalcycling.org.uk
- Continue to review and revise operating procedures in light of the Covid-19 epidemic

1.2 BikeStreet Project
The funds are set aside from previous funded activity working with young people on cycle renovation and maintenance. We will look for opportunities to use these funds to improve engagement of younger people in our Projects and Maintenance group activities, where those activities relate to cycle maintenance.

1.3 Interactive School Travel Experience
These interactive exhibits are suited for use in a more permanent location and we hope to be able to renovate the equipment and offer educational sessions from our new premises in future. No activity has taken place with this equipment during the year.

2. Local Food / wildlife and nature conservation

2.1 Community Food Growing & Gardening
These activities are designed to:
- provide healthy outdoor activities that benefit people's mental and physical wellbeing; enable people to socialise, contribute to community life, avoid isolation and obtain exercise
- enable the involvement of volunteers
- provide work experience for unemployed people, and enable people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds to gain skills
- make organic food growing accessible and easy to understand and encourage people of all abilities to take part
- promote local food production as a benefit to environmental sustainability
- promote food growing as a means of leading a more healthy lifestyle
- enable participants to take home free, fresh produce that they have helped grow

During the year these activities were funded as follows:
- £3449 Postcode Neighbourhood Trust (Dec 2020- Nov 2021)
- £4000 D'Oyle Cart (Dec 2020- Nov 2021)
- £400 Kingston Burrows
- £500 Ethical Investors (Walled garden)
- donations from sale of plants at markets
- assistance from Sutton Council's Covid Restart fund

This funding enabled us to:
- maintain our established Community Allotment in Carshalton. The site is approximately 1400m^2 and is fully cultivated. The site includes raised beds accessible for both standing and wheelchair users, demonstration crop rotation, herb gardens – herb spirals and herb wheels, a fruit area, square foot garden, English and Kenyan key hole gardens, container garden, children's activity food growing beds, adult training beds, poly-tunnels, a tea hut, a classroom and a composting toilet
- deliver 98 therapeutic gardening sessions at Carshalton Community Allotment engaging 46 unique attendees (usually 117 pre-covid), generating 1,093 individual attendances (856 pre covid).
- During covid our usual drop-in therapeutic gardening sessions were suspended, but a small number of key volunteers continued to maintain the allotment site coming almost daily as part of their covid lockdown exercise contributing over 1,000 hours of volunteer outside of regular sessions. These key volunteers then supported a small number of other volunteers to take part in regular 'volunteer task sessions' in line with covid regulations. As a result of this new way of working the unique attendees was lower than usual but individual attendance figures were higher. The number of unique attendees is expected to increase in the following year as local special needs college groups re-join the project.
- In December we started additional Saturday volunteering sessions in addition to restarting our therapeutic gardening sessions.
- Much of the food grown during summer/autumn 2020 was donated to Sutton Women's Centre food bank for women in crisis, the demand for which increased due to covid.

- Previous feedback (results combined with Inclusive Cycling activity) showed that 87% of service users rated the opportunity to meet other people at community allotment sessions as 'good' or 'very good'. 93% said they benefited from getting more exercise at the sessions. 80% said they valued the happiness and enjoyment they got from the sessions. 98% thought the staff were 'good' or 'very good'. 100% thought the activity overall was good or very good
- Most of our food growing training was suspended during covid (usually we provide five or more food growing training courses for adults). However we restarted our 6 week Organic Food Growing course in autumn 2020 which was redesigned to be covid safe
- Continued renovating the Walled Garden at The Lodge, delivering 18 garden renovation sessions (usually over 30 pre-covid), engaging 31 unique attendees (usually 60 pre-covid) for 527 volunteer hours (usually over 700 pre-covid)
- Sutton Food Forum not active during covid
- promote local food and self sufficiency

Next year we will
- deliver activities at Carshalton Community Allotment
- deliver food growing training as a social enterprise
- seek opportunities to apply for further funding to develop this work
- support volunteers to raise funds through sale of excess plants and produce from the allotment
- continue renovating the Walled Garden at the Lodge with a long term view to making it into a productive garden for the benefit of the community
- promote our activities at www.localfoodnetwork.org.uk
- continue to review and revise operating procedures in light of the Covid-19 epidemic

2.2 Greener Schools Network (GSN)
This project provides free support to schools in the London Borough of Sutton and the Borough of Epsom and Ewell. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic activities had to be suspended during the year.

The focus is normally on helping with school grounds development projects by providing design and advice on rejuvenating wildlife and / or sensory gardens, forest areas and quiet 'natural' areas. Advice is also provided on how to set up staff and pupil environmental groups, encouraging a team effort to sustain nature areas once they have been set up. Many leaflets are produced by us to give schools information on suitable plants for their gardens, useful contacts lists and ideas to attract wildlife.

The project is volunteer led by Trustee Hazel Gurr. Staff, pupils (often via School Councils) and parents are all encouraged to get involved. Over 139 schools (including Special Schools, Children's Centres and Nurseries) and 4 community groups have now been supported by this project across the 2 Boroughs over the past 21 years

Schools increasingly take a more holistic approach to sustainability issues and this project helps provide a focus where the school participates in the national Eco-schools Project. This all links well with other EcoLocal projects especially those on food growing, home and school energy conservation, etc. Many schools are now integrating maintenance of wildlife areas, energy saving and food production into the curriculum and Forest School projects have been started in some schools.

At the end of the year plans were underway with at least 2 schools to restart works to wildlife gardening areas. One school had used the time during the pandemic to take forward previous plans to rejuvenate their wildlife area, and we will be re-engaging with them on this project. The Covid-19 situation is likely to curtail some activity in the short term as schools adjust back into more normal operation. GSN will continue to provide support for local schools and other selected community organisations as needs arise.

3. Energy

3.1 Warm Rooms
Sutton Council did not request any Warm Rooms home surveys this year. We continue to hold a small level of funds for this project which will be reviewed again in the coming months.

3.2 Other
See para 6.5 for a summary of Home Energy Road Show and Mobile Solar Power activity.

4. *Recycling and Waste*
In all our activities we encourage reuse, repair and recycling and we promote this message wherever possible. No funded specific activity was funded against this heading during the year.

5. Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability

5.1 Environmental Fair
EcoLocal organises this event annually with help from over 60 volunteers who assist with planning and delivery. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the event had to be cancelled in 2020 and in 2021. Normally held in the picturesque surrounds of Carshalton Park, the event is one of the borough's largest public events and usually hosts in excess of 163 organisations. Around half of these are community and voluntary sector organisations attending to communicate a variety of messages and engage people in:

- environmental education and awareness raising
- social enterprise and skills development
- community wellbeing activities
- opportunities to take part in shaping their local communities throughout the year.

A significant number of small local craft and environmentally sustainable businesses also usually attend. Local bands and entertainers performed on three stages. We provide a free bus service to and from the event. Our social value analysis concludes that the event provides a significant outlet for many of the organisations and groups attending, both in terms of advertising activities and local opportunities and also in terms of fundraising.

In normal times visitors are from a cross section of the local population ranging from people with high levels of knowledge of environmental sustainability to those who have lower levels of understanding. Our survey work indicates that the most typical visitors are people who are not averse to taking an interest in the environment and who, when information is made available to them, respond positively to it. 91% of those previously surveyed at the fair said that they would take, or would consider taking, further actions to do their bit for the environment as a result of attending the fair.

The decision not to run the event in 2021 due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic was taken in order to protect event reserve funds to ensure that the event can run again in future years.

5.2 Frost Fair
This annual event is run in partnership with Friends of Honeywood Museum who are responsible for activities inside the museum and EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL). EcoLocal organises the outdoor elements of the event with help from over 50 volunteers. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the event had to be cancelled in 2020.

Normally held in the picturesque setting surrounding Carshalton Ponds the event is usually well attended by the local public. It usually features entertainers, choirs and musicians and 39+ organisations of which at least 6 are community and voluntary sector and the rest are local farmers stalls and crafts people. The event helps promote:

- energy conservation
- social enterprise and skills development
- opportunities to take part in local groups and promote the local environment and related activities
- our latest plans and progress with the Lodge project (see 'Plans for Future Periods' below)

We await a decision on the practicability of running the event in 2021 due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a need to protect reserve funds to ensure that the event can run again in future years, so it is likely that the event will not take place in 2021 unless Trustees can be very secure that the event will not be affected by the pandemic.

5.3 AQA (Assessment and Qualifications Alliance) Accredited Training
During the year we were unable to delivered AQA units due to the ongoing situation with the Covid-19 pandemic. We will continue to act as an AQA Accredited Training Centre next year and develop the range of training offered, as needs are identified, and particularly as our new premises becomes available. Toward the end of the financial year plans were put in place to deliver socially distanced training using a mix of outdoor on-site practical sessions and on-line sessions.

6. EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL)
EcoLocal Services Ltd is a social enterprise which works closely in conjunction with the EcoLocal charity to deliver activities which require a more commercial approach. Staff PAYE for ESL is handled by the charity (staff working for ESL are sometimes also employed by the charity).

The work done by ESL has a symbiotic relationship to the charity in that it builds on work in conjunction with the charity and provides additional income to the charity by way of gift aid. As such, profits from all ESL activity held as at the end of March 2021 will be gift aided to the charity toward various activities – see details below. A summary of ESL activity is included here for information purposes:

6.1 Markets
Wallington Farmers' Market:
- ran 12 markets and continued to develop the market offer by recruiting new stalls
- ensured publicity for the market to include social media and poster campaigns
- supported local community groups by offering free stalls
- provided opportunities for the EcoLocal charity to promote its activities and raise funds

6.2 EcoLocal Cycling Services
ESL delivered no cycle road shows due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

6.3 EcoLocal Deliveries
ESL carried out bicycle deliveries for a range of organisations including Sutton Council, printers & voluntary sector organisations.

6.4 Environmental Fair and Frost Fair
Stall-holder fees for these events are charged by ESL. However both events were cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic. See www.envfair.org.uk and www.carshaltonfrostfair.org.uk

6.5 Home Energy Road Show and Mobile Solar Power
ESL normally provides Home Energy Saving talks, the Home Energy Road Show and provision of the Mobile Solar Power Station at community events in the London Borough of Sutton. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic no events were possible.

7. Social Media
We maintained our social media profile and encouraged people to join our free e-mail listing. Our aggregated contacts across all social media platforms including email sits at over 12,000 people. This focus has significantly improved our ability to communicate with the public.

Finance Review

Unrestricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £388,954 compared with £404,474 the previous year. Restricted funds carried forward at the end of the year were £57,218 compared with £59,370 the previous year.

We received grants and donations of £18,434 during the year. Through our charitable activities we raised a further £45,137. An additional £218 was generated from bank account interest. Total income for the year was £63,789 compared to £83,819 the previous year.

Total expenditure was £81,461 compared to £125,249 the previous year. We had received a further bank loan of £25,972 and loan interest of £32,196 paid toward our premises development project and the balance at the end of the year is £474,163 (2020: £415,995). In relation to the premises development project the charity was owed £64,054 from group undertakings at the year end.

Net assets carried forward on the balance sheet at the year end were £446,172 compared with £463,844 the previous year.

The charity successfully managed all funded projects in accord with agreements made with funders.

Overhead costs have been met via a mix of grant contributions, contracts, general and gift aid donations.

The soundness of the charity's financial management is ensured by the diligence of its Trustees, staff and volunteers. EcoLocal's principal funding sources were:

- Donations
- EcoLocal Services Ltd social enterprise donations by way of gift aid generated from a variety of local services including the Environmental Fair, Frost Fair, Markets and other activities.
- Grants

Reserves Policy

EcoLocal holds general fund reserves for the following:

- To provide for fluctuations in income.
- To provide for ongoing commitments. The charity has commitments in the form of a lease on premises occupied at The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton and also by way of salary and associated payments for staff. Notice would need to be given and costs incurred if we were obliged to cancel these.
- To fund projects. The charity, from time to time, uses reserves (a) to start projects or pilot schemes whilst awaiting the outcome of funding applications, which may not always be successful, and (b) to provide cash-flow in the case of projects and contracts which are funded in arrears. Additionally restricted fund reserves are held, being the unexpended balances of trust fund and other grants received for specific purposes.

The Board of Trustees has examined the charity's requirements for reserves in light of the main risks to the organisation. It has established a policy whereby the unrestricted funds not committed or invested in tangible fixed assets held by the charity should be 3 - 6 months of the overall unrestricted revenue expenditure. The unrestricted general funds at the year end were £105,957.

Pensions

Pensions were provided in accord with our pensions policy (which is based on government policy). Four members of staff continued to take up this option with no new additions. Provision has been made in next year's budget to cover pension costs, as required.

Investment Policy

Aside from retaining a prudent amount in reserves each year, most of the charity's funds are set aside to underwrite shortfalls in core costs and to invest in new premises. Having considered the options available the Board of Trustees have previously decided to maintain deposit and reserve accounts with established building societies or banks.

2021-2022 Budget

The charity's budget for the coming 2021/22 financial year anticipates significant additional expenditure on the Lodge project as well as covering the cost of existing staff and other overheads. We have included provision for premises costs associated with the new site and for income generation activities once the current building works phase is complete. Savings will need to be made against staff costs in the coming year, partly due to the effect on income resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic and partly due to delays to the completion of our premises project. This will require a potential reduction in core staffing hours and redundancy funds have been set aside to cover any such decision.

Plans for Future Periods

We will continue development work on our new premises, The Lodge, secured on a 125 year lease in January 2018. Works will continue to be undertaken and include the creation of community and charity facilities.

As a part of the project, 7 flats are being created for sale via our wholly owned subsidiary company Ecolocal Lodge Development Limited (ELD). Two further flats are being developed by the charity and will be retained to provide investment income. The business plan for the project was developed with a view to being self-financing for the long term. The development is being financed with a loan from the Charity Bank. Once the development is complete and the 7 long lease flats are sold, we are confident that the costs of the development will have been recovered. The charity will benefit from the project by having secure accommodation and greater scope to expand its activities and related social enterprise services as well as provide improved facilities for the local community.

EcoLocal engaged architects, surveyors, solicitors, valuers and accountants to advise on the development. Trustees continue to carefully address the complex issues involved, and are satisfied that the benefits to the charity in achieving its objectives are very significant. The charity has experienced issues with delays in completion of contracted building works. The Trustees took the decision to claim against performance bonds included as part of the Joint Contracts Tribunal (JCT) contracts for the works. The Trustees are satisfied that works required to complete the project can now be completed and the charity can move forward as planned in the coming year.

Structure, Governance and Management

Governing Document

The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (CEI), now known as EcoLocal, is a company limited by guarantee (incorporated January 2001), and registered as a charity (registered July 2001). Following a strategic review, which included a detailed communications exercise with current beneficiaries of the Charity and the wider local community, the Charity modernised its governance arrangements by adopting new Articles of Association and expanded its charitable activities in June 2015. The new Memorandum and Articles of Association reflect more recent law since the inception of the Charities Act 2006 - now consolidated into the Charities Act 2011. The charity took legal advice and obtained the agreement of the Charity Commission in making these changes.

In the event of the CEI charitable company being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Organisational Structure

EcoLocal's Board of Trustees comprises between 3 and 10 members who normally meet quarterly and are responsible for the strategic direction and policy of the charity. Currently the Board of Trustees has seven members from a variety of professional backgrounds relevant to the work of the charity. The Company Secretary/Chief Executive attends Board meetings but has no voting rights. Three sub-committees have been established: Business Planning Sub-Committee; Finance Sub-Committee; Personnel Sub-Committee. Maintenance and development of these committees is ongoing. The Chief Executive is responsible for maintaining and developing the charity's strategic planning, in conjunction with the Board of Trustees and the Business Planning Sub-Committee.

Day to day operational responsibility for the provision of services rests with the Chief Executive whose duties include:

- ensuring the charity delivers the services specified and that key performance indicators are met
- day to day operational management of the EcoLocal building, ICT and resources
- individual supervision and development of staff in line with good practice
- ensuring financial and budgetary control is maintained, both in the overall running of the charity and within individual projects, in conjunction with the Finance Sub-Committee
- fundraising activities, in conjunction with the Business Planning Sub-Committee
- overseeing PR work
- acting as Company Secretary

The Deputy Chief Executive has day to day operational responsibility for individual projects, fundraising activities and business development and contributes to strategic planning and PR work.

Ensuring Work Delivers the Charity's Aim

EcoLocal's 'Project Suitability Evaluation Process Regarding Charitable Status Policy' provides guidance on assessment of potential projects and on review of existing projects to ensure that activities fall within the remit of our broader charitable objectives and that these are of benefit to the community. We have also referred to the guidance contained in the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit when reviewing our aim and objectives and in planning future activities. In this way, the trustees consider how planned activities will contribute to the aims and objectives they set.

Recruitment and Appointment of The Board of Trustees

The business of the Charity is managed by the Board of Trustees. The Board consists of not fewer than three and no more than 10 Trustees who are appointed by the Board. All Trustees automatically become members of the Charity and their names are entered into the Charity's register of members.

Trustees are eligible for re-appointment at the third AGM (or Appointment Board Meeting) after their last appointment. A member stops being a member of the Charity if he or she ceases to be a Trustee.

All appointments, retirements or removals of Trustees and the Company Secretary must also be notified to the Registrar of Companies at Companies House.

In the event of particular skills being lost from the Board of Trustees due to retirements, replacement Trustees are sought from the charity's local networks. The Board maintains a broad mix of skills and experience in relation to the diversity of work carried out by the charity as well as to reflect the demography of the communities and organisations served.

Traditional business skills such as finance, staff management and strategic management are represented on the Board of Trustees as well as environmental sustainability knowledge, teaching, social work, journalistic, scientific, youth work, and community representation skills. Currently the Board of Trustees has 8 members: 4 are male and 4 female; 3 describe themselves as having a disability. Trustees receive additional training where a need is identified.

Trustee Induction and Training

Candidates will normally be acquainted with one or more of the activities of EcoLocal. New Trustees are recruited for a specific set of duties or because they have skills which will complement those of existing Board of Trustees members. An initial interview is held with the Chief Executive and Chair of Trustees to discuss the candidate's potential role within the organisation. This is followed up with a further meeting with the Chief Executive to define precisely how their induction and training will proceed. New Trustees receive:

- a summary of the main duties and responsibilities of Board of Trustees members
- a copy of the Memorandum and Articles of Association (and related rules)
- copies of the last two years' audited Annual Report and Accounts
- additional publications from the Charity Commission
- copies of recent Board of Trustees minutes
- key operational documents including agreed policies and procedures

New Trustees are required to attend three introductory training sessions, so as to familiarise themselves with staff, volunteers, current projects; objectives and future plans generally. These meetings are usually held with the Chief Executive, but also involve the Chair of Trustees and other personnel as required. A training plan is agreed with the new trustee and incorporated into the overall training plan. An initial 'work plan' is agreed to establish main duties and routines. After three months, new trustees are invited to give feedback on their induction.

Risk Management

The Board of Trustees have considered the major risks facing the charity:

- Covering the cost of Core / Management Funding: a primary risk to the organisation is considered to be loss of funding for management capacity and premises costs. Trustees consider that this risk can be offset by:

  a) Diversifying and broadening the charity's funding base and ensuring that adequate levels of management capacity and accommodation costs are included in grant applications
  b) Developing a 'social enterprise' culture within the organisation so that relevant projects work toward self-funding / income generation in the medium term. An unconnected social enterprise, EcoLocal Services Ltd (ESL), which gift aids profits to the EcoLocal charity, has previously been established by a Trustee and two members of staff and this makes annual contributions
  c) Tendering for contracts issued by public authorities and ensuring that these tenders are written on a full cost recovery basis
  d) Ensuring that funding bodies are aware of the organisation's success in delivering required outcomes at good value for money

- Accommodation: we have invested in improved premises with a long term lease that will provide the scope to implement a business plan to enable the charity to be financially sustainable. Work on this project has included the establishment of a wholly owned trading subsidiary called EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd (ELD). More information on the premises project is summarised above.
- Recognition of our work: our 'working name' (EcoLocal) and branding is regularly used alongside a deliverable marketing plan. We use our new website, the mail-chimp email system, plus social network sites such as twitter and face book to help communicate the charity's activities efficiently
- Data Privacy: we have created new policies and procedures to ensure that we are compliant with GDPR legislation

Covid-19

In March 2020 the Covid-19 pandemic created serious additional risks for the charity. Our initial response was to:

- temporarily place all of our activities on hold. This had consequences for members of staff as the charity was unable initially to deliver any activities. 14 members of staff (all part time and sessional) were put on furlough leave for much of the year, in accordance with the government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme. All staff came out of furlough by the year end.
- change IT systems to enable home working for key staff not on furlough
- begin the process of assessing new safe working procedures for all our community activities as well as office functions, once the worst of the pandemic is over. This process has continued throughout the year and has covered a number of variable factors which have needed to be clarified for each activity and situation. We have also had to modify plans to fit government advice which was updated regularly

The Trustees will monitor how the pandemic develops in the coming year and especially the impact of vaccination and will take appropriate action as necessary to protect the interests of the charity.

The general conclusion on risk and Covid-19 is that the year ahead is likely to be tough but that the charity is in a position to continue to function adequately over the period. Trustees will need to be vigilant.

Reference and administrative information

Charity Name:	The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (known as EcoLocal)
Charity Number:	1087782
Company Number:	4137305
Registered and operational address:	The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 3NX.
Contact details:	
Telephone	020 8404 1522
E-mail	trevor@ecolocal.org.uk
Main Website	www.ecolocal.org.uk

Board of Trustees:

Tom Brake	
Jim Bush	(Treasurer)
Helen Craig	(left the board in June 2021)
Alistair Cruickshank	(Chair)
Hazel Gurr	
Tony Pattison	
Maureen Peglar	
Liz Udall	(Deputy Chair)

Company Secretary/Chief Executive:
Trevor Lancefield

Auditor:
Myrus Smith, Chartered Accountants, Norman House, 8 Burnell Road, Sutton, Surrey SM1 4BW

Bankers:
Unity Trust Bank Plc, Nine Brindleyplace, Birmingham, B1 2HB

Trustees' responsibilities statement

The trustees (who are also directors of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives for the purposes of company law) are responsible for preparing the Trustees' Annual 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. Under company law the trustees must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they 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 that period. 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 (FRS 102);
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- 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.

AUDITORS

A resolution to reappoint the auditors, Myrus Smith, and authorise the Trustees to fix their remuneration will be proposed at the annual general meeting.

EXEMPTION STATEMENT

The Trustees' Report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved and signed on behalf of the trustees.

Alistair Cruickshank
(Chair of Trustees)

Jim Bush
(Trustee)

Date: 23/12/21

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF:

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Centre for Environmental Initiatives (the 'charitable company') for the year ended 31 March 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, Balance Sheet, Statement of Cash Flows 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 March 2021, 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 report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The trustees are responsible for the other information contained within the trustees 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.

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 the 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' exemptions 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 11, 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 extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

- Enquiry of management and those charged with governance about actual and potential litigation or claims and the identification of non-compliance with laws and regulations.
- Reviewing minutes of meetings of those charged with governance.
- Reviewing financial statement disclosures and testing to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations.
- Auditing the risk of management override of controls, including testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness; assessing whether the judgements made in making accounting estimates are indicative of a potential bias; and evaluating the business rationale of any significant transactions that are unusual or outside the normal course of business.
- Performing analytical procedures to identify any unusual or unexpected relationships that may indicate risks of material misstatement due to fraud.
- Professional scepticism in course of the audit and with audit sampling in material audit areas.

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: www.frc.org.uk/auditorsresponsibilities. 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.

Stephen Jones FCA (Senior Statutory Auditor)
For and on behalf of Myrus Smith
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
Norman House, 8 Burnell Road
Sutton, Surrey
SM1 4BW

23.12.2021

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	Total Unrestricted funds £	Total Restricted funds £	Total Funds 2021 £	Total Funds 2020 £
Income					
Donations and legacies	2	8,858	9,576	18,434	68,960
Charitable activities	3	11,220	33,917	45,137	14,643
Investments	4	218	-	218	216
Total		20,296	43,493	63,789	83,819
Expenditure					
Raising funds	5	1,286	-	1,286	1,629
Charitable activities	6	34,530	45,645	80,175	123,620
Total		35,816	45,645	81,461	125,249
Net (expenditure)/income	10	(15,520)	(2,152)	(17,672)	(41,430)
Transfers between funds	19	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		(15,520)	(2,152)	(17,672)	(41,430)
Reconciliation of funds					
Fund balances brought forward	19	404,474	59,370	463,844	505,274
Fund balances carried forward	19	£388,954	£57,218	£446,172	£463,844

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing activities.

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year.

The notes form part of these financial statements.

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	Notes	2021		2020	
		£	£	£	£
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	13		713,235		637,166
Investments	14		1		1
			713,236		637,167
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	15	70,690		67,954	
Cash at bank and in hand		149,985		188,705	
		220,675		256,659	
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due within one year	16	13,576		13,987	
NET CURRENT ASSETS			207,099		242,672
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES			920,335		879,839
CREDITORS					
Amounts falling due after more than one year	17		474,163		415,995
NET ASSETS	18		£446,172		£463,844
FUNDS					
Unrestricted funds - General funds	19	105,957		121,477	
Designated funds	19	282,997		282,997	
			388,954		404,474
Restricted funds	19		57,218		59,370
TOTAL FUNDS			£446,172		£463,844

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions of part 15 of the Companies Act 2006 relating to small companies.

Approved by the Board of Trustees on 23/12/21 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Alistair Cruickshank
(Chair of Trustees)

Jim Bush
(Trustee)

The notes form part of these financial statements.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES

General information and basis of preparation
The Centre for Environmental Initiatives is a registered charity (no. 1087782) and private company limited by guarantee (no. 4137305) registered in England and Wales. In the event of the charity being wound up, the liability in respect of the guarantee is limited to £1 per member of the charity. The registered office is given in the reference and administrative information on page 11.

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 have been prepared on the going concern basis and under the historical cost convention.

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.

Income recognition
Items of income are recognised in the financial statements when all of the following criteria are met:
- The charity has entitlement to the funds;
- any performance conditions have been met or are fully within the control of the charity;
- there is sufficient certainty that receipt of the income is considered probable; and
- the amount can be measured reliably.

Contract income is recognised as the charity earns the right to consideration through the performance of its services.

Expenditure recognition
Expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to make payment to a third party, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount can be measured reliably. Expenditure is classified under the following activity headings:

- Costs of raising funds which comprise those costs associated with attracting general donations
- Expenditure on charitable activities which comprises the costs of running the various activities and services for the charity's beneficiaries.

Expenditure includes those costs of a direct nature which can be allocated to a specific activity. It also includes indirect costs, including governance costs that do not relate to a specific activity but are necessary to support them. Support costs are apportioned to each activity on the basis of staff time.

Fund accounting
Unrestricted general funds are those funds which are freely available for use in furtherance of the objects of the charity and which have not been designated for specific purposes.
Designated funds are unrestricted funds set aside by the trustees for particular purposes.
Restricted funds are funds which can only be used in accordance with specific restrictions imposed by the donor or which have been raised for a particular purpose.

Tangible fixed assets and depreciation
Depreciation is provided so as to write off the cost of each asset over its estimated useful life.
Depreciation is provided on plant and machinery on a straight line basis at 20% per annum.
Assets costing less than £350 are not capitalised.

The assets under construction additions represent costs incurred in the course of development and construction of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey and so no depreciation is required to be charged at this stage.

Assets under construction includes its purchase price, including legal fees, design and other direct costs attributable to the development including borrowing costs.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

1. ACCOUNTING POLICIES.../Cont'd

Leases
Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities on a straight line basis over the period of the lease.

Pensions
The Charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions are charged to the Statement of Financial Activities in the year to which they relate.

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

Loans and borrowings are initially recognised at transaction price including transaction costs. Subsequently, they are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest rate method.

Government Grants
Grants received under Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is accounted for on the accrual model.

2. DONATIONS AND LEGACIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Grants and donations	£8,858	£9,576	£18,434	£68,960

Of the £68,960 recognised in 2020, £6,080 was unrestricted funds and £62,880 was restricted funds.

3. INCOME FROM CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Grants and contracts	£11,220	£33,917	£45,137	£14,643

All of the £14,643 recognised in 2020 was restricted funds.

Of the £45,137 recognised in 2021, £28,827 related to the Job Retention Scheme, where £11,060 was allocated to unrestricted funds and £17,767 was allocated to restricted funds.

4. INVESTMENT INCOME

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Bank interest	£218	£Nil	£218	£216

All of the £216 recognised in 2020 related to unrestricted funds.

5. COST OF RAISING FUNDS

	Direct Costs	Support Costs	Total 2021	Total 2020
Fundraising activities	£Nil	£1,286	£1,286	£1,629

All costs for raising funds were unrestricted for the current and prior years.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

6. EXPENDITURE ON CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

	Direct Costs £	Support Costs £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Transport and Travel	19,762	5,176	24,938	37,670
Growing and Greening	14,824	4,516	19,340	25,585
Cross-cutting Environmental Sustainability	19,515	16,382	35,897	60,365
	£54,101	£26,074	£80,175	£123,620

Of the £80,175 expenditure recognised in 2021 (2020: £123,620), £34,530 (2020 : £54,235) was charged to unrestricted funds and £45,645 (2020 : £69,385) was charged to restricted funds.

7. ANALYSIS OF DIRECT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages, social security and other staff related costs	-	47,638	47,638	52,685
Project costs	-	2,401	2,401	25,978
Volunteer expenses	-	27	27	805
Printing, design and exhibitions	-	125	125	3,606
Training	-	44	44	190
Equipment and material purchases	-	3,866	3,866	1,324
	£Nil	£54,101	£54,101	£84,588

8. ANALYSIS OF SUPPORT COSTS

	Raising Funds £	Charitable Activities (inc.Governance) £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020 £
Wages and salaries	1,216	-	1,216	1,564
Provision of premises	-	13,347	13,347	21,113
Office administration	70	4,339	4,409	4,630
Insurance, professional and bank costs	-	4,393	4,393	8,046
Governance (Note 9)	-	3,995	3,995	5,308
	£1,286	£26,074	£27,360	£40,661

9. GOVERNANCE COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	1,216	1,564
Auditor's remuneration	1,860	2,142
Provision of premises	849	1,537
Office administration	70	65
	£3,995	£5,308

10. NET (EXPENDITURE)/INCOME

Net (expenditure)/income for the year is stated after charging:	2021	2020
Auditor's remuneration - Audit Services	£1,860	£2,142
- Non-audit services	£966	£456

11. TRUSTEES REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES

The trustees neither received nor waived any remuneration during the year (2020: £Nil). No expenses were reimbursed to any trustees during the year (2020 : £Nil).

12. STAFF COSTS

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries	46,675	52,374
Social security costs	1,940	1,889
Pension costs	1,455	1,550
	£50,070	£55,813

No employee received total employee benefits (excluding employer pension costs) of more than £60,000 in either year.

The average number of employees, calculated on a full-time equivalent basis, analysed by function was:

	2021 Number	2020 Number
Direct charitable activities	3	3
Management and administration	1	1
	4	4

The total amount of employee benefits received by key management personnel was £53,658 (2020 : £58,497). Under FRS 102, employee benefits include gross salaries, employer's national insurance, employer's pension costs and benefits in kind.

	2021	2020
Average number of employees	14	14

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

13. TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

	Assets under Construction £	Plant and Machinery £	Total £
Cost			
At 1 April 2020	637,166	80,597	717,763
Additions	76,069	-	76,069
At 31 March 2021	713,235	80,597	793,832
Depreciation			
At 1 April 2020 and at 31 March 2021	-	80,597	80,597
Net book value			
At 31 March 2021	£713,235	£Nil	£713,235
At 31 March 2020	£637,166	£Nil	£637,166

The leasehold additions represents costs incurred in the course of development and construction of part of the property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey.

14. Investments

Cost	
As at 31 March 2020 and 31 March 2021	£1

Subsidiary Undertaking

The company's investment in its subsidiary company represents the cost of acquisition of the whole of the ordinary share capital of EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd which was set up to participate in the development of a property. The aggregate capital and reserves at 31 March 2021 was £(20,614) (2020 : £(8,665)). The company reported a loss for the year of £11,949 (2020 : £3,333).

15. DEBTORS

	2021 £	2020 £
Other debtors	6,636	3,900
Amounts owed from group undertaking	64,054	64,054
	£70,690	£67,954

16. CREDITORS – amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
Other creditors and accruals	£13,576	£13,987

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

17. CREDITORS – Amounts falling due after more than one year

The following secured debts are included within creditors:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Bank loan	£474,163	£415,995

The bank loan from The Charity Bank Ltd is secured on the company's leasehold property known as The Lodge, Honeywood Walk, Carshalton, Surrey. The loan bears interest at a rate of 4% above the base rate of the Bank of England and the final repayment date is in end of 2022. The outstanding balance of the facility (including interest) will be paid by the final repayment date.

18. ANALYSIS OF NET ASSETS BETWEEN FUNDS

2021	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2021 £
Fixed assets	713,236	-	713,236
Current assets	163,457	57,218	220,675
Current liabilities	(13,576)	-	(13,576)
Long-term liabilities	(474,163)	-	(474,163)
As at 31 March 2021	£388,954	£57,218	£446,172

Comparative information for the analysis of net assets between funds in the previous year is as follows:

2020	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2020 £
Fixed assets	637,167	-	637,167
Current assets	197,289	59,370	256,659
Current liabilities	(13,987)	-	(13,987)
Long-term liabilities	(415,995)	-	(415,995)
As at 31 March 2020	£404,474	£59,370	£463,844

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

2021	At 1 April 2020 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2021 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	-	-	1,604
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	-	839
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	16,590	9,951	14,580	-	11,961
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Local Food	7,382	14,880	8,981	(377)	12,904
Greener Schools Network	27	-	-	-	27
Walled Garden	-	559	-	377	936
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Schools	940	-	-	-	940
Environmental Fair	25,420	8,103	15,292	-	18,231
Frost Fair	4,957	-	1,122	-	3,835
COVID fund	-	10,000	5,670	-	4,330
Total Restricted Funds	**59,370**	**43,493**	**45,645**	**-**	**57,218**
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	121,477	20,296	35,816	-	105,957
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition Fund	260,581	-	-	-	260,581
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Unrestricted Funds	**404,474**	**20,296**	**35,816**	**-**	**388,954**
Total Funds	**£463,844**	**£63,789**	**£81,461**	**£Nil**	**£446,172**

Details of the restricted funds can be found within the Trustees' Report.

The Building Acquisition Fund relates to a legacy left to the charity. The majority of these funds are designated toward the cost of an investment in more secure premises for the longer term.

The Reorganisation Fund reflects the potential redundancy costs which the charity could face if it were to close down.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

19. MOVEMENT IN FUNDS.../Cont'd

Comparative information for the movement in funds in the previous year is as follows

2020	At 1 April 2019 £	Income £	Expenditure £	Transfers £	At 31 March 2020 £
Restricted Funds:					
Travel:					
Interactive School Travel Experience (TfL via LBS)	1,604	-	-	-	1,604
Bikestreet Project	839	-	-	-	839
Inclusive Cycling / Gear-Up	14,883	23,107	21,400	-	16,590
Local Food/Wildlife and Nature Conservation:					
Local Food	6,437	10,259	9,314	-	7,382
Greener Schools Network	2	25	-	-	27
Energy:					
Warm Rooms/ LBS	1,611	-	-	-	1,611
Cross-cutting Environmental:					
Schools	940	-	-	-	940
Environmental Fair	23,956	36,190	34,726	-	25,420
Frost Fair	960	7,942	3,945	-	4,957
Total Restricted Funds	**51,232**	**77,523**	**69,385**	**-**	**59,370**
Unrestricted Funds:					
General Fund	171,045	6,296	55,864	-	121,477
Designated Funds:					
Building Acquisition Fund	260,581	-	-	-	260,581
Reorganisation Fund	22,416	-	-	-	22,416
Total Unrestricted Funds	**454,042**	**6,296**	**55,864**	**-**	**404,474**
Total Funds	**£505,274**	**£83,819**	**£125,249**	**£Nil**	**£463,844**

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

20. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTION

Related Party	Relationship	Details	Amount	Balance
2021				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£64,054	£64,054
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£2,136	£Nil

Comparative information for related party transactions in the previous year is as follows:

2020				
EcoLocal Lodge Development Ltd	Subsidiary undertaking	Interest free loan repayable on demand	£64,054	£64,054
EcoLocal Services Ltd	Directors/Trustees	Gift aid donations	£16,751	£Nil

THE CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES
Registered Charity Number 1087782, Company Number 4137305 (England and Wales)
EcoLocal is the working name of the charity

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES – UNRESTRICTED FUNDS INCLUDING INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	General Fund £	Reorganisation Fund £	Building Acquisition Fund £	Total Unrestricted Funds 2021 £
Income				
Donations and Legacies	8,858	-	-	8,858
Charitable activities	11,220	-	-	11,220
Investments	218	-	-	218
Total	20,296	-	-	20,296
Expenditure				
Raising funds	1,286	-	-	1,286
Charitable activities	34,530	-	-	34,530
Total	35,816	-	-	35,816
Net expenditure	(15,520)	-	-	(15,520)
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds	(15,520)	-	-	(15,520)
Reconciliation of funds				
Fund balances brought forward	121,477	22,416	260,581	404,474
Fund balances carried forward	**£105,957**	**£22,416**	**£260,581**	**£388,954**

This page does not form part of the Statutory Accounts.