



Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From period start date: 01.07.20

To period end date: 30.06.21

Charity name: Eco Brixs UK

Charity registration number: 1184169

Objectives and Activities

	SORP reference	
Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document	Para 1.17	<p>The preservation and protection of the environment for the public benefit, mainly but not exclusively in the Masaka region of Uganda, by support to:</p> <p>(a) The promotion of waste reduction, re-use, reclamation, recycling and improved waste management techniques;</p> <p>(b) Educating the public about environmental conservation, waste reduction and waste disposal.</p>
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	<p>The UK Charity Eco Brixs UK focuses on marketing and fundraising activities for its partner organisation, a Ugandan NGO (which has the same name).</p> <p>The Ugandan NGO:</p> <p>The Ugandan entity, based in the district of Masaka in Uganda, uses the funds raised by the UK Charity to grow its recycling services and reduce pollution.</p> <p>The focus of the organisation is recycling plastic waste, as currently there are no waste management systems in Uganda, and it is estimated 600 tonnes of plastic is disposed of a day in Uganda.</p>

		<p>Furthermore, this waste is often burnt or buried in unsafe landfills, posing a risk to both the environment and the community.</p> <p>The NGO's model is based on purchasing plastic waste from the community, therefore creating job opportunities to also tackle poverty in Uganda. Once the plastic is purchased, the NGO recycles this plastic into new items of value (Eco-Products), which it can sell. This helps the NGO to generate revenue to ensure it can keep paying the community for their plastic waste.</p> <p>In addition to this, the NGO also focuses on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disability employment • Women Empowerment • Green education programmes for school pupils and youths <p>How the UK Charity works in partnership with the Ugandan NGO:</p> <p>The UK charity helps facilitate this work via fundraising, which helps the NGO to contribute to the preservation and protection of the Masaka environment, as well as promote and teach environmentally-friendly behaviours to the local people.</p> <p>In its second financial year, the UK Charity raised funds of £22,419 to support this work. Within the year, it donated £12,368 to the Uganda NGO.</p> <p>Funds were raised via:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant funding (£16,163) • Donations from members of the public (£3,676) • Donations from organisations (£1,088) • Gift Aid (£832) • Refund of freelance payments issued in error in Year 1 (£660) <p>Alongside the UK charity's direct financial contributions to the NGO, the UK charity also supports the Ugandan organisation in its own fundraising</p>
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		<p>efforts, specifically by marketing the NGOs work and achievements. This has helped the Ugandan NGO to fundraise a further £90,000 in donations, which have been made directly to that organisation.</p> <p>This ‘marketing support’ has been largely achieved by the UK charity maintaining and developing the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A website and blog • Several social media platforms, growing the number of followers on each: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facebook ○ Twitter ○ Instagram ○ YouTube ○ LinkedIn • A monthly online newsletter <p>Each method above has been used to promote the work of both organisations, stay in touch with supporters, and generate donations.</p> <p>In Year 2, the UK charity spent £220 of its expenditure on boosting social media posts to help promote the work of the NGO and grow Eco Brixs’ presence on social media.</p> <p>The UK charity also set up a new fundraising programme called ‘Plastic Action’ which gives Eco Brixs supporters the opportunity to offset their own plastic usage whilst supporting the charity’s recycling work in Uganda. This was launched in June 2021 in anticipation of ‘Plastic Free July’.</p>
Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit	Para 1.18	<p>The trustees of the charity read the guidance when being inducted into their roles, and also refer to it when making decisions for Eco Brixs UK.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

	SORP reference	
Policy on grant making	Para 1.38	<p>The UK Charity Eco Brixs UK does not offer grants, but makes donations to the NGO entity, allowing the Ugandan organisation to develop its plastic recycling services and education programmes.</p> <p>The UK board authorises any payments made to the Ugandan NGO. This will take place after an agreement has been made between the board and the CEO on how the funds will be spent.</p> <p>The CEO, who is based in Uganda, is accountable for how the donated funds are spent, and reports back to the UK Trustees via email and digital conference calls.</p> <p>This process is outlined in the UK charity's policy on monitoring expenditure abroad.</p>
Policy on social investment including program related investment	Para 1.38	N/A
Contribution made by volunteers	Para 1.38	None
Other		N/A

Achievements and Performance

	SORP reference	
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Summary of the main achievements of the charity, identifying the difference the charity's work has made to the circumstances of its beneficiaries and any wider benefits to society as a whole.

Para 1.20

£12,368 Donation to the NGO

The UK Charity Eco Brixs UK has generated an income of **£22,419** in its second financial year, and donated **£12,368** to the Ugandan NGO.

This donation is partly formed from **£7,033** raised through Eco Brix UK's emergency fundraising appeal in response to the **Coronavirus pandemic**, which took place between March and September in 2020 (£6,204 was fundraised in Year 1, then £829 in Year 2).

In addition to the £7,033 fundraised via public donations, the UK charity also donated £5,335 of its unrestricted funds to help support the Ugandan NGO, its beneficiaries and the Masaka community during the pandemic.

Specifically, this fundraising helped to:

- Feed over **4,000 vulnerable individuals** during lockdown through an emergency food relief programme
- Support **Masaka Referral Hospital**, the main hospital of the district, by providing:
 - PPE equipment
 - COVID-19 testing equipment
 - Washing & hygiene equipment
 - An isolation ward for COVID-19 patients
- Fund the Ugandan NGO's core costs (eg. staff wages) when the recycling network was required to close during the first lockdown in Uganda

Subsequently, when the Ugandan NGO recycling network was able to reopen, it was well placed to support the community in recovery following lockdown. For example, many jobs had been lost and therefore many individuals turned to collecting plastic (in exchange for cash) in order to fund essentials such as rent, food and child support.

		<p>This highlights the key difference both Eco Brixs organisations were able to make in supporting the Masaka community during the pandemic, both in terms of initial emergency response and long-term recovery.</p> <p>Grant with TMC/SBIR Secured</p> <p>The two Eco Brixs organisations, alongside the Dutch technology company TMC, successfully won a grant offered by SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research).</p> <p>This grant was awarded to create and implement groundbreaking machinery capable of turning plastic waste into two new Eco-Products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bricks - these can be used in construction as a substitute for concrete bricks and have several advantages over their counterparts, including being stronger and cheaper • Face masks - these masks are medically approved under European standards and can therefore support the under resourced Ugandan medical services <p>The revenue generated from the sale of both items will help build the sustainability of the Ugandan NGO. As a result, a portion of the grant is also reserved for marketing the items, alongside the R&D and construction of the machine lines which includes 3 Extruders and an electrospinner. These machines will be the first of their kind in Uganda.</p> <p>One installment was received in June 2021 for £16,163, with subsequent installments to follow. The whole grant was £150,000 which will be split across the two Eco Brixs organisations and TMC.</p> <p>Due to the long-term nature of the project, it is predicted the NGO will be able to begin producing these new items</p>
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in Spring 2022, in the second half of Year 3.

Further Financial Support for the Ugandan NGO

In addition to donations and grants, Eco Brixs UK has also supported the Ugandan NGO through the following expenditure:

£12,540 - Freelance Service Contacts

This expenditure has secured the services of 3 professional freelancers who work for Eco Brixs UK on a part-time basis. Collectively, their work supports the growth of both the UK and Ugandan entity by:

- Ensuring all charity funds are accounted for and spent as agreed with the UK Board of Trustees
- Raising funds eg. over £60,000 has been raised to date for the UK Charity, and £150,000 for the Ugandan NGO
- Building partnerships with charities, businesses and academic institutions to support Eco Brixs' mission. Eg. In year 2, partnerships were formed with the global charity Tearfund and the University of Cambridge
- Marketing Eco Brixs' work digitally
- Providing project management and financial skills

£367 - Marketing Support

£220 was spent boosting social media posts on Facebook and Instagram, promoting the recycling work of the NGO to new audiences. This helped increase Eco Brixs' social media following from a few hundred to over 3,000 followers.

£147 was also spent on launching 'Plastic Action' and setting up a [new website](#), which will generate further funds in Year 3 to further Eco Brixs' work.

Increased Impact

Through the support of the UK charity, the Ugandan NGO has been able to significantly grow its environmental, economic, and social impact over Year 2. This has helped Eco Brixs to protect the environment in Masaka, whilst helping many more beneficiaries.

Specifically over Year 2, the Ugandan NGO has been able to:

- Recycle a further **130 tonnes** of plastic waste
- Maintain **3,000 income opportunities** for vulnerable community members
- Educate **24,000 school pupils** across 26 schools on the 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle), resulting in increased environmental awareness and more recycling taking place at the schools

To date, this means the Ugandan NGO has been able to remove 380 tonnes of plastic waste from the environment of the Masaka district. Furthermore, the community has been given access to widespread plastic recycling services, which weren't available in the area prior to the establishment of Eco Brixs.

'Recirculating Plastic' documentary with Prince Charles's Sustainable Markets Initiative

In Spring 2021, Eco Brixs UK partnered with RE:TV and the Sustainable Markets Initiative (whose Editor-in-Chief is HRH Prince Charles) to produce a high quality video demonstrating the NGO's closed-loop system in action - recycling plastic and creating income opportunities for the local community.

The documentary highlights the importance of communities adopting circular economy models, especially in countries such as Uganda where there

		<p>are no waste management systems. It also features interviews with Eco Brixs CEO, staff, the Masaka community, and sustainability experts Dr Anna Barford and Dr Gabriel Okello.</p> <p>You can view the video here, which was published in Eco Brixs' newsletter and on its social media channels.</p>
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Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Achievements against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Performance of fundraising activities against objectives set	Para 1.41	
Investment performance against objectives	Para 1.41	
Other		

Financial Review

Review of the charity's financial position at the end of the period	Para 1.21	<p>Eco Brixs UK is in a positive financial position at the end of Year 2, with £22,419 fundraised and £17,234 held in the bank.</p> <p>Of this £17,234 bank balance, £16,146 is unrestricted.</p> <p>Based on this, the organisation has more funds than the minimum requirement of its reserves policy - an excess of £6,711.</p>
Statement explaining the policy for holding reserves stating why they are held	Para 1.22	<p>The reserves policy of the charity requires the organisation to hold a minimum balance of £9,435 in unrestricted funds, which is the equivalent of the charity's costs for a period of 6 months.</p> <p>This policy is to ensure the longevity of Eco Brixs UK, ensuring it can continue operations and the pursuit of its charitable objectives over the long-term.</p>
Amount of reserves held	Para 1.22	£16,146 of unrestricted funds was held at the end of Year 2.
Reasons for holding zero reserves	Para 1.22	N/A
Details of fund materially in deficit	Para 1.24	None
Explanation of any uncertainties about the charity continuing as a going concern	Para 1.23	None

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

The charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising)	Para 1.47	<p>The charity has generated an income of £22,419. The majority of income was generated through a grant from SBIR (Small Business Innovation Research) worth £16,163.</p> <p>£4,508 was donated from the public (including Gift Aid).</p>
Investment policy and objectives including any	Para 1.46	None

social investment policy adopted		
A description of the principal risks facing the charity	Para 1.46	N/A
Other		None

Structure, Governance and Management

Description of charity's trusts:		
Type of governing document (trust deed, royal charter)	Para 1.25	Constitution
How is the charity constituted? (e.g unincorporated association, CIO)	Para 1.25	Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
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	<p>New trustees are recruited through a process of public advertising which includes publishing a role description and person specification. (The term for a new trustee is three years.) Then, shortlisted candidates are interviewed by the current trustees, where the candidates are assessed with regards to their skills, knowledge and experience, to ensure they have the necessary criteria to effectively administer the CIO.</p> <p>As the governing document describes, age is also considered (required to be above 16). For the selected candidates, a verbal and written offer is made for them to accept. If accepted, a resolution is then passed by the current trustees and the Chair (or nominated person) will update the Charity Register to reflect the appointment of the new trustee.</p>

Additional information (optional)

You may choose to include further statements where relevant about:

Policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees	Para 1.51	<p>New trustees are provided with copies of Eco Brixs UK's governing document and latest Annual Returns to familiarise themselves with, as outlined in the organisation's constitution.</p> <p>Trustees are also asked to read the Charity Commission's <i>'The Essential Trustee: what you need to know, what you need to do'</i> document.</p> <p>Trustees are then given an induction presentation to Eco Brixs (both the UK Entity and the Ugandan NGO). This introduces the organisation's model and financial position, and is presented by the CEO and/or current trustees.</p> <p>The induction is followed by an open Q&A session, where the new trustees can ask further questions if required.</p>
The charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works	Para 1.51	<p>The UK Charity Eco Brixs UK works in partnership with the Ugandan NGO, to help protect the environment, whilst creating jobs, in the region of Masaka, Uganda.</p> <p>As principally a fundraising organisation for the Ugandan NGO, the trustees of the UK charity monitor the accountability of the funds donated. This is reported through the CEO, Andrew Bownds, who presents this information at quarterly board meetings and as required.</p> <p>As donations made from the UK entity to the Ugandan NGO are in the region of several thousand pounds (to minimise international transfer costs), and equal to a significant amount of the charity's income, these are authorised by the trustees.</p> <p>The expenditure of these funds is monitored according to the UK charity's policy of monitoring expenditure abroad.</p> <p><i>(The CEO operates on a freelance contract, and is responsible for ensuring donated funds are spent in Uganda as outlined by the trustees' decisions).</i></p>
		None

Relationship with any related parties	Para 1.51	
Other		None

Reference and Administrative details

Charity name	Eco Brixs UK
Other name the charity uses	Eco Brixs
Registered charity number	1184169
Charity's principal address	Eco Brixs 11 Long Meadow Chesham Bucks HP5 2BN

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	Ms Georgina Elliott		01.01.19 - 20.11.20	
2	Mr James Tyler		01.01.19 - present	
3	Mr Andrew Teale		01.01.19 - 20.11.20	
4	Anthony Mark Elliott		27.10.20 - 26.10.21	
5	Anjana Krishnan		16.11.20 - present	
6	Martin Worster		27.10.20 - present	
7	Nick Chapman		22.06.21 - present	

Corporate trustees – names of the directors at the date the report was approved

Director name		
None		

Name of trustees holding title to property belonging to the charity

Trustee name	Dates acted if not for whole year	
None		

Funds held as custodian trustees on behalf of others

Description of the assets held in this capacity	None
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Name and objects of the charity on whose behalf the assets are held and how this falls within the custodian charity's objects	None
Details of arrangements for safe custody and segregation of such assets from the charity's own assets	None

Additional information (optional)

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Exemptions from disclosure

Reason for non-disclosure of key personnel details

None



Other optional information

None

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

	Signature(s)		
	Full name(s)	Martin Worster	Nick Chapman
	Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Chair	Treasurer
	Date	30.03.22	30.03.22



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
Eco Brixs UK

No (if any)
1184169

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period
from

Period start date
01.07.2020

To

Period end date
30.06.2021

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					
Unrestricted Donations	19,629	-	-	19,629	25,806
Unrestricted Donations Gift Aid	125	-	-	125	-
Restricted Donations COVID	-	122	-	122	6,204
Restricted Donations COVID Gift Aid	-	707	-	707	-
Income for Ugandan NGO	-	1,088	-	1,088	-
Plastic Action Fundraiser	88	-	-	88	-
Refund from Year 1 freelance contracts	660	-	-	660	-
Alan & Nesta Ferguson Grant	-	-	-	-	9,055
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	20,502	1,917	-	22,419	41,065
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	20,502	1,917	-	22,419	41,065
A3 Payments					
Core Costs	13,036	-	-	13,036	1,288
Fundraising Costs	1,077	-	-	1,077	1,405
Restricted Donations COVID	-	6,326	-	6,326	-
COVID Donation to NGO (unrestricted)	5,335	-	-	5,335	-
Alan & Nesta Ferguson Grant	-	-	-	-	7,500
G Elliott Donation	-	-	-	-	5,000
COVID Project Mask making Machine	-	-	-	-	4,106
Video/Glass Passport	-	-	-	-	470
Restricted Donations COVID Gift Aid	-	707	-	707	-
Sub total	19,448	7,033	-	26,481	19,769
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	19,448	7,033	-	26,481	19,769
Net of receipts/(payments)	1,054	- 5,116	-	- 4,062	21,296
A5 Transfers between funds	150	- 150	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	14,942	6,354	-	21,296	-
Cash funds this year end	16,146	1,088	-	17,234	21,296

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	Cash at Bank	16,146	1,088	-

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
Total cash funds	16,146	1,088	-
(agree balances with receipts and payments account(s))	OK	OK	OK

Unrestricted funds

to nearest £

Restricted funds

to nearest £

Endowment funds

to nearest £

Details

B2 Other monetary assets

	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-
	-	-	-

Details

B3 Investment assets

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details

B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use

Details	Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-
		-	-

Details

B5 Liabilities



Details	Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	
		-	

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

Signature

Print Name

Date of approval

	Martin Worster	30.03.22
	Nick Chapman	30.03.22