





We have a responsibility to do everything we can to address climate change, which poses a bigger threat to the places, nature and collections we care for than anything else. Working together is the only way we can move forward, and Fit for the Future has consequently never been more relevant and necessary.

Hilary McGrady, Director General of the National Trust

Context

Addressing climate change and finding ways of working that benefit the natural world has shot up the agenda for many organisations since Fit for the Future was founded by the National Trust and Ashden in 2013.

The conversation has shifted dramatically, and the IPCC's conclusion that we have until 2030 to make the 'unprecedented changes' needed to keep global heating to a maximum of 1.5C has brought the bigger picture into focus. With this new sense of urgency has come a wave of public awareness and concern. The demand for organisations across all sectors to demonstrate their commitment to decarbonisation, as well as switch to practices that benefit rather than damage the environment, has never been higher.

Collaboration is vital in order to deliver the kind of changes we need at the scale and pace required. Fit for the Future is working with 85 organisations and facilitating cross-sector communication to ensure that the best ideas and practical solutions for responding to these challenges are shared and implemented successfully.

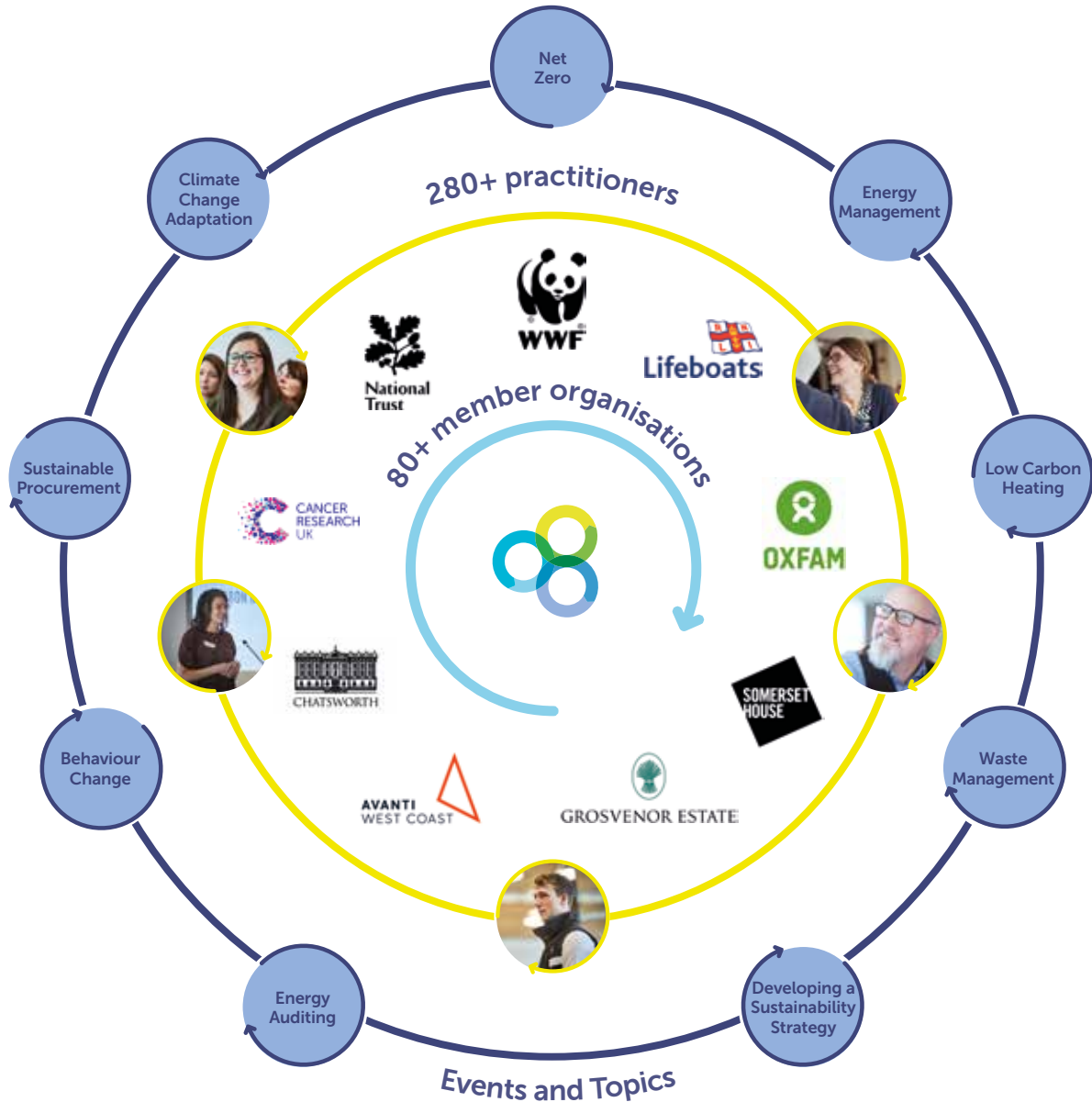
Collaboration is vital in order to deliver the kind of changes we need at the scale and pace required.



"Fit for the Future has put us into contact with many other like-minded organisations, and we have benefitted greatly from peer reviews and advice. When I go to an event I feel a lot more empowered to go back to my organisation and give advice on how to change things. One of the great strengths of the Network is that we are able to see how other organisations have overcome the same struggles as us and find practical ideas to take away and apply".

Anita Phillips, Health, Safety and Environment Officer,
Historic Royal Palaces

Cross-sector collaboration



Can we make a difference?

West Suffolk Council have saved **£165,000** a year by reducing electricity consumption by almost **20%** and cutting CO₂ emissions by **1,830 tonnes** since 2015

Over the last four years, Historic England have reduced their electricity CO₂ emissions by **714 tonnes**, saving approximately **£30,000** a year

Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust has seen a **170%** increase in renewable energy generation since 2015, through the installation of renewables such as solar PV, solar hot water heating, biomass boilers, a wind turbine and heat pumps across their centres. This, along with energy efficiency measures, has enabled them to reduce CO₂ emissions by **80 tonnes** and save **£1,000** a year.

In April 2019, London Borough of Ealing declared a climate emergency, and have since set a target to be carbon net zero by 2030.

They have already made significant progress, delivering a new roll-out of solar panels, installing LED street lighting, providing electric vehicle charging points and planting more than 50,000 trees over the last 3 years. These efforts have contributed to a substantial reduction in carbon emissions and energy consumption. Since 2015 they have reduced their overall energy consumption by approximately 35% including their electricity CO₂ emissions by 3,280 tonnes – the equivalent of 576 return flights from London to New Zealand. This has wider benefit for the council, potentially saving them £435,000 annually. As they head towards 2030 they have ambitious plans to deliver transformational change, and collaborate with others to meet the net zero challenge head on.



Land use and management

Our members own an area of land larger than Greater London, which includes coastline, woodland, national parks and urban areas. Exciting projects are already underway to restore and reforest some of this land as well as adapt it to cope with the impacts of climate change.

The Crown Estate

It is well recognised that poor farming techniques and soil management can release the carbon long stored in our soils, fuelling climate change. At the same time some fairly simple changes to the way we farm and manage soil organic matter and structure, can play a significant role in capturing and storing carbon. As one of the UK's largest owners of agricultural land The Crown Estate worked with Innovation for Agriculture to deliver 10, free to attend, tenant farmer training workshops under the banner 'Enrich Your Soils'. These focussed on the role and benefits of soil organic matter and practical steps to improve it. As a follow up programme The Crown Estate and IFA then arranged a number of 'Soils First' themed farm visits covering topics such as: cover crops; the use of livestock to increase soil fertility, reduced and zero ploughing/tillage systems, precision application of crop nutrition, and pest and weed control measures.

The Canal and River Trust

The 'Wild in Birmingham' project is run by volunteers. It has seen every area of neglected and ornamental beds dug out and started again using both native and cottage garden style plants combined with fruit trees, for the benefit of people and pollinators alike. New planters were built, and wetland habitat was created alongside the brick lined canals using coir rolls and native species such as yellow flag iris and water mint. The group has now started recording moths, bees & pollinators, bats and breeding birds to assess the ecological improvements long term.



The Canal and River Trust



"Here at the RSPB we have many examples of how we're managing our nature reserves differently. On Wallasea Island we have created natural habitats from agricultural land, both for birds and flood water management. Adapting to climate change, we are responding to the changing availability of water, both too much and too little, at many of our reserves. We have to act now to adapt for a 2 degree world, a key milestone on the trajectory of change."

Olly Watts, Senior Climate Change Policy Officer, RSPB

How we make a difference

We enable the open, honest sharing of expertise and practical solutions across sectors and organisations.

Our network is full of people who are experts in particular areas and can help other to progress. Peer-to-peer training, learning and advice is at the heart of what we do.



Developing sustainability strategies

In the 2019 member survey, over half of our members reported that they wanted help with developing an environmental strategy.

Fit for the Future organised a workshop led by one of our practitioners- Alan Carr of Sustainability West Midlands in which 25 members learned how to develop a strong and impactful sustainability strategy. We produced a 'how-to' guide for all our members after the event and delivered a follow up in January 2020.



"Through Fit for the Future I was able to get a crash course in everything from materiality assessments to Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. I benefited from lessons other organisations had learned in the course of constructing their sustainability strategies without the associated time and expense."

From a blank page and limited knowledge I was able to draft our first Sustainability Policy and map out a plan within a few months.

David Roman, Sustainability Manager,
British Heart Foundation.

Securing buy-in

We learned from our 2019 member survey that 50% of members want support engaging their organisation internally and 32% want help articulating the business case for sustainability.

We make it our mission to work with people at different levels in organisations.

'Securing the Future' was an event for over 20 senior leaders from across our membership who are coming together to collaborate, show leadership and make bold decisions.



"The Senior Leaders event was a fantastic opportunity to share knowledge with peers and discuss both the challenges we face and next steps. I look forward to further collaboration with others on a similar journey."

Vicky Stanbury, COO, The Landmark Trust

Mitigation and energy

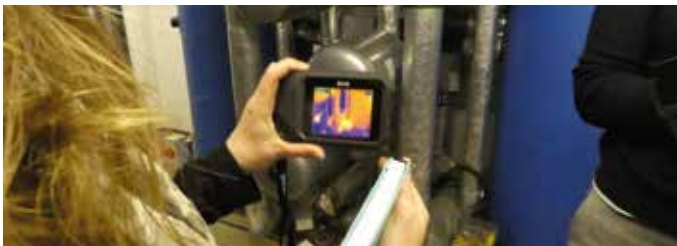
We support our members to understand energy management and monitoring, renewable energy options and strategies for mitigation. We ran an Energy Audit Training day to support over 20 members manage and reduce their overall energy consumption. The training was led by one of our network members, Oliver Ingwall-King, Energy Advisor for West Suffolk Council.



“The session helped us to improve our energy auditing process and identify some really substantial energy savings. In one property’s Food & Beverage outlets, staggering equipment fire up and shut down schedules could potentially save us up to **£1000 per annum”**

Chloe McIntosh, Environmental Practice Manager (Food and Beverage), National Trust

In our Energy Managers’ Special Interest Group, a regular face-to-face forum, our members are working hard on understanding carbon net zero, renewable energy tariffs and how to tackle the challenge of sustainable heating in a range of unique buildings.



“A peer review organised by Fit for the Future helped to shape our plans for a multi-measure energy efficiency project in a large historic building. This project has now been given the go ahead and is expected to provide savings of **£60k per annum. Fit for the Future also linked me up with members who have experience of the Green Dragon Environmental Standard and we are now taking steps to implement this thanks to their insight and support.”**

Mike Potter, Energy Manager and Sustainability Manager, English Heritage



Climate change adaptation

Climate change means unpredictable business patterns and extreme weather effects on land and property.



We are helping members to understand what they might be adapting to and how to put effective adaptation strategies in place. In May we ran an event in partnership with the RSPB and the Met Office. Members were shown how to access crucial data on future climate projections and how to apply this in order to understand regional and national risks.



“As a result of attending the Met Office event the RNLi is planning to use the updated data to gain a more holistic understanding of potential climate change impacts. These impacts will not just be on our people, buildings and equipment, but also the communities our people live and work in and the infrastructure both we and they rely on.”

Anna Frizzell, Sustainability Manager, RNLi

2020 is a year that will be a marker for the climate. Join us and be part of a positive, practical and powerful movement for transformational change.

Events, collaborations and conference

In 2019 we delivered **13** events across the UK for over **375** delegates, and facilitated over **50** one-to-one connections between our members so they can exchange knowledge and ideas.

Our annual conference, Network Harvest, was held at Lord's Cricket Ground in November. There were over **140** members in attendance, inspirational case studies on different topics, panel discussions on net zero, and keynote speeches from the Sustainability Manager at Lord's and Farhana Yamin, prominent environmental lawyer and author of the Paris Agreement.

What did you value most about the day?



"I thought all the case studies on the day were amazing! They were all very relevant and it was great to have an honest and open discussion about the successes and the challenges with being a sustainable organisation and becoming net zero."

Chelsea Ruffle, Health and Safety Officer,
Historic Royal Palaces



"A big thank you for organising such a great event at such an amazing venue. My colleague Ben reckoned it was the best network event ever and I still reckon it was my most enjoyable day's work in years!"

Mark Bolland, Director of Operations,
Field Studies Council



Fit for the Future in 2020

- Stepping up to the plate to reflect the sense of urgency through our communication, focus and ambition
- Working with new sectors – success in meeting national targets and addressing the crisis means bringing everyone to the table
- New partnerships, members and opportunities for collaboration
- A dynamic and relevant events programme, that responds to your needs and covers the breadth of climate change and sustainability issues.

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“During my 20 years at the National Trust I have noticed changes creeping into the places I look after. Birling Gap in East Sussex is falling into the sea because of coastal erosion, and in 2019 Ham House in London had to close to visitors as internal temperatures of around 40 degrees made it unsafe. These temperatures are detrimental to the fabric of the building too, and outside our gardens team are facing difficult curatorial decisions as traditional planting may no longer thrive in future. This is a snapshot of the challenges we face and the need for our organisation to adapt and take action.”

Keith Jones, National Specialist for Climate Change,
National Trust, founder of Fit for the Future Network



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