Image: Fabrica

Rampion Community Benefit Fund

Impact Report 2024

Sussex COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Rampion Community Benefit Fund

The Rampion Community Benefit Fund, managed by Sussex Community Foundation, was established in 2017 with a value of £3.1 million allocated over a ten-year period. The Fund aids charities and groups working to enhance the lives of Sussex residents within an area spanning from Littlehampton Harbour in the west, to Beachy Head in the east, and up to the A272 near Twineham in the north.

The fund aims to assist charities and community organisations during the energy crisis and beyond, all while addressing carbon emissions and climate change.

Rampion Community Benefit Fund

The Rampion Community Benefit Fund focuses on projects related to energy conservation, renewable energy, environmental improvements, nature conservation and marine ecology. Priority is given to projects supporting long-term initiatives that reduce energy costs and promote sustainable buildings.

Since 2023, the fund has focused on providing grants to organisations that support long-term initiatives that reduce energy costs and promote sustainable buildings. The Rampion fund has also supported other projects during this time that align with the fund criteria.

In 2024, as in 2023, the fund ring-fenced £100,000 that was used to support applications from village halls and organisations running community buildings - many housing multiple organisations. Eight diverse projects were awarded grants of this kind in 2024, including for increased insulation, solar photovoltaic systems, and new windows.

In the next section of this report, we explore some of these amazing projects.

"This year the Rampion Fund has awarded grants totalling £173,000 towards 22 hugely varied projects and causes including:

- **Photo voltaic panels and batteries for a youth club premises in Henfield**
- **Energy efficiency improvements to a creative arts hub in Brighton**
- **Energy-efficient pump system for Saltdean Lido**
- **Electric outboard motors for safety boats at the Arun Youth Aqua centre**
- **The supply of eco products for a community laundry space in London Road, Brighton**
- **The creation of a new orchard for the Steyning Community Orchard, encouraging the local community to grow and use locally grown fruit**

My thanks once again this year to our grants panel, our Grants Manager, Pete Jones and, of course, Rampion Offshore Wind."

Martin Roberts, Chair, Rampion Community Benefit Fund

"Through the Community Benefit Fund, Rampion Offshore Wind ensures that the wind farm benefits the communities it impacts.

We are proud to have supported 22 projects in 2024, with a total of £173,000. As detailed in this report, these projects range from community improvements and energy conservation to tackling disadvantage and enhancing well-being.

It is very heartening to hear about the impact of this funding, and we are grateful for the excellent service provided by The Sussex Community Foundation in administering the fund."

Kelvin Macleod, Acting Stakeholder Manager

Find out more about Sussex Community Foundation's Acting on Climate funding priority:
Acting On Climate

Rampion Offshore Wind Community Benefit Fund

Sussex COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Making an *impact* in 2024.

Over

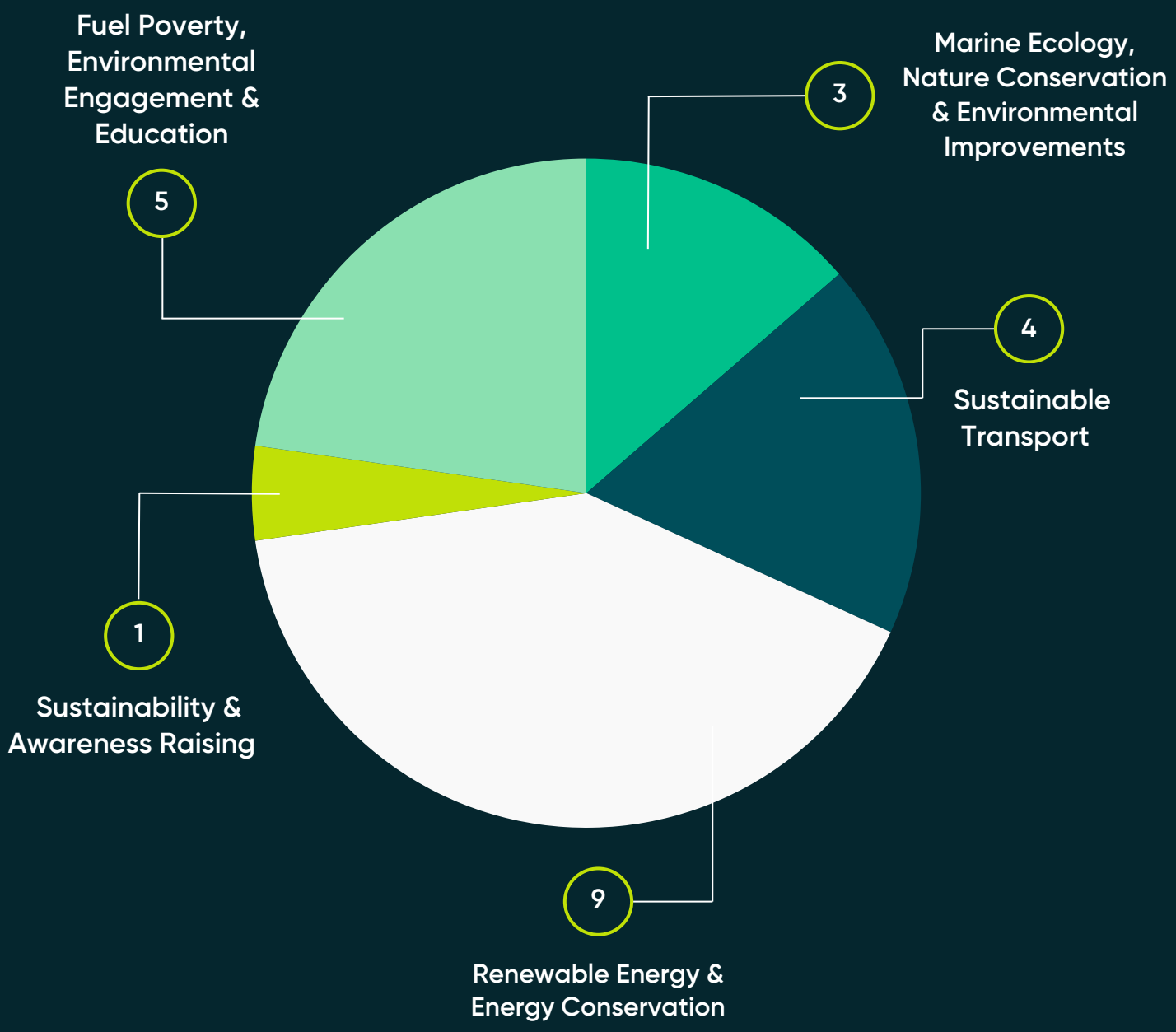
£173,000

The fund awarded £173,180 in 2024 and over £2.1m in grants since 2017 to 237 projects.

22

22 projects were supported in 2024.

Projects supported by theme.



Fabrica
- £3,439

Fabrica is an arts charity in Brighton & Hove that provides unique and meaningful creative experiences for a wide range of people. They aim to improve the wellbeing of those facing health, income, social or age-related disadvantage.

Their sessions offer engagement and social prescribing activities, fostering both new creative interests and social connections.

A grant from the Rampion Community Benefit Fund was used as leverage by Fabrica to access another much larger fund. This enabled the charity to make critical improvements to their well-known listed Brighton building, including heating and energy upgrades.

The programme boosted Fabrica's energy efficiency and reduced energy costs, whilst also promoting long-term sustainability by increasing the usability of the building during the colder months.

This project successfully delivered the installation of solar panels, an air-source heat pump, and several draft-reduction measures. The building is now more comfortably and consistently heated, which is having a positive impact on staff, tenants, hirers and participants. And the group has already seen a reduction in their monthly electricity bills.

> "The newly converted offices away from my desk are well insulated and comfortable. The underfloor heating, coupled with the radiators, all of which are heated via the new heat pump, have made our reception office very pleasant to work in all year around."
>
> Peter Stonhold, Fabrica Administrator

CYCALL - £4,548

CYCALL is an inclusive cycling project based at Brooklands Park in Worthing.

They have a fleet of 40 adapted bikes, offering sensory equipment and specialised seating.

Thanks to a grant from the Rampion Community Benefit Fund, CYCALL purchased six solar power panels and a solar powered generator to provide a source of electricity. They have used the power source to charge the batteries used on the wheelchair transporter bikes, to create sensory lighting in their sensory space, and to provide refreshments and warm water at sessions.

The power source is also used to operate the hoist to transfer wheelchair users to adapted bikes. Without it, CYCALL wouldn't be able to offer the joy of cycling to people with more complex issues.

> **"Cycling was one of my great joys and I honestly never thought I could cycle again. Thanks to CYCALL for this opportunity, they have given me my independence back."**

"I love cycling and I did not think this was something I could share with my son until we encountered CYCALL's adaptive accessible cycling sessions. They are a fantastic local charity"

St Matthew's Worthing - £12,747

St Matthew's Worthing is a local church serving the community around them, particularly meeting the daily needs of people struggling with poverty, hunger, loneliness and addiction.

Thanks to this grant, and following a recent energy audit, the hall's vaulted ceiling has now been insulated. This provides the many community groups that use the hall during the week with a much more pleasant environment, which is warmer and without draughts.

Henfield Youth Club - £7,709

Henfield Youth Club supports and educates young people by providing leisure time activities to help them develop physically, mentally and spiritually.

Following a building energy audit in 2020 (as part of Sustainable Henfield 2030), it was recommended that Henfield Youth Club install solar photovoltaic panels to help mitigate against rising energy costs.

A grant from the Rampion Community Benefit Fund enabled the club to install 24 panels, each rated at 405W, which equates to an average 6,779 kWh per annum over the 25 year life of the system. Of this, 4,001 kWh of energy will be used by the club, and an excess of 2,667 kWh can be exported to the grid. In total, the project will save on average 65% on energy consumption from the grid.

65%

Average energy consumption saving from the national grid for Henfield Youth Club

Arun Youth Aqua Centre - £10,000

Arun Youth Aqua Centre offers young people aged eight to 18 the opportunity to learn to sail at minimum cost. They provide boats and all the necessary equipment, including clothing if needed, to give all children the chance to join in.

Thanks to this grant, the group purchased two additional safety boats with electric motors, providing extra safety and coaching cover. This enabled Arun Youth Aqua Centre to increase their membership numbers from 15 to 30.

> **"Our youth membership has almost doubled this year and this would not have been possible without us being able to use these two safety boats to provide the safety ratios that the Royal Yachting Association require."**

Havens Community Hub - £10,000

Havens Community Hub creates and supports community projects to meet community need. This includes running the Havens Food Cooperative, a food waste prevention scheme tackling waste and food insecurity, and Havens Connections, their community café.

The Havens Food Cooperative is tackling the issue of food insecurity at local level. The project collects surplus food from local stores, sorts and redistributes this to the surrounding community in and around Newhaven.

Since its creation in 2020, the group has greatly grown its capacity. Up to three tonnes of food are now collected on a weekly basis and redistributed via the project's key services: individual collections, a community pantry and other pop-up pantries hosted in partnership with food banks, schools, accommodation providers and other community projects across the area.

Real lives

"One member of Havens Food Cooperative was facing difficult times, struggling to afford nutritious meals and feeling isolated from their community.

They learned about the cooperative through a friend and signed up to our surplus food collection scheme in the evenings. Since then, they have been able to access a variety of fresh ingredients, including fruit, vegetables, pastries and bread to support their family. They have described the service as 'a lifeline for when things are tough financially. '"

Network of International Women of Brighton & Hove (NIWBH) - £10,000

NIWBH supports migrant, refugee and asylum-seeker women. They connect all participants, encouraging them to share experiences and build community.

Since 2022, NIWBH has been providing the Cost of Living Programme to women and families from ethnic minority backgrounds in Brighton & Hove. The project provides monthly in-person support sessions, giving energy advice, help with energy-related issues, benefit support, and fuel crisis grants. They also offer referrals to other services such as food banks, debt agencies, housing and social services.

A grant from the Rampion Community Benefit Fund enabled NIWBH to increase the capacity of their Cost of Living Programme outreach, specifically to reach marginalised women, including those experiencing domestic abuse, substance misuse or single parenthood.

Through the project, the group provided a wide range of energy-saving products to participants, including LED light bulbs, time switches, cistern tank bags and energy-saving kettles. They also organised a Cost of Living event day in July 2024, bringing together key local partners and services tackling fuel poverty. The event helped attendees increase their knowledge of local support services and built community connections.

"A lot of people don't know [about this type of support], but it's really reassuring, and it means a lot to many people. Sometimes it's embarrassing to ask for help, and people don't know who to talk to."

Rampion Community Benefit Fund

Grants awarded in 2024

Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
CYCALL	Solar panels & solar generator	£4,548
St Matthew's Worthing	Insulated ceiling in church hall	£12,747
Steyning for Trees	Trees, hedges & planting equipment	£4,720
Arun Aqua Youth	Electric outboard motors	£10,000
Haven's Community Hub	Food waste prevention projects	£10,000
Steyning Community Orchard	New orchard planting	£1,000
Henfield Youth Club	Solar photovoltaic & battery system installation	£7,709
Quiet Down There	Community laundry project	£4,633
Fabrica	Leverage match funding for larger energy sustainability project	£3,439
Brighton Bike Hub	Community cycle workshop & projects	£10,000
FareShare Sussex & Surrey	Solar panels	£11,402
Esteem	Improvements to upgrade energy efficiency of their building	£20,000

Organisation	What did the grant fund?	Grant amount
Between the Blue & the Green	Sustainable film festival & outreach programme	£2,500
Community Base	Upgrade whole building lighting system	£6,332
NIWBH	Supporting members to save energy in their homes	£10,000
TWEACK	Community tree planting project	£1,650
Saltdean Lido	Super efficient new pumping system	£20,000
Pedal People	Bike maintenance and parts	£10,000
The Ledward Centre	Support for electricity bill	£3,500
Sight Support Worthing	Building sustainability improvements	£1,500
St Luke's Advice Service	Support for work addressing fuel poverty & energy debt	£10,000
Adur Community Cafe	Core costs	£7,500

01273 409440
grants@sussexcommunityfoundation.org
www.sussexcommunityfoundation.org
15 Western Road, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1RL

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