



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From **05 September 2020** To **04 September 2021**

Charity name: **The Earth Community Trust**

Charity registration number: 1143660

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	1. TO PROMOTE THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE PHYSICAL AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO PERMACULTURE AND BIODYNAMICS PRINCIPLES, AND WITH A VIEW TO HELPING PEOPLE CONNECT WITH NATURE. 2. TO ADVANCE THE EDUCATION OF THE PUBLIC IN THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF HOLISTIC LIVING HOLISTIC LIVING MEANS "A WAY OF LIVING THAT RECOGNISES HUMAN BEINGS AS BEING PART OF A GREATER WHOLE"
Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit, in particular, the activities, projects or services identified in the accounts.	Para 1.17 and 1.19	Earth Protector Communities is an initiative that aims to bring the concept of Earth Protectors into local communities and encourages co-operation between councils, businesses, schools and members of the public.
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	The charity trustees have had regard to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
Summary of the main achievements of the charity,	Para 1.20	The work of Earth Protector Communities (EPCs) in the period of the report encompassed three distinct and interrelated areas. Neighbourhood, Town, National and wider.

identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

Neighbourhood

EPCs was the central driver in the creation of the Trinity Rooms Community Hub (TRCH), through which many partnerships have been developed and projects embarked upon. This partnership of local organisations (see <https://stroudtrinityrooms.org/>) is working on projects to benefit the local community, such as:

Local Food story: Cultivating a local network of Stroud town community hubs and

with the partnership of the Stroud farmers market making fresh local produce

available to those who can't afford it. The project has been very successful and presents a model of good practice for neighbouring and other towns.

The Base: Creating a Base for local environmental organisations facilitating information exchange and developing new partnerships and ways of working together.

Other Community Activities: Providing a space for connection, training, dance, celebration, grieving and other community activities. Developing an appropriate organisational structure to successfully run the TRCH.

A lot of work has gone into creating an independent vehicle that will ensure the hub is always used to serve the community as well as to raise funds for the renovation of the building so that it can house more activities such as cooking and food preparation workshops, health and wellbeing related services and more.

Town

Continuing the work initiated in 2019 as part of the Earth Protector Town pilot programme in Stroud, EPCs has been working in partnership with Stroud Town Council, Transition Stroud, Stroud Valleys Project, Stroud Nature and Landwise organisations to develop a core networking group - Stroud Town Community Action Network for Climate and Nature (STCAN).

Within this context we have been working to develop STCAN into a centre for promotion of local partnerships and projects and community engagement. So far this has led to the creation of issue specific task groups, inviting other organisations to cooperate on new and

		<p>existing projects to address the following areas:</p> <p>Nature & conservation: Protection of local ecosystems, education/awareness raising, Biodiversity</p> <p>Materials & waste: Repair, reuse, recycling, cyclical economy, waste swapping</p> <p>Energy & Transport: Solar panel schemes, training, cycle and other local distribution, car shares</p> <p>Local food: Grow your own support, seed bank, tool share, integrating local producers</p> <p>Communications: Public engagement and information sharing</p> <p>The project is ongoing and STCAN is evolving to find its place in the local scene of things.</p> <p>National/Wider</p> <p>EPCs has developed a theoretical model of an Earth Protector Town, stressing the need for a change in the legal environment to stop ongoing ecocide as well as the need for working together for regenerative community development.</p> <p>We are now working on a simplified EPT framework which can then be rolled out to other towns. Our experience with the pilot programme in Stroud, together with feedback from other towns that have made an EPT declaration and their experience is continually informing our work in this area.</p>
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Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	Our income was £53,052 and this was made up almost entirely of donations and GiftAid. The largest amount received from any one individual was £20,000.00. Most of our expenditure consisted of paying freelancers for services such as outreach, design and fundraising and made up £28,170 of a total £55,869.
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	We aim to hold a reserve of three times our average monthly expenditure.
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£13,056
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed , royal charter)	Para 1.25	Trust Deed
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association , CIO)	Para 1.25	Trust
Trustee selection methods including details of any constitutional provisions e.g. election to post or name of any person or body entitled to appoint one or more trustees	Para 1.25	Trustees are appointed by current trustees for a period of 3 years

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	The Earth Community Trust
Other name the charity uses	
Registered charity number	1143660
Charity's principal address	Trinity Rooms, Field Road, Stroud, GL5 2HZ

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Manley Hopkinson			
2	Patricia Dickinson			
3	Karen Stokes	chair		
4	Ian Lawrie QC			
5	Ella-Jo Mehta			
6	Andrew Middleton			
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Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others


Description of the assets held in this capacity	We held £1290 as agent for other organisations, namely £523 on behalf of Amazon Alliance, £60 for Stop Ecocide and £707 on behalf of Wider Horizons.
Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	All are involved with empowering individuals to take actions in creating a better future for our planet and natural environment.
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	The funds are accounted for as separate restricted funds and money due is paid out monthly or on request, avoiding the build up of any large amounts that could be at risk.

Declarations

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)

	
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Full name(s) Ella-Jo Mehta

Ella-Jo Mehta	
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Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)

Chair	
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Date

31/12/2021

Report to the trustees of The Earth Community Trust

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity for the year ended 4 September 2021 as set out in the following sections A and B.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act"). The charity's trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 of the Act and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act,
- to follow the procedures laid down in the general Directions given by the Charity Commission (under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with general Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that, in any material respect, the requirements:
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the Charities Acthave not been met; or
2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



Patrick Morrello ACA
Third Sector Accountancy Limited
Holyoake House
Hanover Street
Manchester
M60 0AS

Date: 15 / 08 / 2022

Receipts and payments accounts				
For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date	
	05/09/20		04/09/21	

Section A Receipts and payments


	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Donations	22,331	20,052	-	42,383	66,549
Gift Aid	7,607	394	-	8,001	-
other	848	1,820	-	2,668	438
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	30,786	22,266	-	53,052	66,987
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
Jojo Mehta loan	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	4,000	-	-	4,000	-
Total receipts	34,786	22,266	-	57,052	66,987
A3 Payments					
Advertising	451	-	-	451	112
Bank charges	92	76	-	168	279
Freelancers	24,103	4,068	-	28,171	30,097
Insurance	279	-	-	279	259
Office Expenses	71	1,235	-	1,306	96
Partner Funding	-	15,864	-	15,864	22,186
Professional services	1,138	-	-	1,138	1,026
Phone	140	130	-	270	878
Purchases	-	696	-	696	754
Rent	6,131	400	-	6,531	1,155
Travel	125	-	-	125	125
Utilities	-	-	-	-	258
Website & Software	870	-	-	870	2,105
Sub total	33,400	22,469	-	55,869	59,330
A4 Asset and investment purchases. (see table)					
overpayment (returned 18/09/21)	-	554	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	554	-	554	-
Total payments	33,400	23,023	-	56,423	59,330
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,386	- 757	-	629	7,657
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	11,671	4,907	-	16,578	8,921
Cash funds this year end	13,057	4,150	-	17,207	16,578

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Bank account	12,461	4,150	-
	CAF	71	-	-
	Paypal	525	-	-
	Total cash funds	13,057	4,150	-
	(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))			
B2 Other monetary assets	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
	overpayment (returned 18/09/21)	554	-	-

There were no other assets or liabilities at the year end.

Signed by one or two trustees on behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Ella-Jo Mehta	31/12/21