For all of us involved in the climate movement, the past year has been one of highs and lows. The incredible highs of inspiration from the school climate strikers, with Greta Thunberg inspiring thousands of children around the world to speak up for their future. The Extinction Rebellion protests prompting a national conversation and leading to declarations of climate emergency in parliaments across the UK. And just last month, the UK Government putting a net zero target for 2050 into law.

The hope brought by this new energy has sustained us all in the face of new reports such as that from the IPCC, showing how little time we have left to put in place measures to limit warming to 1.5 degrees. But as our understanding of the science has increased, so has the desire from communities and individuals to take action in their personal lives. Cambridge Carbon Footprint has continued to play a vital role in supporting this work in 2018, through our impressive range of events – over 60 this year, ranging from talks to workshops to Repair Cafés. We’ve continued to focus on Home Energy and Consumption this year. A personal highlight for me was our fabulous Sustainable Fashion Festival – showcasing to over 800 people the alternatives to fast fashion. As ever, we’re hugely grateful to the hundreds of people across Cambridge who help us, both financially and through volunteering their time, to achieve all we do.

As we look to the future, we’re in reflective mode. How can CCF respond as an organisation to the increasing climate emergency? How can we better work with other local groups to support and facilitate change? We are looking at how Circular Cambridge could be an exemplar for other cities across the UK – and how we improve our communications to have maximum impact. We’d love to hear from you if you want to get involved in helping this work in 2019.

Sarah Whitebread
Chair of Trustees
Our work

Cambridge Carbon Footprint (CCF) works to raise awareness of climate change issues and to support people in moving to low-carbon living.

VISION
Our vision is of low carbon communities which are sustainable, resilient and rewarding.

MISSION
Our mission is to inspire people to engage with climate change and empower them, individually and within their communities, to move towards low carbon living.

DELIVERY
We want to make connections with people to support behaviour change and long term commitment to low carbon living. We do this by:

1. Delivering a programme of events and workshops that inspire individual action, underpinned with training and workshops that foster the practical skills necessary.
2. Providing resources and support that empower other local groups to deliver events. This approach enables us to increase our reach and influence new audiences.

MEANINGFUL COMMUNICATION
Our activities are designed to share carbon reduction messages through practical action. We aim to always put our practical activities in the context of climate change and carbon impacts. This is our greatest challenge, and where we aim to have biggest impact.

THE PROBLEM
The latest IPCC report told us we must act now to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to avoid 1.5+ degrees of warming and the likelihood of catastrophic climate change.

Cambridge Carbon Footprint helps individuals to understand and reduce personal carbon emissions across the areas of the carbon footprint over which we have direct control. That includes the way we commute and travel, the food that we eat, our energy usage at home, and all of the other things that we buy.

Currently, a sustainable world average would see each of us emitting at most 2.5 tonnes of CO₂ each year. At present, the current UK average is 12.5 tonnes of CO₂ each year.

AREAS OF FOCUS
Although we run a varied program of events, in recent years we have focused our efforts to achieve maximum impact. Currently we work most actively on home energy (through Open Eco Homes, Thermal Imaging, and energy saving workshops see pages 13—16) and consumerism (Circular Cambridge, Repair Cafés, sustainable fashion see pages 5—12).
Cambridge Carbon Footprint 2018 in numbers

- **68** events
- **6,705** event attendees
- **4,690** new people engaged
- **531** volunteers
- **4,439** volunteer hours
- **£36,444** volunteer time given

### EVENT HIGHLIGHTS
- Fashion Festival (page 9)
- Open Eco Homes (page 13)
- Arbury Swap Collect Fix-Fest (page 7)

### HOW THE NUMBERS BREAK DOWN

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- **2,417** tonnes CO₂ saved
- **218** Open Eco Homes visitors
- **261** newsletter signups
- **461** Open Eco Homes visits
Reducing consumerism

CCF delivered some exceptional events in 2018 aimed at tackling the 30% of global greenhouse gas emissions arising from our consumption of stuff. Thirty events were delivered under this theme, including Repair Cafés, Cambridge’s first Sustainable Fashion Festival, the Arbury Swap Collect and Fix-Fest and the CirculART Trail.

REPAIR CAFÉS

Cambridgeshire continued to build on its reputation as a UK hub for Repair Cafés with the Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network (led by CCF, Transition Cambridge, South Cambridgeshire District Council and Cottenham Repair Café) winning the ‘Environment Award’ at South Cambridgeshire’s Annual Community Awards.

22 Repair Cafés were run on the Network’s area in 2018. Excluding the holiday seasons, this amounts to nearly one a fortnight. We ran two training sessions on ‘How to run a repair café in your community’ and supported five new Cafes to get going, including one at The University of Cambridge and another in Soham which was co-organised with the County Council’s Community Engagement Team.

Kate Boursnell, Chris Moller and Nicole Barton collecting the Environment Award in March 2018 for their work with the Cambridgeshire Repair Café Network.

Repair Cafés offer strong co-benefits, simultaneously tackling both waste and loneliness, and building community. In 2018 we responded to dozens of requests for advice on setting up Cafes all around the UK, including queries from Public Health Teams addressing suicide prevention and charities tackling social isolation in older men. There's strong interest from new towns (including Cambourne and Northstowe), keen to establish Repair Cafés in their communities to help build community spirit and cohesion.

Huge thanks to Mackays of Cambridge for their ongoing support in procuring and maintaining the tool kits used by repairers.

I really enjoyed this friendly ‘How to run a Repair Café in your community’ session which was well-pitched and responsive to the wide array of questions that the group came up with. There was a lovely energy to the session and I came away with practical answers to my questions and with the confidence to get started

Wendy Lansdowne, Neighbourhood Care Worker, Soham

22 Repair Cafés run / supported in 2018
THE ARBURY SWAP COLLECT AND FIX-FEST

The Arbury Swap Collect and Fix-Fest was another 2018 highlight. Not just because 300 people came along feeding back that they loved the event and were very keen to see a repeat, but more importantly because it demonstrated what could be achieved when multiple partners who may not commonly join forces, do so to tackle shared goals - in this case waste reduction and enhanced community cohesion.

Partners included the Probation Service who supervised 14 Community Service participants to help visitors with their bulky items, Veolia who donated recycling skips, lorries and staff throughout the day and the City Council’s City Rangers Team who visited the homes and gardens of vulnerable residents to remove bulky items. Children’s Services ran a baby and toddler clothes swap to promote their ongoing swaps to a greater number of local families, the city’s Recycling Champions ran a popular Give and Take Stall and Transition Cambridge co-delivered a fantastic Repair Café that saw 90 items, including our local MP’s glasses and iPad! Thank you to Alan Soer at Arbury Community Centre for his encouragement and support in delivering the Fix-Fest.

3.43 tonnes waste recycled

Thought it was a brilliant day, so much good feedback from residents both on the day and afterwards. I’d give it 9.5/10 overall.

Alan Soer, Manager Arbury Community Centre

What a wonderful idea to bring things back to working. Keep doing this amazing job! Very helpful advice and repairers were very clear and knowledgeable with polite and kind attitude.

Visitor, Arbury Swap, Collect and Fix-Fest
Cambridge’s first Sustainable Fashion Festival was CCF’s first serious attempt at tackling the devastating impacts of the clothing industry (fast-fashion in particular). It’s the world’s second largest industrial polluter and a sector that’s responsible for an estimated 8-12% of global greenhouse gas emissions. An astonishing 850 people attended the Festival (many of them new to CCF) and there were many calls for it to become a regular event. The day’s activities were all delivered under the theme (made famous by designer Vivienne Westwood) of ‘Buy Less, Choose Well, Make it Last’.

56 volunteers and six key partners, including the sustainable clothing brands Mamoq and AmaElla, the Ladybird’s WI, stylists Roberta Style Lee, Transition Cambridge and Kettle’s Yard Gallery ensured that despite the fun nature of the event, the messages around climate, overconsumption and worker exploitation were foregrounded.

The Festival was covered by BBC News, Velvet Magazine, the Cambridge News and Cambridge Independent and local radio stations. An excellent, locally relevant leaflet ‘Your quick guide to sustainable fashion’ was produced by CCF for the Festival and has since been adapted for use at clothes swaps and sewing Repair Cafés.

CCF have teamed up with stallholders and clothes sharing platform The Nu Wardrobe to offer pull through options for groups running clothes swaps. After swapping, those having acquired a taste for circular fashion will be able to share and rent their clothes locally.

The University’s of Cambridge’s Environment and Energy Team devoted a large part of their Greenlines newsletter to sustainable fashion after having been inspired by CCF’s event.

The day featured a pop-up market with over 20 sustainable brands and vintage sellers, a sewing themed Repair Café and skillshare, a clothes swap, a Christmas jumper upcycling workshop and circular living artistic session for families, a panel discussion ‘Fashion the Future’ and styling workshops that encouraged guests to minimise their wardrobes by helping them to understand their individual style.

It was great to network, meet other stallholders, chat to customers and most importantly engage with an interested audience who appreciate and are interested in both sustainability and brands with stories.

Annie, Flock by Nature (sustainable clothing brand)
Virtually every charity shop in Cambridge took part in this waste reduction and upcycling event that matches artists with charity shops over three weeks in the summer. 31 shops were matched with 31 artists, mostly individuals, but there were also group entries from three schools – Bewick Bridge Community School, Histon and Impington Junior School and St John’s College School. Artist Dimitra Frangos’ outreach work with the schools helped pupils create works whilst learning about issues around waste and recycling. Rowan and Move-On-Up (groups working with adults with learning difficulties) created some wonderful displays as did the ‘Knits of the Round Table’, a creative group who work with residents at the Arthur Rank Hospice.

The beautiful displays created by the artists were eye catching, and a fantastic opportunity to communicate creatively with the local community about waste prevention and recycling. Over 2500 brochures containing both the trail map and information about the circular economy and waste minimisation were picked up by the public. Each of the 31 windows had an individualised poster that presented the public with interesting tips and facts about waste, and outlined why the artist chose to work in an environmentally friendly way. The website, social media and accompanying materials were of a very high standard and were effective at getting over the reduce and reuse messages.

Thank you to Jenny Langley for her huge contribution to the success of CirculART 2018. 92% of artists taking part said the experience was either good or outstanding and 78% said they would be very or more likely to use repurposed materials in their work in the future.

CCF have been successfully partnering with the Cambridge based Ladybirds WI for many years running clothes swaps, stalls, and craftivism projects but in 2018 they took part in CirculART for which they crafted an oceans plastics display for the Oxfam window. It particularly focused on microplastics, a major campaign for the WI nationally and a video of their display went viral amongst other WIs, reaching 4.7k views.

This viral video led them to be invited to take their instillation to the UK parliament and speak to MPs at a session about microplastics. The continued CCF and Ladybirds WI collaboration has helped ensure that the environment is a core part of the group’s identity.
Improving energy efficiency at home

Energy used in the home accounts for about a quarter of personal CO₂ emissions in the UK. Making homes more energy efficient helps make them more comfortable and healthier too. Under this theme in 2018 we delivered one of the largest events of our calendar—Open Eco Homes followed up with 8 supporting workshops and training sessions.

OPEN ECO HOMES

Open Eco Homes helps people create beautiful, high functioning, low energy homes. We find householders who have renovated or built new eco homes and help them to pass on their knowledge to visitors by organising tours in their homes over two days in September. The advice is local, independent and free.

2018 we opened 10 homes which attracted the most visitors since 2012:

- 218 visitors made 461 one-hour tours of homes
- 60% of the visitors were new to Open Eco Homes
- it inspired/enabled improvements that will save approximately 722 tonnes CO₂ *

Self-build was a natural theme in 2018, with South Cambridgeshire and Cambridge City Councils providing self-build plots and advice. Mark Brinkley, author of the best-selling Housebuilder’s Bible, opened his new self-built home, which has beautiful woodwork and plenty of natural light, even on a rainy day. By using low-G glass, it also remained comfortable throughout this summer’s heatwave.

Architect Michael Goodheart also gave tours of his self-build in Grantchester, which he designed in more traditional style, with beautiful arts and crafts interiors. 5kW of PV is integrated into the roof, which overhangs and shades the home from summer sun. An air source heat pump provides most of the heating, complemented by a woodstove. Retrofits were featured too, like the Evans’ family conversion and extension of a 1920’s bungalow. The ground floor gained external insulation and a high spec timber-frame second floor added. Clever use of little corners maximises useable space in this family home for five.

We had hoped that Marmalade Lane Cohousing and Cambridge Mosque, both landmark Cambridge eco-builds, would be open. After building completion delays, they both gave delightful, fully booked OEH tours in March 2019.

* Estimated from 53 visitors’ responses to an online survey

A great way to see homes making big steps towards becoming zero carbon.

2018 visitor, Open Eco Homes

60% of visitors were new to Open Eco Homes
COSY CAMBRIDGE WORKSHOPS

We ran five workshops around the time of the Open Eco Homes tours to help people build their skills and knowledge. In total the events attracted 131 attendees. The topics were designed to complement the learning from the Eco Homes tours, covering 'Community Trusts and Co-housing', 'Draught-Proofing and Ventilation', 'Eco Self-Build', 'Solid Wall Insulation Choices' and 'Getting Your Home Ready for Climate Change'.

This last event was our first on adapting to climate change, rather than fighting it. It also showed how to stay cool in a heatwave, without air conditioning, reducing energy consumption, backed by a new online resource.

THERMAL IMAGING

Thermal imaging can vividly show where your home is leaking heat, revealing problems with insulation, draughts and more.

Some of the problems shown are easy for householders to fix, like draught-proofing, and some, like faulty insulation, may need professional help (not part of this project). Significant improvements in comfort, energy bills and carbon emissions are often made as a result.

In 2018 we ran 3 popular Thermal Imaging training sessions, where 26 new trainees learnt how to use our 2 thermal imaging cameras and interpret their images. Then they borrowed cameras to show where buildings are leaking heat, because of draughts, insulation problems, etc. Both in old buildings and, regrettably, in new homes with faults. Thermal images provide great information and motivation for getting these problems fixed.

A new resource, Thermal Imaging in a Heatwave extended the use of thermal imaging to the summer, helping reveal why homes are overheating. Thermal imaging cameras can help you identify potential hot spots and paired with this new resource, allows you to help make your home cooler through things like clever shading and ventilation.
Collaborating

The arts can change people’s minds and perceptions, leading to change in behaviours and actions. For this reason CCF expanded collaborations with the performing and visual arts in 2018.

CCF were pleased to collaborate on the Transition Cambridge led ‘Films for our Future’ season which saw green themed screenings airing across Cambridgeshire. We supported the sold-out launch film and talk by ‘Taiwei’ Director Bruce Parry at The Light Cinema and the showing of ‘Demain’ in Histon which attracted 165 film-goers.

Kettle’s Yard Gallery approached CCF to explore opportunities to tie in their upcoming Richard Pousset-Dart exhibition with the themes of Circular Cambridge. This first partnership with the Gallery led to them running an artistic, family focused workshop called ‘Shop Floor Dummies’ at the Sustainable Fashion Festival and on the following day, CCF’s leaflet ‘How to live a Circular Life in Cambridgeshire’ was the theme for the monthly ‘Studio Sunday’ workshop at the Gallery.

CCF were also asked to be part of the Sustainable Family Events Programme of the 38th Cambridge Film Festival. We subsequently ran a Kid’s Repair Café in the Arts Picturehouse itself which though it only looked at 20 repairs, brought the Repair Café concept to a much bigger audience – 17,000 brochures were printed.

Soprano Paula Downes and Pianist Clare Bullimore raised money for CCF by performing two recitals for ClimateKeys (a series created by composer pianist Lola Perrin to stimulate conversations about Climate Change). The Recitals at Trinity OCR and St Clement’s Church were followed by facilitated conversation about the climate crisis with climate expert Dr Hugh Hunt and a performance of music by world-renowned composer, Andrew Downes. Many thanks to the Downes family.

At Rise for Climate In September CCF partnered with a host of environmental organisations outside Guildhall and joined thousands of communities from all over the world as part of a ‘Global Day of Action Rising For Climate’. The aim was to organise a powerful action that would send a message to the County Council, the University and the Government that urgent political action was needed on climate. CCF’s role was to engage families in the action by offering face paints of species facing extinction.

Thank you so much Nicole . . . [for] being such a great team! It was great to work with you.

Karen Thomas, Community Officer at Kettle’s Yard
Outreach

Reaching new audiences is vital work supporting our core goal of changing behaviour, and strengthening community interest and commitment to low carbon living.

In 2018 we ran 4 stalls and gave 14 different outreach talks and workshops, engaging approximately 932 members of the public in discussion about climate change and carbon reduction. Proving the effectiveness of this approach, over 740 of those people engaged were new to our organisation.

Over the course of the year we ran stalls at the Climate and Sustainability Forum at Cambridge University, two in North Cambridge at Arbury Carnival and Chesterton Festival and we took our message into the workplace, speaking to employees at Mott MacDonald during their sustainability week.

In February CCF collaborated with artist Rachel Jacob who was touring the country with a 'Prediction Machine' that encouraged people to consider a future impacted by the climate crisis. The collaboration formed the basis of a climate workshop with 50 participants from an Arbury based older persons group called 'Not Quite Over the Hill Club' and there were 525 visits to the actual Prediction Machine in Central Library, including one from Cambridgeshire's MEP.

We also gave talks to diverse audiences, speaking at high profile occasions such as the Cambridge University Science Festival, running workshops for community groups like the Whittlewomen, Bedfordshire Embroiderers Guild, the Ladybirds WI and Granta Probus Club. We also participated in events at the Groundwork Gallery and Studio Sunday at Kettle's Yard, and we also worked with students giving workshops at Hill's Road Sixth Form College and supported the University of Cambridge's Green Hack.

Lobbying and Consultation

CCF works for widespread, deep personal carbon reductions. But, of course fighting climate change needs urgent, big political changes too, which we also support.

We are a member of The Climate Coalition, along with over 130 other organisations, representing about 15 million people, working together for big UK political action. We continue to participate in their actions and meet with other member organisations.

We also continue to participate in the ‘City Leaders Climate Change Meetings’. September 2018’s meeting was about the Circular Economy. Our staff, Alana and Nicole, gave an inspiring presentation on CCF’s Circular Cambridge project and the ways it’s involved so many Cambridge area organisations and people.

In September CCF responded to a consultation, on a proposal to scrap the export tariff – payments to householders for exporting electricity to the grid from PV and other renewables. In January 2019 the UK government relented, although payments aren’t a fair price and don’t increase when there’s a shortage of electricity, as we asked.
Communications

CCF’s press work is a real strength and dramatically increases the reach of our message. Most notably in 2018 our work on Repair Cafés received coverage in the Mail on Sunday. Open Eco Homes was covered in a diverse array of publications, including cycling and home building magazines as well as a variety of local newsletters and local newspapers. Our Sustainable Fashion Festival made a big splash. It was covered by Velvet magazine, That’s TV, Cambridge News and BBC online. CCF also continues to write a regular monthly column in the Cambridge Independent, and appear regularly on Cambridge 105.

With help from talented intern Iacopo Pinci, CCF gave our websites a mini makeover in 2018. We also worked on improving social media throughout the year, running campaigns alongside the CirculART Trail, Cosy Cambridge workshops and the Sustainable Fashion Festival.

Like many other organisations, our newsletter subscriptions took a hit in 2018 with the introduction of GDPR. Our circulation recovered towards the end of the year, bouncing back to a healthy 783 subscribers.

Our people

VOLUNTEERS

It’s hard to put into words the gratitude we have for our incredible legion of volunteers. Volunteers donated an eye-watering 4,439 hours of their time and skills to CCF in 2018. This would equate to a whopping income equivalent of £36,444 if each hour were paid at the current Living Wage of £8.21/hr. Volunteers are the repairers, bakers, fundraisers, Trustees, people stepping up to do radio interviews and write pieces for the newspapers, our speakers and office admin team, Open Eco Home hosts, thermal imagers, clothes swap organisers, workshop hosts, stall helpers and more.

A big thank you to everyone who volunteered with us in 2018. The events and achievements in this report belong to all of us.

STAFF

CCF staff work hard behind the scenes enabling all the good work of our volunteers. With guidance from our management team and trustees, Alana Sinclair (CCF’s Manager) has been taking on more and more whilst Nicole Barton’s (CCF’s Volunteer and Events Organisers) experience and skills have been vital in making Circular Cambridge a growing success. They both juggle multiple tasks whilst staying friendly and approachable to all who need their help. Allan Shepherd continues to organise most of Open Eco Homes and publicise it brilliantly.

Join the team! Find out more about volunteering at www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/volunteering
Finances

Total income in 2018 amounted to £69,014 (2017 £56,090) which, after total expenditure of £72,201 (2017 £67,082) resulted in a deficit of £3,187 (2017 deficit £10,992). The increase in income in 2018 compared to the previous year was due to increased donations. The increase in expenditure in the year was primarily attributable to increased staff costs of £43,781 (2017 £40,452) – due to increased pension costs. Additional expenditure also incurred on professional fees this year is not expected to recur. Other costs have been under continual review and have been kept to the minimum necessary wherever possible.

At the end of the year CCF had total funds of £16,766 (2017 £19,953), of which £14,416 (2017 £19,953) was unrestricted funds.

Circumstances in 2018 resulted in the reserve being slightly lower than the desired amount but in 2019 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 us in 2017. We’re incredibly grateful for all of the event donations, standing orders, one-off donations big and small, sponsorships, grants and trust monies that we received. It was these gifts that enabled us to carry out the work detailed in this report. We could not have done it without you.

Would you like to support our work? Donate today at www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org/donate