



2020

ANNUAL REPORT



**Supporting community
action on climate change**

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OUR APPROACH

For over 15 years Cambridge Carbon Footprint has been providing local guidance and support on carbon reduction.

The Committee on Climate Change estimates that 60% of the changes needed to get to net zero require action from individuals, households and small businesses. This will require a reduction in energy use, changes to the way we travel, what we eat, how much we buy and how we dispose of things.

We support individuals and businesses to make real carbon reductions by:

- 1) Delivering communications and events that inspire action, underpinned with training and resources that foster the knowledge and practical skills necessary.
- 2) Providing resources and support that empower others to deliver carbon reduction activities, building capacity in members of the local community to increase our reach and influence new audiences.



2020 HIGHLIGHTS

Despite the challenges 2020 posed, our team of staff and volunteers responded to the circumstances and delivered many engaging activities, highlights included:

- Launch of the *Cambridge Climate Change Charter* - page 5
- *Cambridge Repair Café Network* responds to Covid-19 - page 6
- *Open Eco Homes Online* - page 8



53 events run

This included 33 events organised by Cambridge Carbon Footprint and partners, 12 outreach talks, and 6 events we supported other organisations to run in their community.



1942 attendees

Our largest event of the year was the *Arbury Swap Collect and Fix Fest* which had 178 attendees in total, followed by the launch of the Charter which had 151 attendees.



1215 new people engaged

This group includes people who are new to Cambridge Carbon Footprint and have not attended any of our previous activities or events.





THE IMPACTS OF COVID-19

All Cambridge Carbon Footprint events and activities were cancelled or postponed indefinitely when the UK moved into lockdown in March 2020. Staff and volunteers rallied, responding to very challenging circumstances by adapting Repair Cafes, thermal imaging training, and Open Eco Homes tours and talks for online delivery, enabling us to continue to inspire and support people to reduce their carbon emissions.

Thanks to our dedicated volunteers and staff CCF has been able to respond and adapt our activities to Covid-19

In total CCF planned to organise, support or take part in 67 events in 2020. As a result of the efforts of our team and our community by the end of the year 53 of those events had taken place, with only 14 events cancelled or postponed indefinitely. In many cases, significant amounts of work had already been undertaken on these cancelled activities, for example our *Sustainable Fashion Festival*, *Repairers Recruitment Fair* and *Pop-Up CirculART Trail* at the Zoology Museum.

One of the few upsides to the disruption has been a widening of our reach, with people joining our online events from all around the country and sometimes all over the globe. And recordings of online events and virtual tours have been viewed much more than ever before - 2020's Open Eco Homes tours and talks have been viewed over 1500 times on [our YouTube Channel](#).

OUR PEOPLE

As a small charity we are only able to achieve as much as we do through the help of network of dedicated and skilled volunteers. We'd like to say a huge thank you to the many volunteers that donated their time, skills and energy in 2020. You helped keep the staff motivated and inspired throughout a tough year.



217 Volunteers

We had 217 volunteers who donated their time to Cambridge Carbon Footprint in 2020, including speakers, repairers, admin assistants, Trustees and more.



2746 Volunteer Hours Contributed

In total our volunteers contributed an incredible 2746 hours to Cambridge Carbon Footprint over the course of 2020.



£26,087 Hours Donated

When calculated at the real living wage of £9.50/hour, this equates to £26,087 hours donated.

Since January 2020 CCF have added three new staff members to our team, they have been working on [Open Eco Homes](#), and our two new projects the [Cambridge Climate Change Charter](#), and [Net Zero Now](#). Alice Vodden, Jasmine Clark, and Anni Sander, have given a real boost to our organisation, bringing new skills, ideas and energy to our work.

Existing staff Nicole Barton and Alana Sinclair worked hard behind the scenes, changing and adapting our activity program and keeping our organisation running.



CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE CHANGE CHARTER

On September 7th 2020 we launched the Cambridge Climate Change Charter, a new project delivered on behalf of the Cambridge City Council. The Charter is designed to support individuals, businesses and other organisations to better understand and reduce their carbon emissions and pledge action, supported by the Charter's online resources.

151 people attended the online launch of the Charter, with representatives from business, academia, local government and community groups. The event introduced attendees to a brand new, free carbon footprint calculator and city specific Advice Hub. Guest speakers included Rosy Moore from Cambridge City Council, Richard Hales from Addenbrookes' Hospital, Bev Sedley from Cambridge Sustainable Food, Nicola Terry from Transition Cambridge and Edward Leigh from Smarter Cambridge Transport.

In November CCF launched the Cambridge Climate Change Charter's From Ambition to Action Seminar Series. The sessions aimed to support businesses and organisations wanting to play a part in moving towards net zero - helping them know where to begin, what the resource implications might be, what expertise might be needed and what's proven to actually work. Speakers included Peter Gilheany from Forster Communications, Andrew Limb, Head of Corporate Strategy at Cambridge City Council, Richard Hales from Addenbrookes and Clare Watters a Sustainability Consultant from PECT. This event was the first of four sessions on using an Environmental Management System (EMS) to support businesses and organisations to shift from words and ambition to real action on the climate and biodiversity crisis and encouraged organisations to sign up to the Cambridge Climate Charter for Businesses and Organisations. The launch event was attended by 35 representatives from local businesses and organisations.



"I want the world to be a greener place for my children to grow up in"

Charter Signatory



REDUCING CONSUMERISM

Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network Responds to Covid-19

CCF is one of the leading UK proponents of Repair Cafes, community events which pair skilled volunteered repairers with people who need things fixed. These events build community ties and prevent items from going into landfill. CCF and Transition Cambridge were one of the first Repair Cafe organisers to host Virtual Repair Cafes during lockdown. At these events repairers met in online breakout rooms and provided advice for attendees to identify the cause of failure and how it might be fixed. In total we hosted seven virtual repair cafes between May and September 2020. The organisers were invited to share learnings from their experience repairing online with the Institute for Sustainable Design.

Repairers also responded to support those affected by the pandemic. Café sewers like Gina worked long hours sewing 500 masks that were distributed to expectant fathers connected to the Rosie maternity hospital, users of the community kitchens and people in care homes. Gina also sewed 35 pairs of scrubs from fabric donated by amongst others, the TV and radio presenter Chris Evans!

Arbury Swap Collect Fix-Fest

178 people attended the *Arbury Swap Collect and Fix Fest*, one of our few in person events this year. The event included a Give and Take Stall, a toy swap, a bulky waste collection service, and a Repair Cafe. Partners included the Cambridge City Recycling Champions and Community Engagement Team, Transition Cambridge, A Toy's Life and Beyond, and Veolia.

REDUCING CONSUMERISM

Continuing to support new Repair Cafes and build the Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network

In partnership with bpha Housing Association we ran the CB1 Repair Cafe in January of 2020, our first organised in partnership with a residents' association. The event was designed to help build community, giving residents an opportunity to meet over a shared activity, and tackle communal waste problems.

We continued to offer support to communities interested in joining the Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network and starting up their own Repair Café, running two online 'How to run a Repair Café in your community' skillshares during lockdown. Attendees came from diverse places, including The Edge Cafe on Mill Road in Cambridge, and towns and villages around Cambridgeshire and beyond.

To bring repairers together and develop relationships with Makespace, our local community workshop, we organised two events, 'Behind the scenes at Makespace' and 'Behind the Scenes at the Repair Cafe'. These events drew 25 people across both organisations and have led to fruitful collaborations in 2021.

The Cambridgeshire Repair Cafe Network appreciates the ongoing support of Mackays of Cambridge who host our two toolkits. These extensive kits are available for members of the network to borrow free of charge for use at any Repair Cafe.



IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT HOME

Open Eco Homes

Our Open Eco Homes project helps people create beautiful, high functioning, low energy homes with householder led tours of renovated and new built eco homes.

This year *Open Eco Homes* ran 11 homeowner-led tours of their low-carbon retrofit and new-build homes, along with 5 expert talks, all online, rather than in-person. This new delivery method reached people further afield and less able to visit homes in person, and enabled us to develop tours and talks on demand, a much-used YouTube video resource.

James and Hannah's Victorian Terrace Getting Off Gas was an outstanding example of how to make this common house-type fit for the future. While Adrian Reith showed his House Built in 3 days, a stunning timber house made in a German factory and assembled here in 3 days!

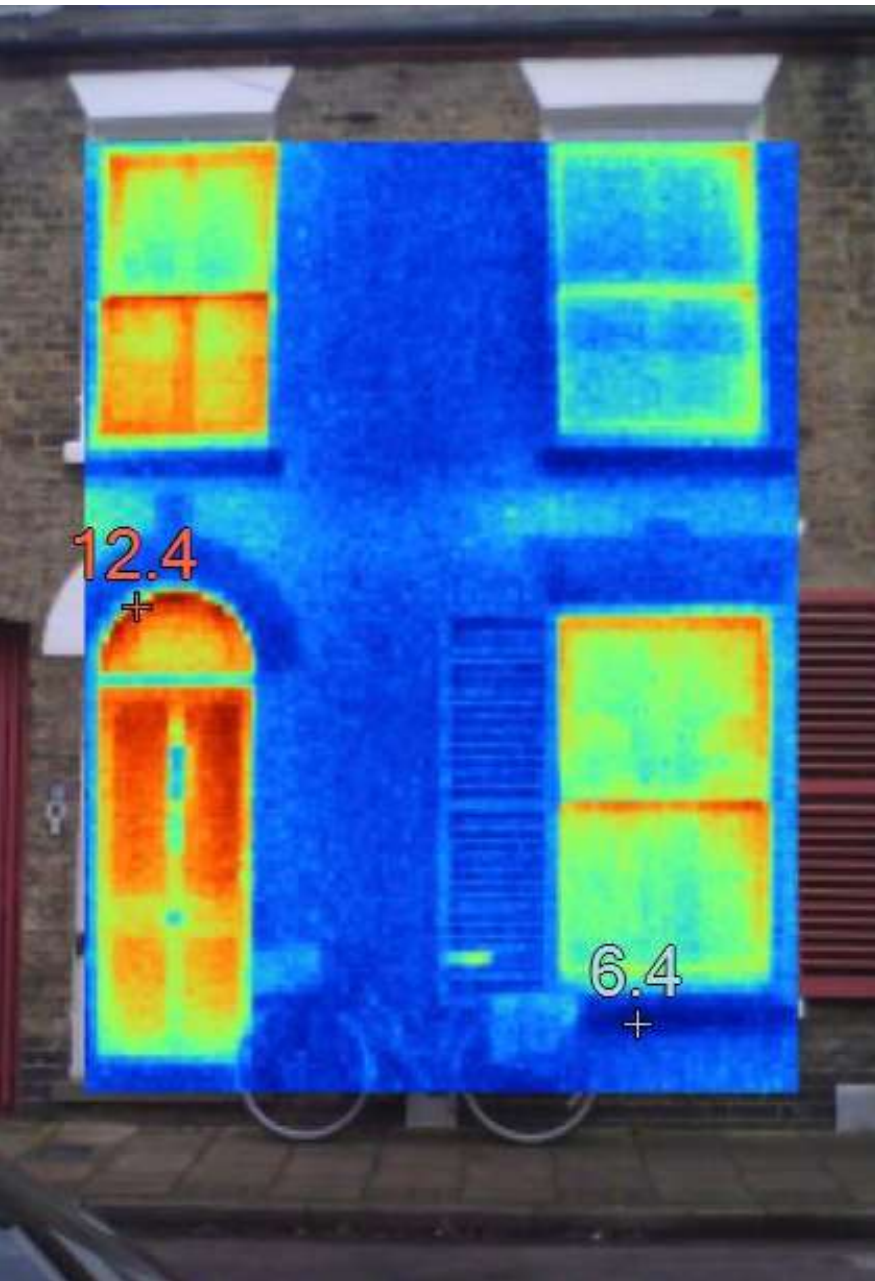
Feedback and impact measures were good, with 82% of participants said they were 'more' or 'much more' likely to create an eco-home because of their tour or talk.

“A fine example of building in a restricted space but not extravagant. Not a ‘grand design’ but a fine design!”

Tour participant



IMPROVING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AT HOME



Thermal Imaging

CCF offers two thermal imaging cameras for loan to borrowers who have attended a training session. Thermal imaging cameras are sensitive to infra-red and make 'temperature map' images, revealing problems with insulation, draughts, damp and more. Significant improvements in comfort, energy bills and carbon emissions are often made as a result of fixing these issues.

Two thermal imaging training workshops were delivered in January and February before lockdown forced us to halt camera bookings. In the autumn we began delivering training online, launching a new online system for booking and borrowing thermal imaging cameras and new Covid-19 safety procedures. Bookings were halted again in November with the resumption of lockdown conditions in the UK.

In 2020 we trained 60 people and 25 thermal imaging surveys were carried out.

BUILDING INFLUENCE



CCF continued to work to develop our influence in our region collaborating, lobbying and responding to local consultations.

Collaborating

Since 2020 Cambridge City Council has run a regular Climate Change Forum for local community groups to meet with them to discuss climate issues and work. CCF attends to support and challenge the Council and to collaborate better with the other groups.

Lobbying

In June 2020, CCF helped [Carbon Neutral Cambridge](#) and [2G3S](#) organise virtual lobbies about climate action as part of a nationwide campaign of [The Climate Coalition](#), of which CCF is a member. There was a lively lobby with Anthony Browne, MP for South Cambridgeshire and the one with Cambridge MP, Daniel Zeichner, drew 139 people to hear and question him, making it one of the busiest in the UK.

Consultations

CCF also responds to consultations like the 2020 [NE Cambridge Action Plan](#), our main opportunity to influence big development plans to adopt low carbon building standards, green spaces and good cycling and public transport opportunities for the future residents.

COMMUNICATIONS

Website

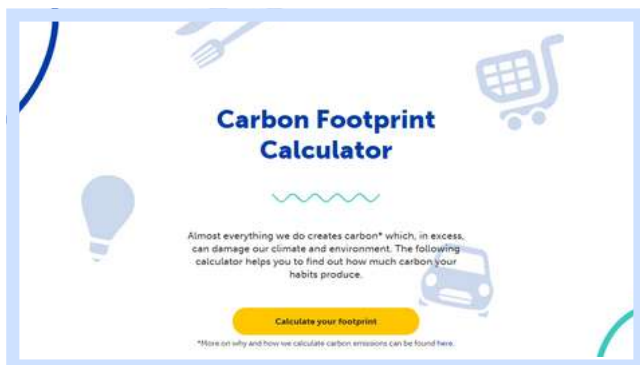
In 2020 we launched a brand new [Cambridge Carbon Footprint website](#). Built from the ground up, the site combined content from our *Open Eco Homes* and *Circular Cambridge* project websites, to create one online hub for our resources. Combined with the launch of the *Cambridge Climate Change Charter* [carbon footprint calculator](#) and advice hub, the website has completely refreshed our online appearance.

Press

BBC Radio Cambridgeshire chose CCF as an organisation making a difference during lockdown. We continued to contribute regularly to the *Cambridge Independent*, with 12 columns on a variety of carbon reduction topics published over the course of the year. Other media features included pieces in the *Cambridge News* on our Virtual Repair Cafes and the Charter launch, and pieces in the South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cambridge City Council resident magazines.



The Cambridge Carbon Footprint website with new look and feel



New online carbon footprint calculator

FINANCES

Total income in 2020 amounted to £114,179 which, after total expenditure of £66,251 resulted in a surplus of £47,928. Included within that income were four grants for specific work; expenditure against some of that specific income had not been incurred by the end of the year. Gift and donation income increased slightly over that received in 2019. At the end of the year unrestricted funds available for the continuing operation of the organisation had increased to £33,557 (2019 £11,669). The maintenance of regular unrestricted donations is essential to ensure a cash flow without which the organisation would be unable to continue.

Donation income is our primary funding source for our core fund – from which we support all of the organisations fixed costs. As donated income cannot always be predicted, and the success of funding bids is not guaranteed, the trustees aim for a minimum reserve equivalent to three months expenditure.

Circumstances in 2019 resulted in the reserve being slightly lower than the desired amount but in 2020 the inflow of funds and management of various costs has restored the reserves to the appropriate level.

Thanks to our donors and funders

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the many individuals and organisations that funded our work in 2020. We received funding from Cambridge City Council's Sustainable City Fund, and South Cambridgeshire District Council's Community Zero Carbon Communities Fund. We are thankful to our grant funders and to our many donors, big and small. Your gifts and donations enabled us to carry out the work detailed in this report. Cambridge Carbon Footprint and the work that we do would not exist without your support.

2021 AND BEYOND

In 2020 the *Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network* helped kick start the UK wide *Community Repair Network*. The Network now has a website and in 2021 it co-ordinated a national Repair the Climate media campaign focused on International Repair Day and the lead up to COP26.

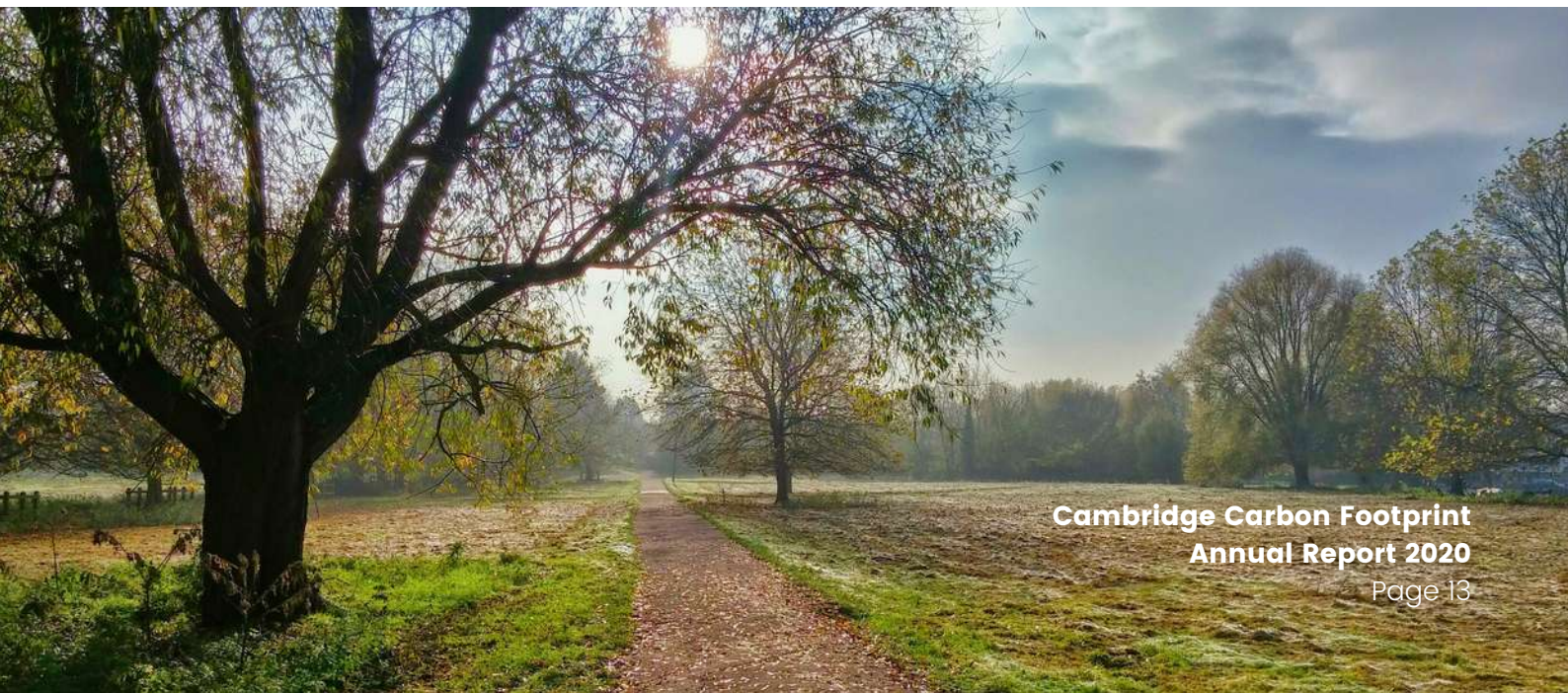
The *Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network* was one of the first in the UK to welcome the public back safely to in person events in 2021. As result of our relationship building in 2020 the Repair Café Network partnered with Makespace in September 2021 to host their first Café. This event was filmed by ITV for a national documentary *Replace or Repair - Britain in a Fix*.

Delayed by Covid-19 in 2020, January 2021 saw us launch of *Net Zero Now*, a training scheme helps local communities to identify how and where they can take action. Enabled by funding from the South

Cambridgeshire District Council's Zero Carbon Communities grant scheme, the training comprised 8 fortnightly sessions of online interactive learning and skill sharing. Videos and online resources from the sessions are [available for download](#).

The *Cambridge Climate Change Charter* has continued to engage residents, with four Shrink your Carbon Footprint stalls popping up in the Market Square over summer, and case studies of local individuals who have taken action and had an impact proving popular online. In March the Charter was awarded a Certificate of Excellence in the iESE Public Sector Innovation Awards.

Open Eco Homes returned for another successful season in September 2021. We plan to relaunch thermal imaging training and borrowing scheme and a new CO2 monitor borrowing scheme in the winter.





STAY IN TOUCH

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