Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership

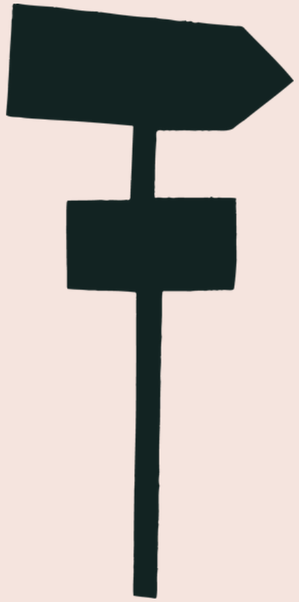
ANNUAL REVIEW

2025-26

bristolclimatenature.org

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CHAIR'S MESSAGE

I've always believed collective climate and nature action to be vital for the transformative change we want to see; it's why I've been proud to chair the Partnership for a decade. But this has never felt more important than it does today.

This summer was the UK's hottest on record, with five widespread heatwaves and 71% of England and all of Wales in drought by September. The effects were physically felt across all parts of society.

It's understandable for this to stir difficult feelings. But it has also ignited renewed momentum to build our resilience, and to stop things from getting worse. We can only do this if we work together. The Partnership's focus on collaborative, local action that puts fairness at its heart is essential to ensuring people, places, and nature thrive – with no-one left behind.

This will be my last annual review as Chair, as I'll be stepping down after ten years. It's been a privilege to watch the Partnership grow – bold new initiatives, deepening partnerships, a widening network. And to work with so many people determined to make the region fairer, healthier, and more resilient. I'm delighted to see Jim Longhurst step into the Chair role and the continuity this will bring, given his long association with the Partnership and the huge support he has given me as Vice Chair.

A huge thank you to all Partnership members for your contribution. And a special thank you to our Supporting Members – our work would not be possible without you.



MOHAMMED SADDIQ

Chair of the Board of Directors

WHAT IS THE PARTNERSHIP?

We're a network of 1,300+ organisations working together to make Bristol and the wider region a better place for people and nature.

We bring businesses, the public sector, charities, and community groups together to learn from each other, collaborate, and build a movement for climate and nature.

Climate change is a social issue as much as it's an environmental issue. Ensuring social justice is at the heart of climate and nature action is a key part of our work.

In practical terms, we:

- Support businesses to cut their carbon emissions through our **Climate Action Programme**.
- Resource communities to lead on climate and nature action through our **Community Climate & Nature Action Project**.
- Help local people connect with and care for their local green spaces through the **Nature Together** project.
- Work with city leaders and experts to help progress Bristol's environmental goals through the **One City Approach**.
- Create spaces for connection through our **Green Mingles** and **Gatherings**.

OUR VISION

A zero-carbon, socially just Bristol and wider West of England region where all our communities and nature thrive.

OUR PURPOSE

To catalyse collective action towards a zero-carbon, socially just, and nature-rich city and region.



OUR VALUES

IMPACT We are committed to making change happen

COLLABORATION We love working together

COURAGE We hold hope and discomfort

WELLBEING We work sustainably



ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PARTNERSHIP OVER 2025-26

11,777
social media followers

99
new member organisations



1,199
event attendees

9
Green Mingles





2,889
newsletter readers

25,503
website visits

COMMUNITY CLIMATE & NATURE ACTION PROJECT



Community-led climate and nature action

Environmental movements can unintentionally exclude certain communities and worsen inequalities. So, through our Community Climate & Nature Action (CCNA) Project, we resource community organisations to collaborate with the people they serve to shape local climate and nature action. With communities leading from the get-go, they can ensure climate action also meets the wider needs of local people, such as warm housing, affordable bills, and social connection.

This year, we expanded this work from Bristol to the rest of the region. Six new West of England community organisations are now participating in our capacity building programme and co-developing a climate and nature action plan with their communities.

Back in Bristol, a further six communities launched their plans at our celebratory Gathering. Together with our earlier cohorts, they have formed a coordinated network of 17 organisations and communities. These diverse leaders work together to advocate for local, community-led action and the priorities identified in their climate and nature action plans.



© Jodie Mann



© Evoke Pictures

Part of the CCNA Project, our Climate & Disability programme addresses barriers for Disabled people in climate action. If Disabled people aren't consulted during the development of green policies and plans, projects can worsen the challenges they already face – and miss out on their expertise. So through the programme this year, Disabled people co-developed resources for councils and businesses on inclusive engagement and improving the accessibility of green jobs.

We worked with the Walk Wheel Cycle Trust to create an inclusive transport toolkit and the Centre for Sustainable Energy to improve home retrofit for Disabled people. We commissioned Redcatch Community Garden to work with local Disabled people to take action on food and nature.

We're delighted to partner with WECIL – a Disabled-led charity – to deliver the next phase of the Climate & Disability programme across the wider West of England.



“For me as a Disabled person I feel [participating in the Climate & Disability programme] has opened up a whole new world concerning climate change and its link to nature. I have gained much more knowledge and confidence around what I and my community can do to help tackle climate change...I now feel that I can...influence climate change work in the city.”

CLIMATE & DISABILITY PROGRAMME PARTICIPANT

Community Climate & Nature Action Project

Creativity and joy remain central to our CCNA project's approach to engaging diverse people with climate and nature action. This year we commissioned the Climate Justice in Action podcast series and zine, where Ruth Nortey explores how to make sure a greener future is also a fairer future.

The CCNA Project has gained international recognition for its effective place-based, community-led model for climate and nature action. We're committed to sharing learnings and inspiring other places, so have developed numerous free resources.

Working collaboratively with UWE Bristol, local authorities, policymakers, and our wider community network, we're also unlocking additional funding for local action and influencing the climate conversation on a national level.

Access our CCNA resource library

Download 5-year impact report



FIVE YEARS OF OUR COMMUNITY CLIMATE & NATURE ACTION PROJECT

£4.3 million
extra funding leveraged for Bristol

22
km^2 of green space created or improved



18,300
local people engaged in climate and nature action





14
strategic city projects influenced

50%+
of participants completely new to climate and nature action

32
new sustainable businesses created



“Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership's strength is its ability to convene diverse partners, build trust across sectors and ensure that communities are at the heart of the Community Climate & Nature Action Project. This approach doesn’t just deliver environmental benefits and a healthier, cleaner Bristol. It also supports local jobs and the economy...while...building stronger, fairer and more connected neighbourhoods.”

COUNCILLOR ABI FINCH

Chair of the Environment & Sustainability Committee, Green Party



Community Climate & Nature Action

Funded by

COMMUNITY FUND

Working together

ACH

Ambition Lawrence Weston

EASTSIDE COMMUNITY TRUST

Heart of BS13

Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

In partnership with

Bristol City Council

Centre for Sustainable Energy

UWE Bristol — University of the West of England

WEST OF ENGLAND MAYORAL COMBINED AUTHORITY

Climate action partners

Avon Wildlife Trust

BRISTOL ENERGY NETWORK

PRAXIS

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust — Formerly Sustrans

CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME



Helping organisations become more sustainable

Over 2025–26, our Climate Action Programme supported a growing number of ambitious organisations committed to positive change. Through free, practical support, we helped them cut their carbon emissions, restore nature, and build resilience to a changing climate.

We delivered a varied programme of events, covering a breadth of topics that reflect the challenges that businesses are facing.

At our Climate Action Breakfasts, we provided a space for organisations to learn from experts and their peers, touching on topics such as digital emissions, AI, commuter travel, climate resilience, and reducing their impact on nature.

Our Intention to Action clinics offer more tailored support for smaller groups of organisations. At this year's clinic, we took a deeper dive into making climate action business as usual, helping organisations embed sustainability into the heart of all their operations.



“I really believe that something magical happens when gathering people together, far beyond simply sharing information. Sparks fly, conversations take place, and things begin to happen.”

KRIS GRIFFIN

Director at Eyes Up Films and Climate Action Programme participant



OUR CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME 2025-26

Our Climate Action Programme resources were accessed approx.

3,340

times

135

organisations attended our Climate Action Programme events

We added

13

more free resources to our online library

We held

8

free events supporting organisations with climate and nature action

Our programme sponsors, Bristol City Council and the Bristol Business Improvement District, continued to provide valuable insight into the needs of local organisations. This enabled us to tailor the programme to support organisations of all sizes, sectors, and starting points.

Our sponsors also allowed us to expand our offer and provide sector-specific support. We set up a legal roundtable this year, helping a small group of leading UK law firms to overcome shared challenges. Our new Visitor Attraction Climate Forum provides a space for visitor attraction organisations to connect and learn from each other.

We successfully ran our Getting Started Programme in collaboration with Eunomia Research & Consulting, helping organisations at the very beginning of their climate action journey.

"Things were very clearly broken down in a way that felt more actionable"

"It's been really valuable meeting other organisations and talking about our shared challenges"

Climate Action Programme participants



© George Chan

Our Climate Leaders Group is made up of local organisations with ambitious emissions reduction targets and a robust plan for reaching them.

The group grew this year and continued to lead the way on climate action in Bristol. Members supported other organisations with trickier topics like engaging senior leaders and how to communicate a reset of carbon reduction targets.



Amentum
Arnolfini
Avison Young
Avon Fire & Rescue Service
Bristol Beacon
Bristol City Council
Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
Bristol Old Vic
Bristol Zoological Society
Burges Salmon
Business West
Clarke Willmott
The Diocese of Bristol
Ecotricity
Greenhouse Communications
JLL
Mott MacDonald
Palladium
PwC
Sage
Spike Island
SS Great Britain
Stride Treglown
Thrive Renewables
Triodos Bank
University of Bristol
UWE Bristol
Watershed
We The Curious
Wiper and True
Womble Bond Dickinson

2025-26 CLIMATE LEADERS

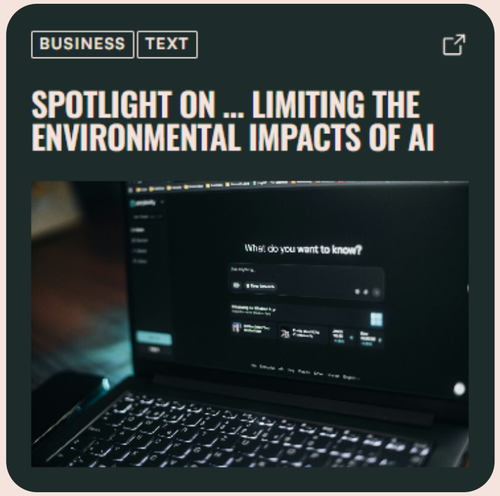
Could your organisation benefit from our Climate Action Programme?

Access the Climate Action Programme resource library.

Get expert and peer-to-peer support at one of our upcoming events.

Consider joining our Climate Leaders Group.

Examples from our resource library









Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership

CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

Sponsored by

Bristol BID

Bristol City Council



NATURE TOGETHER



© Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

Helping people connect with nature

Launched this year, Nature Together is a two-year project. It aims to help people feel a sense of belonging to their local green spaces and take a more active role in caring for them. The impact can be transformative: building community pride, strengthening connections between neighbours, creating space for wildlife, and building resilience to the climate impacts we're starting to see.

From planting trees in parks to transforming disused land into community gardens, there are many nature-friendly changes people can make. But on council-owned land, knowing who to approach and what's permitted can be a barrier to getting started. The council's process of granting permission is complex, requiring consideration of factors such as accessibility, long-term maintenance, and coordination across multiple council departments.

Through Nature Together, we're supporting Bristol City Council to develop a new 'one-front-door' system: a single application process that makes it easier for residents to take stewardship of local land.





We're also supporting communities to create Neighbourhood Nature Plans, setting out the nature-friendly changes they want to see in their local area and how they can work together to make them happen.

The project builds on what we've learned through our Community Climate & Nature Action Project, where we've seen how community-led initiatives can transform neighbourhoods. For example, Really Wild Lockleaze demonstrates how gardening and greening public spaces can change how communities see the natural world – and themselves.

With sustained, long-term support, these initiatives can have a lasting impact. We'll be sharing our learnings to inspire other areas to follow in Bristol's footsteps.

Funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Nature Towns and Cities programme, Nature Together is led by Bristol City Council, along with key partners Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, Avon Wildlife Trust, Your Park Bristol and Bath, the Natural History Consortium.

“Bristol’s Nature Together project was designed around collaboration and partnership, building on the excellent work already being led by partners across the city. This includes the work of Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, which brings extensive experience and expertise in working with communities. They are supporting the project and our community partners to scale up their plans for nature and secure funding for delivery.”

KIT BEAUMONT

Nature Together Project Manager,
Bristol City Council



© Lockleaze Neighbourhood Trust

ONE CITY APPROACH



Working together for Bristol

The One City Plan is a roadmap for building a better Bristol, co-designed by hundreds of partners from the private, public, and non-profit sectors. It describes a vision for Bristol in 2050, focusing on community cohesion, better social outcomes, a sustainable economy, a fair jobs market, climate resilience, and nature recovery.

The goals of the One City Plan are overseen by six thematic Boards. At Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, we help coordinate the One City Environment Board.

This year, we co-developed new ‘One City Missions’ and created an action plan to bring them to life – ensuring that climate and nature remain central to our city’s plans and projects.

We were delighted to welcome new members to the Environment Board this year. Together, we progressed work on clean rivers, circular economy (repairing, reusing, and recycling to cut waste), public engagement with climate and nature, water quality, home retrofit, and more.



“Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership have been invaluable partners this year – and every year - in driving forward the One City approach. They have worked skilfully with the One City Environment Board to develop an exciting, practical action plan which will make a real difference for the city, ensuring that climate and nature resilience are at the forefront of the One City movement.”

JUDITH LANGDON

Head of Office at Bristol City Office



We continued to coordinate and provide administrative support to the Bristol Advisory Committee on Climate Change (BACCC). BACCC is a committee of independent members who provide technical advice on climate change to guide the One City Environment Board's plans.

In 2025-26, BACCC ensured the Bristol City Council Climate Emergency Action Plan and the regional climate investment plan were informed by sound, scientific evidence.

Working with West of England Combined Authority, BACCC also helped explore new mapping tools that will help prepare for regional climate risks like flooding and extreme heat. BACCC contributed to the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's climate adaptation report, 'The impact of climate change on the West of England'.

Key to public trust, BACCC fact-checked the People's Emergency Briefing and published a statement.



BACCC members and invitees at a commitee meeting

BRISTOL ONE CITY

Learn more about our involvement

JUST TRANSITION



Climate justice is social justice

People facing marginalisation are disproportionately impacted by climate change, despite usually having contributed the least to it.

As we push for a low-carbon, nature-rich future, it's vital that this transition fairly meets everyone's needs and reduces, rather than worsens, inequality. This is what we mean by a just transition, and it is central to our work. In 2025-26, we took concrete steps to keep embedding just transition into our programmes.

Through our Community Climate & Nature Action (CCNA) Project, we continued to facilitate the Community Leadership Panel on Just Transition. The panel brings together community expertise to shape the development of large-scale, local projects.

We published a panel insights report to support the initiative's replication elsewhere. As our CCNA project expands across the wider West of England region, we're developing a new panel to serve this area.



© ShamPhat Photography

Associate Emma Geen collaborated with our Climate and Disability Forum to launch an updated version of the UK's first climate action plan for a community of Disabled people.

We've updated our Climate Leaders Group's Terms of Reference to encourage members to bring just transition into their climate action.

We've continued to advocate for climate justice through Bristol's Global City Forum, and through the One City Environment Board, we ensured Bristol's approach to green jobs was centred around fairness.

Our new organisational strategy focuses on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and all staff members participated in in-depth Diversity, Inclusion, Cohesion, and Equity training.

We recruited an Inclusion Associate, Grace Reid to provide expert advice to Mission Net Zero partners.

Just transition is an ongoing and central part of our work. We will continue to develop and deepen our thinking and action.



GREEN MINGLES & GATHERINGS



© ShamPhat Photography

Green Mingles

This year we had the joy of welcoming over 570 attendees to our monthly networking event, the Green Mingle. The Green Mingle provides a space for anyone interested in sustainability to connect and share ideas.

We had a jam-packed Mingle calendar, celebrating milestones from our Climate & Disability programme and highlighting the role Mission Net Zero played in expanding local green skills opportunities.

We also invited local organisations to share their work. We heard from Bristol City Leap on their community-led energy projects, Watershed on their exciting renovation project called ‘Wild and Generous’, and Bristol Good Food on their plans for climate action. We even got a sneak preview of The Natural History Consortium’s activity timetable for the Festival of Nature.




© ShamPhat Photography

Gatherings

In June 2025, we brought together 150+ local stakeholders to mark the first five years of the Community Climate & Nature Action (CCNA) Project, celebrating the growing momentum the movement has built.

We explored how to embed social justice into climate action and how to make the climate and nature conversation relevant to people of all backgrounds.

We launched our CCNA model – a resource and diagram to support the replication of our work elsewhere – and six new community climate and nature action plans, bringing the total to 17 across Bristol.

We discussed the invaluable role that community organisations and the people they serve play in our society. However, there was a recognition that for too long they have been overlooked in climate and nature responses: genuine community input is essential for environmental movements to be effective and maintained.

OTHER UPDATES



YES Programme

We participated in the Youth Environmental Service (YES) Programme. This brilliant initiative helps young people find entry-level roles in the environment sector.

We recruited Nicholas Ferrari as our Membership Assistant through the programme. Since joining us in November 2025, Nicholas has developed his skills, met a lot of our members, and brought great energy to the organisation.

With the support of the YES team, we have linked up with other participating organisations, sharing best practice for accessible and inclusive recruitment and onboarding.

Hear more from Nicholas



Making sustainability sustainable

Climate work is vital and rewarding, but it can be taxing. The emotional weight of the change we're pushing for can be heavy. Combined with broader societal pressures that are lowering people's resilience, burnout becomes a greater risk.

So this year, we co-developed a set of principles for an inclusive, joyful, caring, and collaborative workplace, to help bring our organisational values to life.

Although we are a climate and nature organisation, people are at our core – we can't deliver the impact we want without supporting our people. By sharing these principles and our process in co-producing them, we hope to make working in sustainability more sustainable.

Download the principles



Mission Net Zero

The Innovate UK funded Mission Net Zero project addressed some of the barriers to progress towards a low-carbon future, such as a lack of investment and not enough people trained in retrofit skills.

Up to March 2026, we worked with partners across the region to support three communities to develop energy projects, explore further funding opportunities for regional climate action, and create green jobs and training locally.

Working with our Inclusion Associate, Grace Reid, one of our key roles was to ensure social justice and community leadership remain central to Bristol's transition to a greener future. Through our Inclusion in Action Toolkit, we shared our learnings on embedding just transition into large, multi-stakeholder projects.

We also facilitated a series of workshops for 12 community-led organisations, building their knowledge and capacity around the opportunities available in the energy transition.

At our February Green Mingle, we celebrated Mission Net Zero and highlighted the local organisations paving the way for green skills pathways. We also launched a new interactive illustration to help people explore the issues and solutions Mission Net Zero investigated.



BUILDING A GREENER, HAPPIER BRISTOL



CEO'S MESSAGE

Over the last 12 months, climate change impacts have become impossible to ignore, bringing severe disruption to our region. This has happened just as environmental sector funding hits its lowest ebb in a decade.

It's been an incredibly challenging period for everyone working in the climate and nature sector.

I want to recognise the enormous passion, dedication, and resolve shown by everyone in our movement, and to thank you for your continued commitment to a thriving future for our city and region.

This extends to my own team, who have developed workplace wellbeing principles that aim to make sustainability more sustainable as we face these challenges day in, day out.



LIZZI TESTANI

Chief Executive Officer,
Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership



As the political debates and instability rage on, we remain undistracted and unwavering. And with each passing week we gain new allies, as understanding grows of how profoundly climate change and nature loss will affect everyday life.

Societal changes can feel disorienting in the moment. But I believe we will look back on this period with pride and amazement at the enormous efforts poured into moving our city and region forward, not backward.

Exciting things are on the way for Bristol and the wider West of England region. We look forward to working with members and partners to ensure climate and nature action is not only happening, but designed to benefit all of our communities and the wildlife we share a home with.

As ever, I would like to thank our Supporting Members for their ongoing support and collaboration, which enables this work to happen.

And finally, a particular thank you to Mohammed Saddiq, who is stepping down as Independent Chair after ten years. His huge contribution, calm and joyful influence, and commitment to just transition has left a lasting imprint on the Partnership, which is now for us to take forwards.

GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to get involved with Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership, the region's largest environmental network.

Join us

Become a member of our free network and stay connected, informed, and supported. Come to our events, use our resources, and support your organisation's response to the climate and nature crisis.

Join our free network

Support us

Our work depends on the generous backing of our Supporting Members. Joining the scheme is not just good for us, it's good for your business too. Build your reputation and invest in climate and nature action – right on your doorstep.

Learn about our Supporting Membership

THANK YOU

The Partnership is a collaborative effort, so thank you for everything you do as part of this community. With your continued contribution, we can make sure this work not only continues, but thrives.

We would also like to say a big thank you to our Supporting Members, whose generous financial backing enables this vital work to continue.

Together, we are building a better future.

Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership



Thank you to our 2025-26 Supporting Members

Avon Wildlife Trust

Bristol City Council

Burges Salmon

Centre for Sustainable Energy

S&W

Triodos Bank

University of Bristol

UWE Bristol | University of the West of England

Visit West. | Bristol, Bath & Beyond

Walk Wheel Cycle Trust
Formerly Sustrans

West of England | Mayoral Combined Authority

OUR 2025-26 STAFF TEAM



Amy Harrison
Head of Community Partnerships



Anna Ralph
Senior Coordinator



Ceilidh Jackson-Baker
Communications and Engagement Manager



Claire Jacob
Head of Communications and Partnerships



Clare Daley
Senior Coordinator (maternity cover)



Hannah Roddis
Head of Business Development



Jasmine Clark
Coordinator – Climate Action Programme



Kat Shatford
Communications and Engagement Officer



Lizzi Testani
Chief Executive Officer



Nicholas Ferrari
Membership Assistant



Rachel Mohun
Senior Coordinator



Reem Khreisheh
Programme and Operations Officer



Vicki Woolley
Head of Operations and Projects

OUR 2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Alex Garrood – SolarSense UK

Ben Smith – AtkinsRéalis

David Mellor – Business West

Jim Longhurst – UWE Bristol

Julie Doherty – Avon Wildlife Trust (alternate: **Leah McNally**)

Keith Hempshall – Centre for Sustainable Energy (alternate: **Matt Ferdinando**)

Leigh Hoyle – The Legal Director

Manu Maunganidze – Nature Youth Connection and Education (NYCE)

Matthew Jones – UWE Bristol (alternate: **Allan Macleod**)

Mohammed Saddiq – Lord-Lieutenant of Somerset (Chair of the Board)

Naomi Gornall – University of Bristol (alternate: **Martin Parker**)

Tara Irwin – Hargreaves Lansdown

Tim Temple – Locality

Zoe Ruthven – Triodos Bank (alternate: **Ed Grattan**)

OUR 2025-26 ASSOCIATES



Emma Geen
Climate and Disability Programme Associate



Grace Erin Reid
Inclusion Associate



Mark Leach
Council and Communities Advocacy Associate

CATALYSING COLLECTIVE ACTION TOWARDS A ZERO-CARBON, SOCIALLY JUST, AND NATURE-RICH BRISTOL

If you have any questions about membership or want to find out more about the Partnership's programmes, please get in touch at contact@bristolclimatenature.org

@bristol-climate-nature-partnership

@BristolClimateNaturePartnership

bristolclimatenature.org

Company number 09062455

Bristol Climate & Nature Partnership