



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Trustees' Annual Report for the period

From 20th March 2020 To 31st August 2021

Charity name: Energy Sparks

Charity registration number: 1189273

Registered address: Fairlawn, Park Corner, Freshford, Bath, BA2 7UP

Objectives and Activities

Summary of the purposes of the charity as set out in its governing document

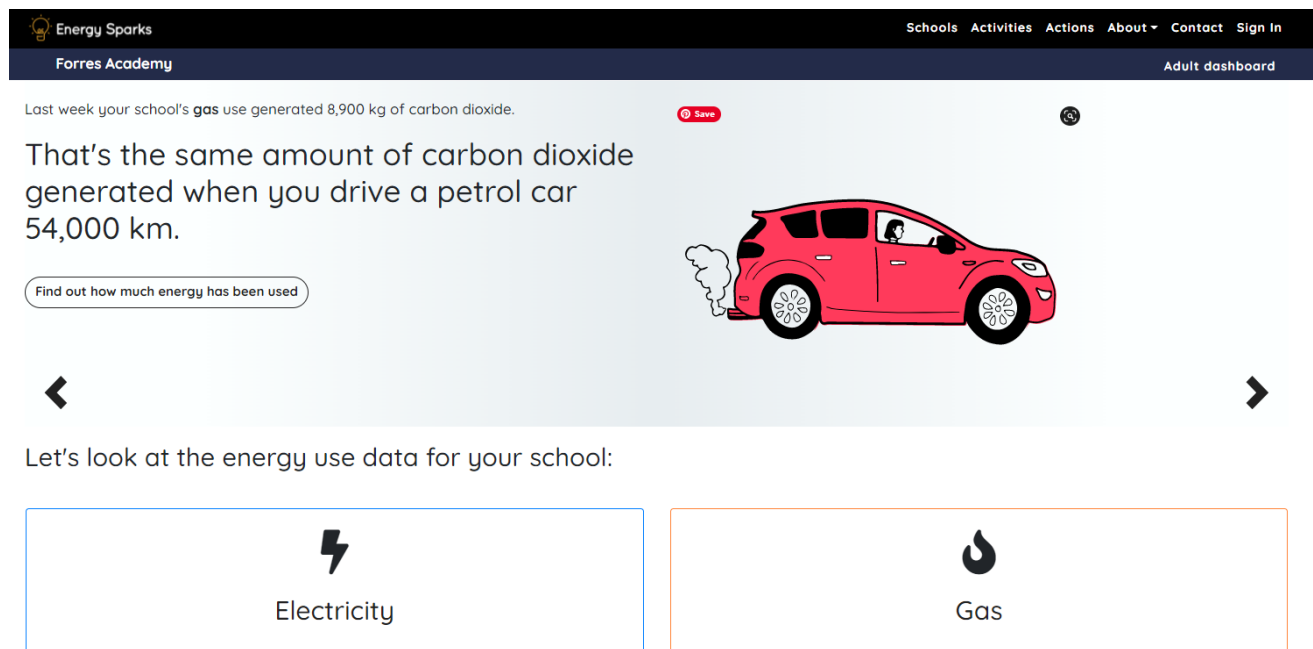
To promote for the public benefit, the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by developing and promoting tools, services and programmes to reduce energy and resource consumption and carbon emissions.

To advance the education of the public in the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment by educating and informing the public, particularly but not exclusively young people about the causes and impacts of climate change, and the importance of energy saving and reducing carbon emissions.

Summary of the main activities in relation to those purposes for the public benefit

Energy Sparks provides an [online energy analysis tool](#) and energy education programme specifically designed to help schools reduce their electricity and gas usage through the analysis of smart meter data. Energy Sparks helps pupils and the wider school community to reduce their school's carbon emissions, and make a real contribution to addressing the 'climate emergency'.

Using a school's electricity, gas and solar data, Energy Sparks shows pupils, staff and volunteers how much energy their school is using each day. The online tool presents bespoke analysis of the energy data with suggestions of actions the school community could take to save energy and reduce the school's carbon emissions. Pupils, staff and community volunteers use this information to help the school to save energy, and help protect the environment.



During 2020/2021 Energy Sparks provided over 70 publicly available energy related [activities](#) which pupils participated in through eco-teams or class based learning.

Through the online tool and education programme pupils, school staff and the wider school community increased knowledge of why and how they should reduce carbon emissions to prevent climate change and protect the environment. Participating schools worked toward becoming more energy efficient with reduced carbon emissions and cost savings. Participating pupils shared energy saving and carbon reduction messages with the wider community resulting in further action to prevent climate change.

To date, Energy Sparks has been able to provide its services free of charge to state schools across the UK thanks to our funding from charitable trusts and foundations and the government. Independent (private) schools pay an annual fee for access to our energy management tool.

Statement confirming whether the trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit

In managing Energy Sparks the trustees had due regard to the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance.

Contribution made by volunteers

A great contribution is made to Energy Sparks by its volunteer trustees who have supported the charity with technical guidance, personnel management, financial oversight and strategic guidance. Without this valuable contribution of time, energy and expertise the successful operation of Energy Sparks would not be possible. A small number of parent and student volunteers have supported Energy Sparks engagement at their local school. Their contribution has greatly increased impact at those schools.

Achievements and Performance

In 2011 the charity, Transition Bath started supporting Bath area schools to reduce their energy consumption through professional energy audits and analysis of their smart meter data via one-off data

downloads obtained from the local authority. In 2016 Transition Bath, in collaboration with Bath Hacked started developing the Energy Sparks website with the aim of providing broader access to school's smart meter data, school-specific energy management expertise and also to educate school children about energy and the importance of reducing carbon emissions. This initial development of the website was supported with small grant funding from a number of charitable sources including OVO Foundation, Bath and West Community Energy, the Open Data Institute and the Naturesave Trust. In September 2017, Energy Sparks was launched to 11 schools in Bath and NE Somerset (B&NES).

In early 2018 Transition Bath was awarded a two year funding contract by the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) through their flagship Non-Domestic Smart Energy Management Innovation Competition (NDSEMIC) to significantly develop the Energy Sparks website, including the provision of advanced energy data analysis, school specific advice and alerts, design focused improvements to the user experience and improved educational support materials. Significant in-school testing and evaluation was carried out working with Paper user research and design studio, and Ipsos Mori, and we rolled out free access to the website and associated educational support to more than 65 primary and secondary schools (24,000 pupils) across five local authority groups, B&NES, Sheffield, Somerset, the Highlands of Scotland and Oxfordshire, and one independent schools' trust, the Girls Day School Trust. Energy Sparks also developed additional data presentation functionality for schools with solar PV, whereby they can explore their solar generation, consumption and export data on Energy Sparks providing additional opportunities for learning and monitoring.

Most schools participating with Energy Sparks can expect to achieve energy savings of 10% in their first year of engagement with Energy Sparks, resulting in cost savings of around £2400 and 8 tonnes of CO₂ based on an average 2 form entry primary school.

Some participating schools demonstrated significant progress with energy savings, including Freshford Church School (20% reduction), Pensford Primary School (19% reduction), and Trinity First School (29% reduction), and Energy Sparks developed [case studies](#) highlighting these success stories.

As the headteacher at one of Energy Sparks' participating schools said:

'Energy Sparks has enabled children at Freshford to investigate how energy is used in different parts of the school and devise strategies to reduce the school's consumption. The children's enthusiasm was kick-started by the competitive element and they've worked effectively with staff and the local community to think innovatively about what we can do to reduce our impact on the environment and reduce costs. The children developed and presented evidence-based initiatives to the school's business managers, securing installation of energy-efficient lighting and kitchen equipment, movement-sensor-switches, and a solar-panel campaign.'

The Energy Sparks resources are inspirational, powerful and transformational tools for all schools that will enable them to reduce their CO₂ footprint, save money and help children to develop a powerful can-do attitude towards the challenges of global warming.'

In March 2020, the Energy Sparks project transitioned to a separate charity, 'Energy Sparks' in recognition of its nationwide reach. In July 2020, Energy Sparks secured a 3 year funding contract from the OVO Foundation for £483,476 to cover its core operational costs from 1st July 2020 to 31st August 2023, and to support the roll out of the programme to 150 schools by summer 2021, 250 by summer 2022 and 350 by summer 2023. As of the end of August 2021, 150 schools were participating with their Energy Sparks accounts fully visible including their energy consumption data. A further 24 were in the process of setting up their accounts.

Since inception Energy Sparks' educational programme has provided more than 60 free school visits. These visits have kick-started schools' energy saving actions and generated first hand user feedback to support our ongoing improvement of Energy Sparks around user experience, site navigation, functionality value, pupil activity value, accessibility and the challenges facing schools with effective energy management.

The visits generally comprise meetings with lead staff (eco-team lead teachers or classroom assistants, head teachers, business managers, site managers and caretakers), assemblies for pupils and eco-team/School Council sessions. Staff meetings cover an introduction to Energy Sparks, the energy data and analysis for their school, initial energy saving priorities which they could address, bespoke support with metering and heating system controls, and possible pupil activity programmes to address the energy management challenges for their school. Eco-team/School Council sessions include an introduction to the importance of saving energy and climate change, an introduction to Energy Sparks and some of the data for their school, and participation in a selection of Energy Sparks activities.

Due to Covid restrictions, most schools limited education workshops and visits from external providers from March 2020 onwards. We responded to this challenge by offering online training webinars providing a general introduction to Energy Sparks for all adult users. Up to 31 August 2021, Energy Sparks delivered online training webinars to 125 school staff. We also responded to the Covid restrictions by offering virtual energy audit sessions at participating schools. These took the form of a 1 hour video call between our energy auditor and staff and students at participating schools. Our auditor took the school team through the Energy Sparks data, analysis and advice, supporting the school to develop an energy action plan, and to address any heating and lighting control issues and behaviour change improvements.

In January 2021, Energy Sparks started another BEIS funded contract extension under the Non Domestic Smart Energy Management Innovation Competition (NDSEMIC) to deliver:

- An interface between Energy Sparks and the DCC (Data Communications Company) for electricity data from the latest generation SMETS2 meters installed in schools
- Automatic uploading of meter tariffs and standing charges from the DCC to Energy Sparks
- A streamlined onboarding process for schools to Energy Sparks
- Live display of electricity consumption data

The funding of £115,750 was awarded to Transition Bath. Energy Sparks is delivering the work as a contractor of Transition Bath, in partnership with a number of other sub-contractors. This work is due to end in March 2022.

In early 2020, Energy Sparks secured a small grant from Bath and West Community Energy to deliver a Volunteering programme to support Energy Sparks schools in Bath and NE Somerset with parent, community and student volunteers to drive more engagement and impact. In early 2020 we focused on the initial development of the volunteering programme. We developed volunteering policies and procedures including safer recruitment. We recruited student volunteers from Bath University and developed volunteer induction materials. We established a successful partnership with the nationwide STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Ambassadors programme, and provided training sessions for a small number of student and parent volunteers and 80 STEM Ambassadors. We promoted volunteers to Energy Sparks schools in B&NES and nationally, but actual volunteer visits to schools were prevented by the Covid lockdowns and restrictions on visitors once schools reopened. As schools move out of Covid restrictions we plan to rejuvenate our volunteering programme making the most of volunteer enthusiasm and time to drive engagement and impact at participating schools.

Alongside the webinar training sessions and online audits detailed above, we produced [online videos](#) to support new adult users and eco-teams, delivered virtual assemblies and online eco-team training for pupils. We also developed [home learning resources](#) supporting children and young people to investigate their home energy use and learn about renewable energy. Schools such as [Widcombe Infant School](#) participated enthusiastically with these home learning activities taking Energy Sparks impact home to pupil's families.

We collected feedback from participating pupil's parents about the impact of their child's participation on their home energy use:

"Sofia has encouraged her family to take action, we have installed a smart meter so we are more aware of our energy use, we no longer have the heating on on weekday mornings in the winter (when we are only in the house to get ready for school and work)..."

In spring 2021, Energy Sparks secured a 3 year contract to provide its services to the Girls Day School Trust (GDST), a group of 25 independent schools – 23 schools and two academies catering for girls aged 3 to 18 in England and Wales. It is the largest group of independent schools in the UK, and educates 20,000 girls each year. Alongside provision of our energy management tool and education programme, the contract includes provision for additional complementary services including education workshops and physical audits.

In October 2020 we produced a film highlighting energy saving activity at Freshford School in partnership with Energy Sparks - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PgoKZjwgm0Y&t=1s> This was shared widely at the Transform our World Youth Climate Summit in both November 2020 and November 2021, and a cut down version was shared by HM Government SW on Twitter during COP26 - <https://twitter.com/HMGSouthWest/status/1458440040661622785>

Freshford Church School and Trinity First School in Frome's Energy Sparks participation were also featured on BBC Newsround in April 2020- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/52160277>

Energy Sparks actively promotes its ongoing work on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/EnergySparks>

Financial Review

As of 31 August 2021, Unrestricted Funds receipts exceeded payments by £21,652. No transfers from Unrestricted Funds to Restricted Funds were required. These unrestricted funds represent around 1 month of core running costs. The trustees will aim to build up these reserves over the 2021/2022 financial year.

Restricted Funds at 31 August 2021 were £37,873. This comprises £36,465 restricted funds allocated to the OVO Foundation funded work, and £1,409 allocated to the Bath and West Community Energy funded Volunteering project.

RECEIPTS

Total Receipts up to 31 August 2021 were £221,274. The most significant receipts comprised £181,935 from the OVO Foundation to cover core operating costs to rollout Energy Sparks to 150 schools across the UK, and £26,410 from the Department of Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to support the development of the interface between Energy Sparks and the latest generation SMETS2 meters,

PAYMENTS

Total Payments up to 31 August 2021 were £161,748. The most significant payments comprised £103,864 on staff salaries, £40,840 on freelance technology development, £12,464 on employee pension costs.

The charity's policy on reserves

In order to continue to secure and sustain the charity's viability and Energy Sparks' future availability to users, it is the Trustees' policy to aim to hold sufficient funds in unrestricted reserves to meet staff notice and redundancy costs if ever needed, and also put the charity in a better position to absorb any temporary fluctuations in income. In the short term, Energy Sparks CIO would like to build up reserves of 3 months of its core running costs. The trustees will develop an income generation and fundraising strategy to meet this target. The Trustees will review the Reserves Policy and the amount of reserves held at least annually at the AGM.

Structure, Governance and Management

Type of governing document

Constitution dated 20th March 2020

How is the charity constituted

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

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

The charity must have at least 3 trustees in post. Every trustee must be appointed by a resolution passed at a properly convened meeting of the charity trustees.

In selecting individuals for appointment as charity trustees, the charity trustees must have regard to the skills, knowledge and experience needed for the effective administration of the CIO.

Trustees

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year
Peter Andrews	Chair	
Leigh Dodds		Until 24th May 2021
Robert Schrimppff		
Robert Cohen		
Jamie Beevor		Until 2nd August 2021
Thomas Davies	Treasurer	from 19th November2020
Sunny Pawar		from 19th November2020
Naomi Allen		from 19th November2020
Oliver Rosevear		from 19th November2020
Tom Warnes		from 19th November2020

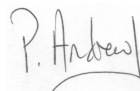

Names of senior staff

Name of staff member	Office	Dates acted if not for whole year
Claudia Towner	CEO and Programme Director	from 15th July 2020
Leigh Dodds	CTO	from 1st June 2021

Declarations

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

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Full name	Position	Date	Signature
Peter Andrews	Chair	29th March 2022	
Andrew Houston	Treasurer	29th March 2022	

Energy Sparks

A registered charity in England and Wales, registration 1189273.

Receipts and payments accounts from 20 March 2020 to 31 August 2021

Account	Total Funds	Restricted Funds	Unrestricted Funds
	£	£	£
Receipts			
OVO Foundation grant	181,935	181,935	0
Start-up contribution from Transition Bath	2,609	0	2,609
Transition Bath BEIS NDSEMIC Phase 3 ext contract	26,410	0	26,410
BWCE Volunteering grant	3,580	3,580	0
GDST fees	6,740	0	6,740
Total Receipts	221,274	185,515	35,759
Payments			
Audit & Accountancy fees	171	171	0
Bank Fees	89	89	0
Employers National Insurance	1,890	8,204	(6,314)
Insurance	684	684	0
IT Software and Consumables	311	236	75
Pensions Costs	12,464	10,558	1,906
Postage, Freight & Courier	7	7	0
Printing & Stationery	10	10	0
Salaries	103,864	87,984	15,880
School support (freelance)	500	0	500
Staff Training	99	99	0
Subscriptions	75	75	0
DBS checks	109	109	0
Technology development (freelance)	40,840	38,840	2,000
Volunteer Training	75	75	0
Communications support	500	500	0
User research incentives	60	0	60
Total Payments	161,748	147,641	14,107
Receipts less payments	59,526	37,873	21,652
Transfers between funds	-	0	0
Cash funds as of 20 March 2020	0	0	0
Cash funds as of 31 August 2021	59,526	37,873	21,652

Other Monetary assets and liabilities

Investments

Energy Sparks had no investment assets during the accounting period.

Liabilities

Energy Sparks had no liabilities at the end of the accounting period.

Assets retained for charity's own use

As of 31 August 2020, the charity had limited physical assets comprising around 500 classroom thermometer cards and <10 appliance monitors.

Notes

1. Accounting period

Energy Sparks started operation in 2017 as a project of Transition Bath (registered charity 1139853), and transitioned to a separate registered charity in March 2020. The normal reporting year is 1 September to 31 August. These accounts cover the part-year to 31 August 2020 and then the full year 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021, as requested by the Charity Commission.

2. Receipts and Payments Accounts

The Receipts and Payments Accounts summarise the movements of cash into and out of the charity during the period.

3. Restricted Funds

Restricted Funds are separated from Unrestricted Funds. The Trustees are obliged to spend Restricted Funds only on the particular purposes set out by the donors. As of 31 August 2021, the balance of restricted funds was made up from £36,465 allocated to the OVO Foundation funded work and £1,409 allocated to the Bath and West Community Energy funded Volunteering project.

4. Outstanding Guarantees and Secured Debts

The trustees confirm, in accordance with the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (General) Regulations 2012, that at the year end the CIO did not have any outstanding guarantees to third parties nor any debts secured on assets of the CIO.

5. Reserves Policy

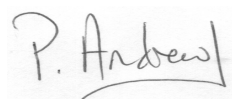
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Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature

Name

Date of approval



Peter Andrews
Chair

18th March 2022



Andrew Houston
Treasurer

18th March 2022



Section A

Independent Examiner's Report

Report to the trustees/
members of

Charity Name
Energy Sparks

On accounts for the
period ended

31 August 2021

Charity no
(if any)

1189273

Set out on pages

1-2

(remember to include the page numbers of additional sheets)

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of the above charity ("the Trust") for the period ended 31/08/2021.

Responsibilities and
basis of report

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

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

Independent
examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention (other than that disclosed below *) in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Act or
- the accounts do not accord with the accounting records

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

* Please delete the words in the brackets if they do not apply.

Signed:

Date: 21 March 2022

Name:

Sheila Parry

Relevant professional
qualification(s) or body
(if any):

Association of Certified Qualified Accounts

Address:

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Peace House, Paradise Street

Oxford, OX1 1LD