# Annual review and summary accounts 2020-21



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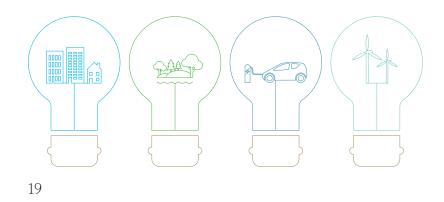
The charity and company The Green Alliance Trust operates under the working name Green Alliance.

David Baldock Rita Clifton CBE Benet Northcote

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# Sir Graham Wynne Chair

This was a year of huge disruption, jeopardy and anxiety for the whole country as Covid-19 struck. In fact, we entered the first of several lockdowns right at the beginning of the period covered by this report.

As an organisation that prides itself on its flexibility and deftness at navigating change, we adapted fast, with effective online systems and a strong virtual working culture. In our communications, we pivoted to hosting podcasts and running popular online events, often at short notice. These attracted larger audiences than we have ever achieved for in person events.

Notwithstanding the unequal impact of the pandemic across society, we were also quick to see that the changes wrought by the pandemic were a rare window of opportunity to accelerate the country towards a fairer, stronger and greener economy in future. By July, we had proposed our Blueprint for a green recovery and gained new support for a major new Green Renewal project to promote it.

We were mindful too of the need to avoid the pandemic derailing the progress of two upcoming landmark moments for the UK: the COP26 global climate summit in Glasgow and the passing of major post-Brexit environmental legislation. On climate, our Cutting Carbon Now project periodically audited the government's progress in cutting greenhouse gas emissions. On post-Brexit legislation, the Greener UK coalition, led by Green Alliance, worked very effectively to improve the government's Environment Bill.

We are acutely aware that, although this time of change presents opportunities, there is also great jeopardy, not least because of the difficulty of advancing crucial international negotiations in a virtual world. There is precious little time left to tackle the intertwined climate and nature crises and, while we know that our economy depends on a healthy, stable environment, this message is only fitfully understood and acted upon by those in power. Over the coming year, working with our network of allies, we will redouble our efforts to persuade the UK government to take the far reaching measures needed to restore the environment. We look forward to working with all our supporters in this critical endeavour.

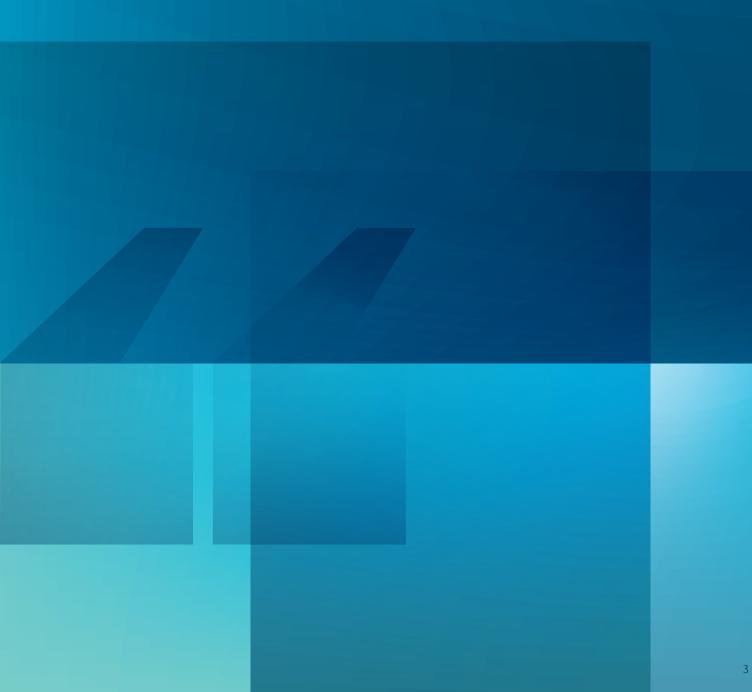
Finally, I would like to record my gratitude to our team. I am immensely proud of the way they have come through this year, not just managing but taking us forward as a thriving growing organisation.



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# Our vision and strategy



# Ourvision

Our vision is for a green and prosperous UK for all.

We want a country where people and nature can thrive together. Where the economy is built on strong environmental principles to ensure long term wellbeing and a healthy environment. We believe that everyone, wherever they live, should have affordable, sustainable, high quality homes, food and transport, and access to green spaces.

The UK should be a place where nature's value is recognised and where a carbon neutral and zero waste economy enables green businesses to provide good jobs across the country. We want the country's scientific excellence, capacity for innovation and diplomatic talent to set the global standard for environmental protection.

We believe that ambitious political leadership is at the core of achieving this.

# Our values

# We are optimists

We believe that a green and prosperous UK is achievable.

# We are change makers

We are flexible and agile, focusing on where the power is, and on whatever we think will have the greatest impact.

# We are collaborative

We are pluralists and believe that collaboration and seeking to understand others' viewpoints is the only way to make progress; this is reflected in how we operate both internally and externally.

# We embrace complexity

We will never ignore the fact that environmental issues are inherently complex and inseparable from other important issues, including social impacts, and we do our best to address this in all our work.

# We are inclusive

In all aspects of our work we seek to include, involve and listen to diverse voices and communities, as a necessary component of success.

# Our strategy 2018-21

This was the final year of our strategy covering 2018-21.

Our strategy for this period was to:

### Build political support for a vision of a green and

**prosperous UK**, based on the highest environmental and social standards. One in which clean growth and environmental leadership contribute to the UK's competitive advantage.

### Secure new laws and governance arrangements to

ensure strong environmental protections after Brexit, including campaigning for a new Environment Act to underpin investment in the environment and people's wellbeing.

# Generate new ideas for world class environmental policy.

While these strategic objectives remained relevant in 2020-21, from March 2020 much of our policy and political work, as well as our operations, pivoted quickly in response to the pandemic. In particular, we responded to the postponement of the COP26 climate summit, to be hosted by the UK, which was moved to November 2021, and the economic impact and opportunity for change caused by Covid-19.

Our new three year strategy, published in June 2021, reflects this shift, with a focus on translating cross party commitment to a greener UK into concrete action, through economic recovery plans, the UK's response to the nature and climate emergencies and the post-Brexit domestic legislative landscape.

### **Strategic objectives**

### Political engagement

Increase the number of MPs and peers across all parties who support enhanced environmental protections.

### Strategic direction for the environment sector

Working with our partners, to ensure well co-ordinated communication of priorities to government.

# Grow our network of progressive businesses and city leaders

Build support for ambitious international environmental leadership by the UK.

### **Targeted communications**

Keep the environment in the news, clarify evidence and maintain intelligent commentary on environmental issues.

### Expert analysis and thought leadership

Inform robust environmental policy for the UK to take forward into the post-Brexit era.

# In 2020-21 our work was organised under the following themes:

### **Political leadership**

- Building support, across the government and parliament, devolved administrations and city leaders, for the UK to play a pivotal role at the COP26 climate summit.
- Promoting the need for a green recovery from the pandemic.
- Securing the best deal for the environment from Brexit and strengthening new domestic environmental law, through our work with Greener UK.

### **Greening the economy**

- Showing how low carbon, resource efficient solutions can promote clean growth at the local and national levels,
- Demonstrating how these solutions also provide good jobs across the country.
- Making the case to accelerate the uptake of smart clean technology.

### Low carbon future

- Putting people at the heart of public policy, for instance by making the case for the more rapid uptake of electric vehicles to benefit everyone.
- Advocating stronger local decision making to support greener communities and local climate action.

### Resources

- Harnessing public and political interest in plastic pollution to shape the future of UK resource use, both for plastics and other high impact materials.
- Focusing on changing underlying resource management systems to increase efficiency.
- Increasing political recognition of resource efficiency as an important climate policy.

### Natural environment

- Promoting opportunities for private sector funding to solve nature's decline.
- Making the most of new post-Brexit opportunities for a step change in the restoration of the UK's natural environment.

# Highlights of the year

# April 2020

We called for a new Office for Carbon Removal and a farm and soil carbon code, to strengthen the oversight of carbon offsetting. Other influential voices have since recommended a body to oversee carbon removals, and the government is supporting the development of a new UK Soil and Farm Carbon Code Page 25

# June 2020



Over 14,000 local constituents signed up to 'The time is now' virtual lobby, organised by Green Alliance and The Climate

Coalition, to ask their MPs to put people, climate and nature at the heart of the Covid-19 recovery. Page 11

# July 2020

Our advocacy contributed to green investment headlining Chancellor Rishi Sunak's emergency Summer Economic Statement in July 2020, which included £3 billion for decarbonising housing and public buildings. Page 20

Following Green Alliance's recommendations, the government announced it would adopt the 65 per cent recycling target of the EU's Circular Economy Package. It has since announced plans for binding resource productivity and waste minimisation targets to complement this, which we have advocated since 2017. Page 23

# September 2020

We took over the secretariat of the Environment All Party Parliamentary Group, hosting ten events in the first seven months, setting up new social channels for MPs and significantly increasing MP engagement on climate and nature issues. Page 12

# October 2020

Green Alliance's executive director Shaun Spiers was appointed to the government's Strategic Trade Advisory Group. Page 16

Kwasi Kwarteng, then clean growth minister, responded directly to our Tech Task Force recommendations on digitalisation and the low carbon economy, saying that forthcoming government strategies would seek to join up the two agendas. Page 19



# November 2020

The Labour Party backed our Environment Bill amendment on single use products and our stance on the need to do more to tackle the problem. Page 22 The Environmental Audit Committee's report into e-waste and the circular economy contained 50 references to Green Alliance's work and adopted many of the policies that we have advocated, including cutting VAT on repairs. Page 23

# November 2020 and May 2021

Pressure from the Greener UK coalition, led by Green Alliance, succeeded in bringing the delayed Environment Bill back to parliament twice, avoiding the derailing of vital new protections and standards. Page 15

### November 2020

Prime Minister Boris Johnson confirmed the government would bring forward phase out of the sale of new petrol and diesel vehicles by ten years, from 2040 to 2030, a move first proposed by Green Alliance in 2017. Page 21

## December 2020

Following our work with leading academics at the Centre for Industrial Energy, Materials and Products and the Centre for Research into Energy Demand Solutions, the Climate Change Committee acknowledged the importance of resource efficiency in climate policy. It incorporated our recommendations, including ecodesign standards, into its sixth carbon budget advice to government. Page 23

Our report *The local climate challenge* was our most read publication of the year, downloaded nearly 12,000 times in four months. Page 20



*The local climate challenge,* December 2020

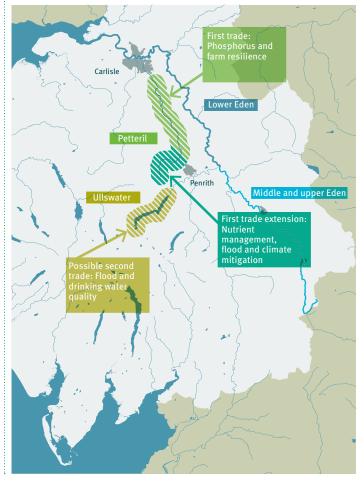
# March 2021

Our budget commentary featured in all the major broadsheets, and on the BBC and Sky News. Page 20

Our first animation, calling for the UK to halve its resource use, received over 8,500 views in its first week of broadcast. Page 26



After we presented the conclusions of our trial of how to use private payments for nature restoration in Cumbria to Defra, the department is developing plans to integrate private funding across all its new Environmental Land Management schemes. Page 24



# Progress report 2020-21

2.



# Political leadership

# Blueprint for a resilient economy

The extraordinary disruption of Covid-19, early in 2020, led to a swift change to our Cutting Carbon Now political strategy to focus on the need for a green economic recovery. In Blueprint for a resilient economy (June 2020), and a series of detailed briefings, we emphasised that the economic rescue package in the wake of the crisis should set a new direction for the UK.

This advocacy, which was then echoed by other influential voices beyond the environment sector, led to Chancellor Rishi Sunak saying he wanted a "green recovery with concern for our environment at its heart". He made green investment one of the headlines of his emergency Summer Economic Statement in July 2020, including £3 billion for decarbonising housing and public buildings. However, there is still much to do to secure a green recovery and put the environment at the heart of the Treasury's thinking.



Shaun Spiers, Green Alliance's executive director, providing comment in *The Times* 'Red Box' following the release of the prime minister's *Ten point plan for a green industrial revolution* in November 2020

# 'The time is now' lobby goes digital

In 2019, we co-organised the biggest ever mass lobby of parliament. 'The time is now' saw 12,000 constituents travel to Westminster to speak to their MPs about the need for urgency in taking climate and nature action. Undaunted by the restrictions of the pandemic, we once again worked with The Climate Coalition to organise an even larger virtual lobby of MPs in June 2020. Over 14,000 people signed up to ask their MPs to put people, climate and nature at the heart of Covid-19 recovery. More than 200 meetings were held with MPs over 24 hours.

# Climate Leadership Programme for MPs

Our Climate Leadership Programme for MPs, has run since 2009. It has significantly increased the number of parliamentarians engaged on climate change. Following the 2019 general election, we worked to inform the large new intake of Conservative MPs about environmental issues, and particularly, on priorities for a green recovery. Our private briefings on topics such as public opinion on climate change and the economics of net zero have helped to sustain the climate consensus in parliament. During the year, MPs involved in the programme regularly tabled questions in parliament, organised debates and asked ministers oral questions on climate.

'Climate Assembly UK: results briefing for the NGO and environment sector', online event, September 2020

"As the secretariat for the Environment APPG, Green Alliance impresses with its wealth of experience and expertise across politics and the environmental sector." Anthony Browne MP, chair of the Environment APPG

# A new role running the Environment APPG

In September 2020, we took over the secretariat of the Environment All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG). Working closely with its chair, Anthony Browne MP, we organised its relaunch at a major event in parliament, with guest speaker Mark Carney, the former Bank of England governor and UN special envoy on climate action and finance. Intending to quickly increase the impact of the APPG at a pivotal time for environment policy, we set up new social channels for the group and organised a full programme of events with senior parliamentary speakers and experts, including Sajid Javid, Professor Partha Dasgupta, Anneliese Dodds, the NFU chair Minette Batters and the COP26 President Alok Sharma. Over the year, we significantly increased the number of MPs actively involved in the APPG.

# Making 2021 count

In association with partner organisations (Wildlife and Countryside Link, the Aldersgate Group, The Climate Coalition, the Coalition for Global Prosperity and the Environment APPG) we hosted a full day of online panels and interviews in November 2020 to discuss the crucial year ahead for action to avert the climate and nature crises, as the UK geared up to host the 2021 COP26 climate summit in Glasgow. Over 600 online attendees took part and heard from expert speakers and senior politicians, including COP26 President Alok Sharma, Labour leader Keir Starmer and Scotland's environment and climate change minister Roseanne Cunningham.

Friday 27 November 9.00am

### Opening messages









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# Political strategy for the environment sector

We convened environmental representatives around the deal the UK would be taking to the Glasgow climate summit in November 2021. This included running high level meetings between the COP26 President Alok Sharma and the CEOs of major environmental charities.

The first meeting between environmental organisations and the Labour leader Keir Starmer was organised by Green Alliance in January 2021.

To maintain momentum on climate and nature advocacy throughout the Covid-19 lockdowns, we hosted weekly calls between sector representatives, Wildlife and Countryside Link and The Climate Coalition, and other leading environmental NGOs. This regular strategic collaboration helped to align thinking and public messaging across the sector.



COP26 President Alok Sharma delivering an address online during the 'Making it count' day of events, November 2020

# Tracking UK climate action

In the run up to the UK hosting the COP26 UN climate summit in 2021, we tracked government progress towards its own domestic target of a net zero carbon economy by 2050. We analysed the impact of new policies announced since the start of 2020. The update of our Net zero policy tracker in December 2020 found the government to be significantly off track, despite new announcements on housing and transport. This was reported across the media, including on Radio 4's Today programme.

We kept up regular communications with Number 10 and HM Treasury about these findings and our recommendations, including four tests for the COP26 summit:

- \_delivery of real progress towards the global commitment to keep warming to 1.5°C;
- \_having a credible domestic net zero carbon strategy;
- \_ensuring justice for those on the frontline of the climate crisis;
- \_highlighting the connections between the nature and climate crises.

# Greener UK

In 2016, Green Alliance convened Greener UK, an unprecedented coalition of 12 leading environmental organisations, supported by over 50 other networks and groups, to unify the environment movement's response to Brexit. After the UK left the EU in January 2020, the coalition continued to influence significant post-Brexit legislation, on fisheries, trade and agriculture, as well as the landmark Environment Bill.

# **GREENER UK**



# Keeping vital legislation on track

Drawing on the expertise of all the organisations involved, we succeeded in persuading the government to bring forward new legislation, through an Environment Bill. When the pandemic struck in March 2020, the bill's progress was paused, leaving protections hanging by a thread. Greener UK focused on urging the return of the legislation as soon as possible and raising the government's ambitions in the bill.

With the help of experts across many disciplines, we tracked and analysed gaps in environmental governance and policy across the UK. We focused on issues between England and Northern Ireland, interim arrangements, environmental targets and principles and special areas of concern, such as chemicals regulation and species conservation.

The final assessment of Greener UK's Risk Tracker, in March 2021, was that "the government's landmark promise to 'maintain and enhance' protections has not been met", with four areas (air quality, nature protection, waste and resources, and chemicals) deemed to be at high risk. No area was found to be low risk.

# Where was the Environment Bill?

The Environment Bill is the most comprehensive and significant piece of environmental legislation for over two decades. Delay to its passage through parliament in 2020 was of real concern as, once the UK had left the EU, important environmental protections would be removed until new provisions were established. We pressed for the bill to return through parliamentary questions, media interventions and social media. This initially succeeded. However, Greener UK had to apply pressure again when the bill was delayed for a third time in early 2021, with our concerns reported in The Daily Telegraph, BBC News, The Guardian and The Times. It finally resumed its progress through parliament in May 2021.



Rt Hon Greg Hands MP, minister of state for trade policy speaking at the Greener UK online event 'How can trade policy help to achieve the UK's environmental ambitions?', July 2020

"Green Alliance plays a valuable role in convening and focusing the views of NGOs through Greener UK. Its regular and active contributions bring insight, perspective and constructive challenge, and I have welcomed its sustained interest in the role for strong environmental governance post-Brexit." Dame Glenys Stacey, chair designate of the Office for Environmental Protection

# Informing parliamentary debates

A total of sixteen detailed briefings from Greener UK on the Environment Bill, for the House of Commons committee stage, were heavily relied upon by MPs. In October, two environment select committees were persuaded to raise the alarm about slow progress and the lack of transparency around the bill. This led to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) announcing an interim system for public complaints when environmental laws are broken and providing clarity around the new Office for Environmental Protection (OEP), a watchdog for environmental law, first proposed by Greener UK in 2018. BBC News reported our concern that an amendment allowing the government to "advise" the OEP on how it enforces environmental law would enable ministers to steer away from awkward or inconvenient cases. We also highlighted the need for a full shadow OEP to provide a stronger base for its early work. In March 2021, the government responded by announcing that the OEP would be launched on an interim basis ahead of its formal establishment as part of the Environment Bill.

# Trade and agriculture standards

Amid rising unease around the potential for new trade deals to erode UK environment standards, Greener UK worked with farming, trade and animal welfare groups to campaign for existing protections to be maintained. Green Alliance's executive director Shaun Spiers, who also chairs Greener UK, was appointed to the government's Strategic Trade Advisory Group in October 2020. This enhanced the environment sector's engagement with the Department for International Trade.

To raise public awareness around food standards, Greener UK supported the Mail on Sunday's 'Save our Family Farms' campaign throughout the summer of 2020. Coalition members provided stories and comment, including a major piece on risks around antibiotics. Faced with such concerted campaigning, the government established a new quasiindependent Trade and Agriculture Commission (TAC) to analyse policy options and future agreements.

Worried that the TAC would not offer sufficient scrutiny over trade, Greener UK worked with Sustain to establish the Future British Standards Coalition (FBSC) in September 2020, spanning animal welfare, public health, farming and trade law, it looked in detail at the government's approach to food standards. Its final report, *Safeguarding standards*, in November 2020, urged ministers to maintain high import standards through legal bans, to consider the use of tariffs carefully and to improve the breadth of sectors represented on the TAC. These conclusions were reported in the media and were acknowledged several times in parliament. They were also reflected in the TAC's final report. The government has since moved to extend any future TAC representation to environmental and animal welfare groups.



Greener UK worked with Sustain to look in detail at the government's approach to food standards and trade

# Stronger environmental focus for new legislation

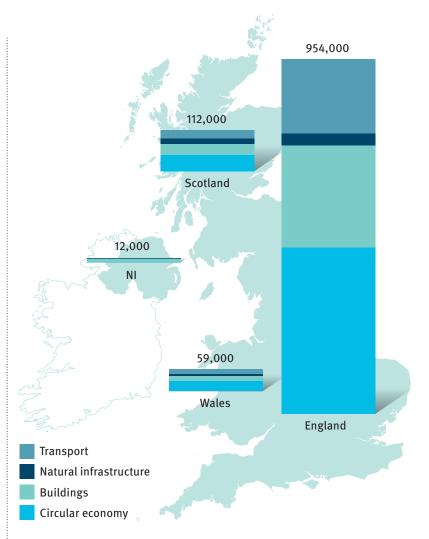
Autumn 2020 marked the end of long running campaigns to strengthen the Agriculture and Fisheries Bills. Thanks to concerted work by Greener UK, the 'public money for public goods' purpose in the Agriculture Bill passed unscathed and the future of agricultural support in England post-Brexit has dramatically shifted towards environmental recovery.

The ability of the Fisheries Bill to protect the marine environment was another major focus for Greener UK's advocacy. Whilst the government did not accept the case that sustainability should be its prime objective, several of its objectives are now environmental. The government also agreed to issue a call for evidence on remote electronic monitoring (cameras on boats to encourage sustainable fishing).

# Greening the economy

# The right building blocks for recovery

Green Alliance has focused on the importance of infrastructure for a greener economy for many years, as it governs how people live and work. Our report Getting the building blocks right (November 2020) looked at the UK's infrastructure needs in the context of economic recovery from Covid-19, and how to get the country on track for net zero and nature recovery. We argued that accelerating the green economy could create over a million jobs across the UK. Emphasising where the government's current approach is contradictory, eg its roads programme, we set out what a green industrial revolution for the UK should look like. This included proposing a 'net zero test' for all infrastructure decisions and scaling up investment in neglected areas, like resource efficiency and nature. Our advocacy encouraged the National Infrastructure Commission to improve its stance on biodiversity, and the government committed to review its national policy statement on roads.



Scaling up infrastructure for net zero could support over a million jobs across the country over the next decade. From *Getting the building blocks right*, November 2020

# <figure>

Disagree

People are frustrated by product lifespans and the lack of repairability. From *Added value*, September 2020

# The need for a green recovery from Covid-19

Towards the end of the year we launched Green Renewal, a major new project with a highly focused mission to promote the economic and social benefits of a green recovery from Covid-19. Using diverse voices from business and civil society, it influenced the narrative on the need for a greener and fairer economy. We had an immediate impact around the budget in March 2021, with our commentary in the major broadsheets, and on the BBC and Sky News. We have built important new relationships with Treasury civil servants, while our focus on job creation has attracted engagement from many of the new intake of Conservative MPs. Initial research, with the influential agencies Public First and WPI Economics, has built a body of evidence on green employment opportunities in different sectors. We reported the results of these studies and surveys in the summer of 2021. This project is breaking new ground, acting as a go between environmental groups and the Treasury. It is also covering economic topics not previously viewed through an environment lens, for instance on the purpose of the UK Infrastructure Bank and the government's levelling up agenda.

# Transforming tax for a greener economy

With the support of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust we launched a new three year project on how the tax system can assist the public to adopt greener lifestyles and avoid behaviours that harm the environment. An expert advisory board is helping to guide and test our recommendations. Our first report of the project, Added value (September 2020), examined potential changes to VAT, the UK's tax on consumption. It highlighted three relatively straightforward changes to the tax as an example of simple, quick reforms that could be made. "Green Alliance brings a deep understanding of how to present messages and engage with policy makers to maximum effect. In our work together I have benefited greatly from its expertise in policy and policy engagement."

Paul Ekins, professor of resources and environmental policy, UCL Institute for Sustainable Resources

# Task force conclusions echoed by minister

In May 2020, our Tech Task Force of leading innovation organisations and businesses produced its third and final sectoral focus report. This looked at opportunities for digital technology to drive novel green developments in the construction and buildings sector. This followed two explorations into digital approaches to greening transport and business energy use.

In Smart and green (October 2020), we summarised the task force's conclusions emphasising the need for much greater integration between decarbonisation and digitalisation policies. At an event to launch the report, then clean growth minister Kwasi Kwarteng responded, pointing to forthcoming government strategies that would seek to connect these agendas. The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) has since adopted a technology-based approach to regulating the energy efficiency of large commercial and industrial buildings and there has been more alignment between the work of the department's 'Made smarter' and industrial decarbonisation teams.



Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, then minister of state for business, energy and clean growth speaking at 'Unlocking the green digital revolution for the UK', online event, October 2020

# Futureproofing supply chains

Building on our previous work around the emissions generated at home and abroad from the UK's consumption of goods and services, we worked with the Fairtrade Foundation to identify how to futureproof the supply chains of bananas and roses. We held an event, supported by the foundation, to explore how tackling the UK's global environmental footprint could promote a more resilient economy.



# Amplifying the case for green innovation

Since 2019, our role in the Green Innovation Policy Commission (GIPC), led by Professor Paul Ekins at University College London and Sir John Cridland, was to make sure its work was well understood by the government. This included promoting its priorities to the BEIS and Environmental Audit Committees, and providing input to BEIS task forces on economic recovery. We helped to launch the commission's final report in January 2021 and published our own summary of its findings for policy makers, How to fast track innovation for a green industrial revolution (January 2021). Headline messages from the report included the need for a better use of government powers of investment, regulation and procurement to stimulate innovation. With a significant business leader membership, the GIPC also called for a new green transition partnership between the public and private sectors. We continue to emphasise this important study's conclusions to both BEIS and the Treasury.

# Low carbon future

# The power of local climate action

By late 2020, 75 per cent of English local authorities had declared a climate emergency, demonstrating their determination to act on the climate crisis. We held workshops for six authorities already leading on this agenda, to explore their policy options. We also interviewed representatives of 12 other authorities aspiring to do more, to hear directly about the issues they face. The local climate challenge (December 2020) stressed the importance of local action in meeting climate goals and the need for greater powers and funding for local authorities to take effective action. This was our most read report of the year with nearly 12,000 downloads in three months.

This report helped to shape subsequent work by the National Audit Office and we have given evidence to select committees on its findings. Workshops with civil servants and a coalition of environment, local authority and research organisations also explored particular local sectoral challenges and made the case for a comprehensive policy framework to support local action. These helped to nurture stronger relationships with government departments on these issues and led to ongoing discussions about how to plug evidence gaps in future.



In *The local climate challenge*, December 2020, we argued that, with more government support, local authorities would be best placed to support communities and local businesses to tackle climate change

"Green Alliance's work has helped to raise awareness around the local dimension of climate action, proving that mayors and local leaders have a vital role to play in getting us to net zero." Andy Street, mayor of West Midlands

# Aligning NGO views on transport

As a leading advocate for earlier phase out of the sale of new petrol and diesel cars and vans, we were delighted when the government confirmed, in November 2020, that it would bring forward the phase out date by ten years, from 2040 to 2030, accelerating the move to low carbon transport with all the benefits to society and the environment that will bring. This was a very significant win for our work on transport.

In autumn 2020, we launched a new programme of work on decarbonising transport. As the sector responsible for the greatest share of carbon emissions, there needs to be much swifter, decisive action to bring down transport emissions. Early research under the programme made the case for an ambitious regulatory framework to speed up the electric vehicle transition.

We recruited new members from across the environment sector to our transport roundtable, increasing its membership to 30. This strengthened the cross-sector response to the department's 'Decarbonising Transport' consultation.

We produced briefings and held meetings for civil servants, MPs and NGOs on expectations for the government's transport decarbonisation plans, on how planning reforms can support the move to low carbon transport and on the need to include emissions from international aviation and shipping in future UK carbon emission reduction targets. This influenced the government to announce that it would include international aviation and shipping emissions in UK decarbonisation targets, a positive move in the effort to decarbonise these high emitting sectors.



Cathryn Higgs, head of food policy at The Co-op , speaking at 'Is tackling the UK's global environmntal footprint the route to a resilient, low carbon economy?', online event, February 2021

# The case for clean air zones

There is a wealth of evidence showing that the best and fastest way to prevent dirty air in cities from damaging people's health is through clean air zones, charging polluting vehicles to enter. Local areas with significant air quality issues have responded to a requirement from the government to deal with it, with many making plans for clean air zones. However, there was some pushback early in 2020, partly due to the pandemic, with



*The case for clean air zones,* March 2021

suspicions that they are a stealth tax and might be ineffective. In The case for clean air zones (March 2021), we countered the myths and clarified the evidence in favour of clean air zones. We demonstrated how they can play an important role in meeting air pollution and climate targets as well as improving community wellbeing. The Times and The Guardian both featured stories around our findings.

# Resources

# Influencing more political action on resources

Throughout the year, we kept the Climate Change Committee (CCC) and civil servants in Defra, BEIS and the Treasury briefed on the role that resource efficiency could play in a green recovery from Covid-19, and on the need for waste reform and resource reduction targets in the Environment Bill.

Our evidence to an Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into green jobs argued that a more ambitious approach to the circular economy could deliver hundreds of thousands of new jobs, on top of benefits for climate and nature.

We organised a letter to the House of Commons Environment Bill Committee, from businesses and trade associations, supporting an important amendment that would expand the power to charge for single use items, from those made of plastic to all single use materials. It was supported by Labour, which adopted our stance on the need to do more to tackle the wider issue of throwaway society.

With CHEM Trust, we wrote to ministers, urging them to resist the chemical industry's calls for deregulation under UK REACH, the UK's replacement for the EU chemicals regime. There have been alarming calls from some businesses suggesting they should not have to provide full safety data for chemicals they use in the UK because of the additional financial burden it would impose.



Libby Peake, Green Alliance's head of resources, giving advice about circular economy opportunities to the Environmental Audit Committee's hearing on green jobs, skills and training, February 2021.

"Corplex joined Green Alliance's Circular Economy Task Force in 2021 because it is giving voice to the most effective ways to make the circular economy a reality, through its research, membership and connection to policy makers." Lucas van der Schalk, CEO, Corplex

# Securing ambitious national recycling targets

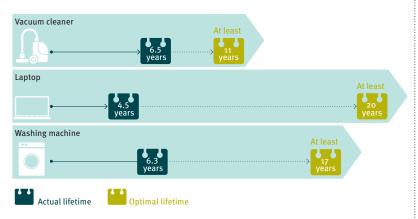
In response to signals that the government might drop the EU's Circular Economy Package targets following Brexit, we kept the pressure up for it to maintain them, through parliamentary questions, prompting enquiries from journalists and a blog which accused the government of backtracking. In response, the government announced it would adopt the EU's headline 65 per cent recycling target. It also released plans for binding resource productivity targets to complement this target, a necessary pairing which we have advocated since 2017.



Rebecca Pow MP, environment minister speaking at 'Recycling in the UK: what do people think?', online event, September 2020

# The need for a design first approach

In Design for a circular economy (November 2020), the first report in the year for our Circular Economy Task Force, we focused on how design influences a product's environmental impact. We urged the government to fulfil its promise to match or exceed EU standards of ecodesign. This report was part of our ongoing work, first with the Centre for Industrial Energy, Materials and Products and now with the Centre for Energy Demand Solutions. It influenced the CCC to acknowledge the importance of resource efficiency in climate policy. Some of our recommendations feature in its advice to government on the sixth carbon budget. This work also heavily influenced the Environmental Audit Committee's report into e-waste and the circular economy, which contained 50 references to our work.



How long should energy efficient products last to compensate for emissions caused by their production, transport and disposal? From *Design for a circular economy*, November 2020

# A new UK vision for resource use

While high product standards and recycling incentives are important for a circular economy, unless there are clear and ambitious targets to reduce resource use overall, the UK's environmental impacts will continue to mount up. This includes unsustainable levels of waste, climate change, damage to nature and water stress. The UN estimates that resource extraction and processing drives half of global emissions and 90 per cent of biodiversity loss. Our second report in the year for the Circular Economy Task Force, Targeting success (March 2021), looked at the causes of these issues and the solutions. We concluded that a more systemic approach is essential, with a target needed to halve the nation's resource use by 2050. This message was promoted in our first animation which was shared widely on social media and received over 8,500 views in its first week of broadcast.

# Natural Environment

# Influencing post-Brexit plans for farm support

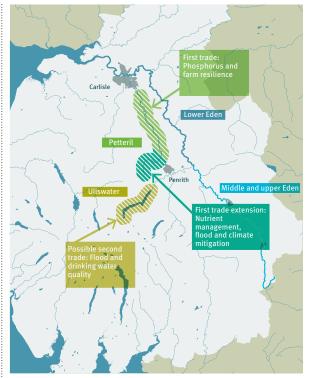
The UK is breaking with the past following Brexit and will support farmers through a new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme, based on the 'public money for public goods' principle. Over the past five years, we have worked with the National Trust on ideas to create a step change in environmental restoration, combining both public and private funds to support a new market concept we have called a Natural Infrastructure Scheme.

As our thinking aligned with Defra's new funding plans, we were invited to join its 'tests and trials' programme, to explore how they could be integrated with the ELM scheme.

This year we briefed the government on scheme improvements and explored technological solutions. We also ran a series of gaming workshops, involving potential market participants, to simulate how public money could be brought together with funding from private beneficiaries, like utility companies and food businesses, to deliver outcomes they need from the land, such as reducing flood risk and pollution.

In our workshops we used the example of a real demonstration project in the River Eden catchment in Cumbria to investigate how best to reach agreements between public and private interests and the farmers delivering environmental services. In November, we presented our ideas to Defra, which included a new 'interface' between public and private payments for ELM and we held a workshop to help tailor the proposals to their needs.

In March 2021, we concluded this work with a toolkit based on the lessons we learned from the trial in the Eden Valley. We are pleased that, following our recommendations, Defra is now developing plans to integrate private funding across all the new ELM schemes.



We worked with partners in the Eden Valley, Cumbria, to demonstrate how trading in positive environmental outcomes, between farmers and beneficiaries, could work. From *Building local markets for sustainable land management with the Eden Model*, March 2021

# Proposing strong oversight of carbon offsetting

Aviation is increasingly turning to carbon offsetting to try and reduce its damaging impacts on the climate. But there is an unresolved challenge to ensure offsetting does not reduce the effort to cut emissions, and there are big issues with the quality of offsets on the market, with no guarantee they will help to tackle climate change.

In The flight path to net zero (April 2020) we recommended a new national Office for Carbon Removal to regulate the market, give more confidence that carbon removal offsetting works and demonstrate good practice to the rest of the world. The government has since shown interest in this idea and the Energy Systems Catapult, the National Infrastructure Commission and a team of researchers from Imperial College, the University of Leeds and Foresight Transitions have all called for a similar body to oversee carbon removal.

We also highlighted the potential value of using funding from effective offset schemes to speed up nature restoration in the UK and called for a new Farm and Soil Carbon Code, so farmers and land managers can verify their 'carbon farming' measures and gain a new income stream from the sale of credits. Following our recommendations, a new UK Soil and Farm Carbon Code is now being developed, with support from the government's Natural Environment Investment Readiness Fund.



In *The flight path to net zero* we highlighted the potential value of funding from effective offset schemes to speed up nature restoration in the UK and reiterated our call for a new Farm and Soil Carbon Code



Jamie Arbib, co-founder of RethinkX, speaking at 'What will lab grown meat and dairy mean for food, farming and the environment?', online event, December 2020

# Debating the future of food and farming

We hosted two online debates on forthcoming changes to farming and food in the context of climate change. The first brought academics, innovators and farmers together on what laboratory grown meat could mean for our food system and the environment. The discussion highlighted the potential for it to improve the environment and for the UK to be a market leader, but also the urgent need for policy to ensure farmers and others in the food system are not disadvantaged by these new products. The other event, on the implications of the government's review of gene editing regulation, revived a long running debate, which Green Alliance has previously been deeply involved with, about the control of this technology and the environmental threats and benefits it might present.

# Reaching wider audiences in 2020-21

# **Blog views doubled**

**2019-20:** 130 posts 100,000 views 55,000 visitors

**2020-21:** 169 posts 168,000 views 103,000 visitors

# Podcast output rose

We increased activity on our podcast as all our work went online in early 2020, featuring regular one to one interviews and highlights of our events. We broadcast 32 podcasts in 2020-21. Episodes covered a wide range of issues, including interviews with bird expert and campaigner Mya Rose Craig, the authors Dara McAnulty and Margaret Heffernan, the Liberal Democrat leader Sir Ed Davey, Environment Minister Rebecca Pow and economist Dieter Helm.



# Interview with Emma Howard Boyd, chair of the Environment Agency, June 2020



Interview with Sir Ed Davey, Lberal Democrat leader, January 2021



Interview with Mya-Rose 'Birdgirl' Craig, January 2021



Celebrating nature writing with longlisted Wainwright Prize authors Jini Reddy and Dara McAnulty, July 2020



Our first animation, broadcast in March 2021, argued for a UK strategy to halve resource use by 2050. It received over 8.5k views on social media in its first week.

# A new approach to events

The switch to online events, imposed by the pandemic, turned out to be a huge opportunity for Green Alliance. Freed of the confines of venues, we were able to vastly increase our output and range. It allowed us to reach more diverse audiences from all over the country and around the world, and to invite speakers from as far away as the US and India. With much less advance planning required, we were able to host reactive debates at short notice on emerging issues in environmental policy and politics. The online format also enriched our interaction with audiences, enabling an easy flow of chat, knowledge sharing and questions. Making them available to view afterwards on our YouTube channel has also extended our reach further. We will be keeping these innovations, which have now permanently changed our approach to events, as we explore new hybrid formats in the slow return to in person meetings.

# We ran 24 online events during the year, with a total of 98 speakers and 5,850 attendees.

Our most popular event of the year was 'Racism in the environment sector: why we must change and how we can do it' in September 2020 which had 750 attendees and 1.7k views on Youtube.



# Our plans for 2021-22



Green Alliance published a new strategy in 2021. Responding to the circumstances created by the pandemic and the urgency of acting on the climate and nature emergencies, during 2021-22 it focuses on three broad objectives: to turn UK political ambition on climate and nature into rapid action, to promote effective solutions for a fair transition to a green economy and to push the boundaries to find new answers to complex environmental problems. In addition, we have made a new commitment to improve diversity, inclusion and equity internally and across the wider environment movement (see page 31). We acknowledge these important considerations in the task of building a fairer, greener, more prosperous society.

Below are our priorities under our themes to meet these objectives during 2021-22:

# **Political Leadership**

We will work to ensure that all government strategy aligns with and supports the urgent need to meet climate and nature commitments. Our advocacy will focus on mainstreaming environmental priorities, including in plans for economic recovery. We will promote joined up domestic policy in preparation for the UK hosting the major global climate summit in November 2021.

# Greening the Economy

Decisions made by the Treasury are crucial to meeting the UK's climate and nature targets. We will continue to focus on changes to tax and other incentives that can support the shift to a fair green economy for all, ending the perversities and poor economic signals that result in environmental harm. Focusing on the need for a sustainable recovery from the impact of Covid 19, we will conduct research and advocacy to stimulate a green renewal for the UK, including through infrastructure, innovation and new employment opportunities.

# **Greener UK**

As the Environment Bill reaches its final stages towards becoming legislation, our work with our coalition partners will focus on securing the most ambitious and robust Environment Act possible, with a highly effective governance system to support it. We will work to make sure the UK's high environmental standards are not compromised in new trade deals and that the environmental provisions of the EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement are properly implemented.

# Low Carbon Future

Targeting the most polluting sector in the UK, our decarbonising transport programme will recommend national policies that demonstrably close the gap in reaching net zero carbon in the sector. We will also be developing our position on the role of new technologies to reduce carbon, exploring new solutions for cutting emissions from the built environment and industry, and we will continue our work on the potential of local government to tackle climate change at the community level.

# Resources

With our Circular Economy Task Force, we will continue to promote an economy wide target to cut resource use, to reduce the carbon emissions and environmental damage arising from over consumption. We will broaden the conversation around supply chains to include better due diligence, resource use and resilience and we will target the legislative changes needed to address the full lifecycles of all materials, extending the focus beyond plastic and the end of a product's life.

# Natural Environment

We will make sure that nature and biodiversity priorities are not sidelined in the pursuit of climate action. We will continue to advocate new governance for natural and engineered carbon removals and sustainable nature-based solutions for the climate and nature emergencies. Continuing our work on new economic routes to nature restoration, we will analyse existing private payments for ecosystem services projects and recommend how to develop them into functioning markets.

# Equity, diversity and inclusion

4.



As for many organisations, the death of George Floyd and the subsequent focus on the Black Lives Matter movement stimulated increased attention on equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) issues at Green Alliance. We acknowledge that the environmental, charity and think tank sectors have all fallen short in their representation of wider society. We have started to address the issues we face as an organisation and as a sector, and we aim to take a proactive approach to equity, diversity and inclusion.

Trustees endorse and support this direction and, during the year, they approved an EDI action plan (created by a staff working group) and appointed a diversity champion on the board. The action plan sets out the priorities for the organisation to embed EDI and anti-racism into our work culture and external work. The plan outlines objectives, activities and outcomes across four pillars: organisational culture, recruitment and retention, external communications and engagement, and our policy and politics work. We have also embedded our commitment to address barriers to racial equality in our organisation and the sector in our 2021-24 strategy. We are working with consultant partners The Social Justice Collective and Impact Culture, to support organisational learning and the development of long term goals.

As part of our contribution to meaningful action in the sector we held an event in September 2020 to discuss the experiences of people of colour in our area of work and ways we can improve. Over 700 people attended the online event 'Racism in the environment sector: why we must change and how we can do it'. A second event, in June 2021, 'Building momentum for change' looked at the sector's progress over the year and discussed collective efforts.

We have also engaged with cross sector groups, the Diverse Sustainability Initiative, led by IEMA, and the inclusion, equality and diversity group, led by Wildlife and Countryside Link.

# Financial review



Income

### Treasurer's report

At the beginning of the financial year the UK had just gone into lockdown as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. Whilst we expected such a significant world event to affect our ability to operate, we did not expect that we would still be under lockdown as the financial year ended in March 2021. However, despite the challenges of a year under restrictions, everyone at Green Alliance has worked incredibly hard to maintain operations, financial stability and a sense of team cohesion to achieve our objectives.

Green Alliance's income for the year ended March 2021 grew to over £2.2m. This is slightly higher than the budget that was set prior to the pandemic and defied our early expectations of how the year would progress.

We took immediate and thorough steps to manage Green Alliance's financial health over the year, which included full analysis of the potential impact on income sources and how we could respond. We reviewed our funded projects and communicated how we planned to revise activity to continue to have impact during the crisis. We are grateful to all our funders who have been flexible and supportive of our work during the period.

As a result, we have been able to continue all of our planned work, with some adjustments, and we have added new projects, grown our income and the team.

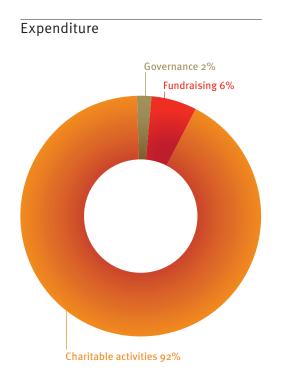
We formally added a new theme 'Greening the Economy' to our work plan and launched a new project focused on building a green economy post pandemic.

We grew our activity in the climate space through a decarbonising transport project to add to existing work under our Cutting Carbon Now and local authorities projects, we also added more capacity to our climate advocacy work and took over the secretariat of the All Party Parliamentary Group on the environment.

As would be expected in a time of economic uncertainty our income from corporate funders reduced (from £175k) to £100k and from NGOs (from £225k) to £172k. Our growth has been enabled by increased support from trusts and foundations who provided 82 per cent of our total income (73 per cent last year). The share of income from trusts and foundations has increased, as has the number of trusts supporting our work. We are not dependent on any one funder for more than 16 per cent of our income.

We received a one-off donation of £100k from an anonymous trust in the year, via the National Philanthropic Trust, due diligence was undertaken through the Environmental Funders Network to ensure that this donation satisfied Green Alliance's funding principles.

Expenditure for the year was £1.8m (2020 £1.75m), generating a significant surplus of £397k (2020: £194k surplus). This was made up of additions to the restricted fund of £319k to be spent on projects in 2021-22 and a contribution to the free reserves of £79k. We spent approximately £20k as one-off costs for a move into temporary office space in March 2021 and plan to make a more permanent move in 2021-22.



# Reserves

The board reviewed the reserves in March 2020 and concluded that the level of unrestricted reserves required by March 2021 would be £450k to maintain operations or wind-up projects as a result of loss of income, or failure to secure funds and to finance an office move in the coming year.

Total funds at the end 31 March 2021 (note 12 in the financial statements) were £1.24m (2020: £844k) comprising of £785k restricted funds (2020: £466k) and £457k in unrestricted funds (2020: £378k).

The free reserves of the charity, being the general unrestricted fund less the net book value of tangible fixed assets, at 31 March 2021, were £287k. The unrestricted funds of the charity, less the net book value of tangible fixed assets, were £437k. This is £13k short of the reserves policy target set by the board.

# Investments

At the present time, the trustees' policy is to maintain all cash balances on deposit earning a market rate of interest. Green Alliance held no other shares or investments in the financial year.

# Going concern

The board of trustees has reviewed Green Alliance's financial position and believes there are sufficient resources to manage any operational or financial risks. Cashflow forecasts through to September 2022, analysing different scenarios, have been undertaken and, on that basis, the board considers there is a reasonable expectation that Green Alliance will continue in operational existence in the foreseeable future.

For this reason the board continues to adopt the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of these accounts.

# Fundraising disclosure

Green Alliance does not employ any third parties to undertake fundraising activity on its behalf. Fundraising is led by the senior management team with support from the staff.

The majority of Green Alliance's income is generated through trusts or foundations; NGOs or businesses.

We have a membership scheme for individuals, with over 300 members, who contribute to the organisation through a regular fee. We ask for new members' consent and preferred method of contact and respect the wishes of those who choose not to be contacted. We have not undertaken any fundraising activity involving direct mail or telephoning supporters. We did not receive any complaints about our fundraising activity in the year.

In line with 2016 fundraising regulations we have written guidance for staff who are concerned about the fundraising practices of Green Alliance and to ensure that they are protected from discrimination in any cases of whistleblowing.

Paul Lambert FCA Treasurer

# The Green Alliance Trust

# Extract of the statement of financial activities for the year ended 31 March 2021 (incorporating the income and expenditure account)

	2021 Restricted funds	2021 Unrestricted funds	2021 Total funds	2020 Total funds
	£	£	£	£
Income from:				
Donations and legacies		181,143	181,143	38,842
Charitable activities				
Political leadership	749,782	69,454	819,236	994,031
Greening the economy	35,000	154,201	189,201	
Low carbon future	560,765	3,938	564,703	517,347
Resources	168,225	109,350	277,575	268,088
Natural environment	33,500	143,703	177,203	128,417
Investments		370	370	1,673
Total income	1,547,272	662,159	2,209,431	1,948,398
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds:				
Fundraising		112,803	112,803	57,089
Charitable activities				
Political leadership	689,089	111,954	801,043	978,077
Greening the economy	34,952	8,517	43,469	
Low carbon future	389,287	20,416	409,703	377,943
Resources	110,115	107,311	217,426	257,172
Natural environment	5,193	222,328	227,521	84,499
Total expenditure	1,228,636	583,329	1,811,965	1,754,780
Net income and net movement in funds	318,636	78,830	397,466	193,618
Reconciliation of funds Total funds brought forward	465,865	377,901	843,766	650,148
Total funds carried forward	784,501	456,731	1,241,232	843,766

# The Green Alliance Trust Extract of the balance sheet at 31 March 2021

	2021	2021	2020	2020
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible fixed assets		19,620		17,303
Current assets				
Debtors and prepayments	540,747		740,250	
Cash	1,203,272		457,383	
	1,744,019		1,197,633	
<b>Creditors:</b> amounts falling due within one year	(522,407)		(371,170)	
Net current assets		1,221,612		826,463
Total assets less current liabilities		1,241,232		843,766
Charity funds				
Restricted funds		784,501		465,865
General unrestricted funds		306,731		377,901
Designated funds		150,000		
		1,241,232		843,766

The full financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the trustees on 14 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by

Grahe

Chair

Treasurer

To see the full trustees' annual report and accounts, please visit www.green-alliance.org.uk/annual\_report

# Thanks

For details about supporting Green Alliance as a funder, partner or member, please contact Jo Rogers, operations director, jrogers@green-alliance.org.uk We are grateful to every organisation and individual who contributed to our work in 2020-21

# £1,000-£5,000

Accelerator Cities Aldi Stores Ltd Bambino Mio Ltd The Co-op CPRE ERG UK Holding Ltd Good Energy Iceland Foods Ltd MCS OVO Group Ramco UK Ltd Scottish Power Southern Water SSE plc Triodos Bank UK Ltd Wessex Water

# £5,001-£10,000

Friends of the Earth Greenpeace Wildfowl and Wetland Trust

### £10,001-£20,000

ClientEarth Kingfisher Plc Nestlé RSPB Schneider Electric UK Viridor The Wildlife Trusts Woodland Trust

# £20,001-£30,000

Fairtrade Foundation Marmot Trust National Trust Suez Recycling and Recovery UK Treebeard Trust WWF UK

### **£30,001-£40,000** Gower Street

John Ellerman Foundation Kenneth Miller Trust Sussex University The Schroder Foundation

### £40,001-£50,000

Garfield Weston Foundation

**£50,001-£80,000** Waterloo Foundation

### £80,001-£100,000

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

### £120,001-£140,000

Friends Provident Foundation

## £140,001-£160,000

Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust

## £200,001-£250,000

Network for Social Change

## £250,001-£300,000

Esmée Fairbairn Foundation Quadrature Climate Foundation

## £300,001-£350,000

European Climate Foundation Samworth Foundation

# Our alliances

# **GREENER UK**



# **Green renewal coalition**



# **Circular Economy Task Force**





GAMBICA



Innovate UK



RAMBOLL



Schneider Gelectric





"Triodos Bank is proud to be part of Green Alliance's Business Circle. It provides a unique space for us to join important conversations across sectors about the economic development and change needed to secure a greener future." Bevis Watts, CEO, Triodos Bank



# Members

# Our individual members include those active in our network, experts in the fields of environment, business and government, and those in other spheres who wish to support our work.

### Members

Iamie Abbott John Adams Syed Ahmed Tim Ash Vie Anne Ashe John Ashton Jane Ashton Dr Robert Atkinson Dr Mark Avery Janet Barber David Barker QC Alison Barnes Keith Barnes Phil Barton Clive Bates Toby Belsom Terence Bendixson David Bent Peter Betts Sean Birch Ronald Blythe Dr Stephen Bolt David Boyle Duncan Brack Tim Branton Jim Bridges Chris Brown Kate Burningham Sarah Burton Danielle Byrne Alison Cairns Lord Cameron of Dillington Rachel Carv Pamela Castle OBE Giles Chitty Chris Church Michael Clark Roger Clarke Barry Coates Tim Cordy Martin Couchman OBE Paul Court Roger Crofts Sharon Darcy Kate Davies Hannah Dick Julie Doyle Stephanie Draper Dagmar Droogsma Christine Drury Jane Durney John Elkington Sara Eppel Louise Every Bill Eyres Jeremy Faull Malcolm Fergusson

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