



2025/2026

IMPACT REPORT

ABOUT GROUNDWORK EAST

Groundwork East is a community and environmental charity working across the East of England to change places and lives.

As part of the national federation of Groundwork Trusts we have been championing practical community action that benefits the natural world since 1985, running programmes to transform unloved green spaces, helping people connect with and enjoy nature and supporting businesses to reduce their environmental impact.

Groundwork East takes practical action to create a fair and green future in which people, places, and nature thrive.

Registered charity number: 293141

Company registration: 1944186

Registered Office: Mill Green, Hatfield,
Hertfordshire, AL9 5PE

EAST@GROUNDWORK.ORG.UK

 VISIT OUR WEBSITE



ABOUT

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2025/26 was a year of considerable achievement for Groundwork East, made possible by the commitment, skill and determination of our staff, volunteers, partners, funders and supporters.

Together, we have continued to create lasting social value across the East of England: supporting people, strengthening communities, helping nature recover and working with businesses to improve their environmental and social impact.

These achievements have taken place during another challenging year, widening

inequalities and the continuing loss of nature and biodiversity. The rising cost of living is placing further strain on household finances and wellbeing, while the effects of a changing climate are increasing the need for communities to become more resilient and better prepared.

The environment in which we work is also changing rapidly. Shifts in funding, policy, technology and public expectations require us to remain agile, thoughtful and ready to adapt. But in a recent speech to the Third Sector, Dame Julia Unwin, Chair of the Charity Commission, offered a timely reminder that "sometimes remaining steady requires as

much courage as trying something new." That message feels particularly relevant to Groundwork East.

This Impact Report shows what that commitment looks like in practice. The pages that follow showcase our activity under three interconnected themes: our work at an individual level, with communities and for the planet. They demonstrate how, alongside our partners and funders, we improve health and wellbeing, build skills and confidence, support green employment, strengthen neighbourhoods, help businesses become more sustainable and enable communities to respond to environmental and economic pressures.

None of this work happens in isolation. It depends on strong partnerships, local knowledge and long-term commitment. I would also like to thank our Patron, Lord Salisbury, for his continued support and contribution to our work. The challenges ahead remain significant, but so does our determination to help communities across the East of England become greener, healthier and more resilient.



CAROLYN REID
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

I was proud to take over as Chairman in early 2026, having been a Trustee for many years. I am also proud of the work that our staff do with partners, funders and volunteers to promote environmentalism and sustainability across the East of England.

My appreciation goes out to them and my fellow trustees for their support. The work that they do, whether it be leading on local projects to improve environments and support communities, or delivering Carbon and Water Literacy training, really does make a difference in both practical terms and social awareness. With the drought we experienced this summer, the Water Literacy training programme is so relevant to our future.

I have particularly enjoyed visiting projects, sometimes lending a hand, seeing what the team does and talking

to them, volunteers and beneficiaries about the positive effect our work has on their lives.

One highlight of the year was the Trust being honoured in the East Anglian Daily Times awards, where Groundwork East picked up the Environmental and Sustainability award - true recognition and testament to the hard work and commitment of our staff.

Our operations, and the positive impact they have rely on the continued generosity of our funders and partners, and I fully appreciate the financial constraints many are under, but I know that we will all work together to continue changing places and lives.



PHIL BIBBY

CHAIR OF TRUSTEES



EMMAUS COMMUNITY TREE PLANTING



ACROSS THE EAST OF ENGLAND

In 2025/26, Groundwork East worked across six counties, supporting communities, organisations and places through a wide range of environmental, community and business activity.

Across the year, we delivered **135 projects**, supported **12,553 individuals** and worked with **1,711 organisations**, from schools and voluntary groups to local authorities, businesses and housing providers.

Our work helped improve **53,484m² of land**, supported **608 households** to become more resilient, enabled **2,026 people** to make greener choices, and identified **13.8 million kg CO₂e** in potential carbon savings.

This regional reach reflects the breadth of Groundwork East's role: bringing partners together, investing in local places and helping communities respond to the social, economic and environmental challenges they face.

[CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE →](#)



HOW WE ARE FUNDED

IN 2025/26 OUR FUNDING CAME FROM A DIVERSE MIX OF SOURCES, WITH THE LARGEST CONTRIBUTIONS OUTLINED BELOW.

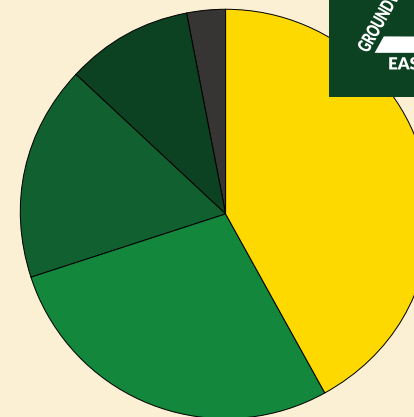
This broad funding base enabled Groundwork East to deliver place-based environmental, community and business support across the region, while continuing to invest in direct delivery staff, project management, development and organisational infrastructure.

£935K LOCAL AUTHORITY AND CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

£626K PRIVATE AND OTHER INCOME

£387K OTHER GROUNDWORK TRUSTS

£228K TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS



HOW WE WERE FUNDED FY 2025/26

- 42% LOCAL AUTHORITY & CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
- 28% PRIVATE & OTHER
- 17% OTHER GROUNDWORK TRUSTS
- 10% TRUSTS & FOUNDATIONS
- 3% PUBLIC AGENCIES

A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

We are grateful to all the businesses that have provided support, time and materials to us over 2025/26

[FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US](#)



PEOPLE

Groundwork East is proud to be the environmental charity with a green heart, and people are at the centre of everything we do. In 2025/26, we worked with 12,553 individuals and supported 608 households to become more resilient. Through programmes spanning green skills, outdoor learning, food growing, energy advice, volunteering and community action, we help people build confidence, reduce pressures and take positive steps towards a greener future.

PEOPLE IN NUMBERS 2025/26



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**12,218
PEOPLE**

DIRECTLY
SUPPORTED
THROUGH OUR
PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMMES

**1,117
PEOPLE**

SUPPORTED TO
REDUCE ENERGY
AND HELP SAVE
MONEY

**2,026
PEOPLE**

TOLD US OUR
ACTIVITIES HAD
ENCOURAGED
THEM TO ADOPT
GREENER CHOICES
IN THEIR LIVES

**1,332
PEOPLE**

WHO WERE
ASKED REPORTED
HAVING A
GREATER
CONNECTION
WITH NATURE

**1,756
PEOPLE**

WHO WERE
ASKED REPORTED
IMPROVED
WELLBEING

WELLIES IN THE WOODS



In 2025/26, Wellies in the Woods continued giving young children and their families opportunities to play, learn and connect with nature. Delivered in local parks, woods and green spaces, the programme combines storytelling, outdoor play and nature-based activities to support confidence, early development, literacy and wellbeing.

Families describe children growing in confidence, improving motor skills, making friends and becoming more curious about the world around them. The sessions also support parents and carers, creating time for shared activities, social connection and positive experiences in nature.

We are proud that a concept developed by Groundwork East has now been rolled out nationally. Thanks to funding from Bupa, we were able to train more childcare practitioners to deliver the programme themselves, extending the impact of place-based environmental programmes that support children, families and communities.



“I’ve definitely seen changes in my children – they are a lot calmer when they’re outdoors! ...not afraid of picking up bugs or getting their fingernails dirty. I’ve been telling everyone about this and to come and experience and give it a try. It’s free so what do you have to lose?”

”

WELLIES FAMILY FEEDBACK

If you'd like to run Wellies in the Woods in your local area, please get in touch.

Please contact Hannah Smith at hannah.smith@groundwork.org.uk



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

HELPING HOUSEHOLDS STAY WARM, WELL & IN CONTROL



Across 2025/26, Groundwork East's Green Doctors provided free, impartial support to households struggling with energy and water costs. The service helped **1,117 people reduce household energy and water use, while 608 households were supported to become more resilient.**

Green Doctors understand that rising household costs can be overwhelming. They offer friendly, practical advice tailored to each person's circumstances, helping residents feel more confident and in control. This can include support with energy or water debt, checking eligibility for grants and discounts, understanding utility bills, reducing heat loss, managing damp and mould, and using energy and water more efficiently.

The service is also responding to changing needs. Alongside helping people keep their homes warm in winter, Green Doctors are increasingly supporting households to stay cool safely during periods of hot weather. Simple measures, such as draughtproofing, radiator foil, LED bulbs and water-saving devices, can help make homes more comfortable while lowering bills and environmental impact.



A GREEN DOCTOR HOME VISIT

Green Doctor support is available now and free to those who need it. Get in touch to find out more east@groundwork.org.uk



MADE POSSIBLE BY PARTNERSHIP



This work was made possible with support from funders including the **Cadent Foundation, UK Power Networks and British Gas**. We are also grateful to the many referral partners and local organisations that helped residents access the service and invited our Green Doctors to speak with communities and service users.

”

FRIENDLY SUPPORT MAKES A REAL DIFFERENCE

Feedback from people supported by the Green Doctor service shows that it offers much more than help with energy bills. It provides practical advice and reassurance when life feels difficult or overwhelming.

One family described the help they received with energy costs and food vouchers as **“invaluable”**, saying they felt listened to and respected by the Green Doctor.

Another person, who lives alone, explained how much they valued having someone patient and approachable to help with heating, home safety and understanding new equipment. They described the service as **“a godsend for people in my situation”** and said it was reassuring to know that help was available to make their home warmer and easier to manage.

HOME GROWN

In 2025/26, our Home Grown programme continued at pace, supporting more than 170 families and 250 care home residents across the region.

Home Grown helps people learn to grow fresh food at home or in care settings, improving confidence, wellbeing, diet and connection with others. Participants receive free grow packs containing seeds, tools, gloves and other essential items, alongside support through newsletters and an online community.

We are grateful to Mr Fothergill's Seeds for their generous donation of seeds, which helped make the packs possible and gave participants a wide range of produce to grow.

Feedback shows the difference Home Grown can make. In 2024, 100% of surveyed participants said they felt more confident growing food, 100% said their children enjoyed taking part, 60% said their child's overall diet had improved, and 80% said their child's physical and mental wellbeing had improved.

“Every parent who received a Home Grown pack was amazed by how much was included, it was like watching someone open a birthday present! The packs have encouraged children to get outside, care for their own vegetables and share meaningful activities with parents and grandparents.”

**FAMILY ACTIVITY WORKER,
NORTH AND EAST IPSWICH CHILDREN'S CENTRES**

WANT TO WORK WITH US?

If you would like to fund Home Grown Packs for your community, please get in touch via east@groundwork.org.uk



“Residents were delighted to get outside and start planting with the gardening equipment and seeds donated by Groundwork East. One resident, Len, said: ‘**I will be out here every morning to water and monitor the plants**’, and he immediately got started, watering the rest of the garden too.”

PATERNOSTER CARE HOME

FORWARD TRUST, NEW SKILLS FOR POSITIVE FUTURES

Forward

Groundwork East has delivered horticulture and environmental skills programmes across the East of England as part of The Forward Trust's Personal Wellbeing Services since 2022.

Designed for people on probation, the programme provides a supportive environment where participants can connect with others, build confidence and develop practical skills that may support their progression into training, volunteering or employment. Spending time outdoors and taking part in purposeful work can be particularly valuable during the transition from prison back into the community.



Get in touch and find out how you can get involved by emailing us east@groundwork.org.uk



CONFIDENCE IN NATURE

For some, the experience also offers an opportunity to refocus, establish a positive routine and benefit from purposeful activity in all seasons. Our project officers adapt each programme to reflect participants' needs, interests and abilities, while also improving the sites where sessions take place. This flexible approach helps people develop skills at their own pace, recognise their strengths and take positive steps towards the future.

Project Officer Rob said: "I see how it boosts the participant's confidence as they learn or relearn skills and the enjoyment they get from working outdoors and as part of a team. Some already have great knowledge of horticulture from previous experience, or study but lack the opportunity to put them into practice - so they are keen to get stuck in with this chance."



"It was a really good experience, I enjoyed doing a variety of things from planting to making Christmas wreaths. I volunteered to take part in this project, but I would have happily paid for a similar experience ... who knew I could make Christmas wreaths!"

JB, FORWARD TRUST PARTICIPANT



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

GREEN AIDERS

GREEN AIDERS

Green Aiders helps vulnerable residents reclaim outdoor spaces that have become difficult or unsafe to manage. With support from local volunteers, Groundwork East clears overgrowth, restores access and brings gardens back into use.

The service is always free to those who need it, with residents referred through local partners. Its impact goes far beyond the practical work, with safer, more welcoming gardens supporting physical activity, reducing isolation and improving mental wellbeing.

“I can now sit out and watch the birds coming and going and see a welcome rejuvenation of some of my old plants. The team brought some sunshine back to my garden and me”

GREEN AIDER RESTORATION RESIDENT

39 GARDENS RESTORED FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS ACROSS HERTFORDSHIRE

KINDLY SUPPORTED BY SETTLE HOUSING, HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL AND CLARION FUTURES



Get in touch to find out more about Green Aiders
east@groundwork.org.uk





PLACES

Across the East of England, Groundwork East works with communities, councils, schools, businesses and local partners to make places greener, healthier and more resilient to climate change. In 2025/26, we improved 53,484 square metres of land for people and nature, with 80% of this publicly accessible, and worked across sites, including 74 public green spaces and 26 community sites. We also worked with 1,711 organisations, providing practical support, advice and funding to help people and nature thrive.

PLACES IN NUMBERS 2025/26



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This work shows the value of place-based action: understanding the needs of each site, listening to local people, and combining specialist skills with local knowledge.

From school rain gardens and community parks to river restoration and family nature projects, our partnerships help turn ideas into practical improvements that communities can see, use and care for. Citizen scientists, volunteers and local groups play a vital role too, building the evidence, confidence and stewardship needed to protect these places for the future.

53,484 SQM

OF LAND
IMPROVED FOR
PEOPLE AND
NATURE (80% OF
THIS PUBLICLY
ACCESSIBLE)

276 SITES

WORKED ON,
INCLUDING 74
PUBLIC GREEN
SPACES AND
26 COMMUNITY
SITES

1,711 GROUPS

& ORGANISATIONS
WORKED WITH
ACROSS THE EAST
OF ENGLAND
- PROVIDING
SUPPORT, ADVICE
AND FUNDING

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

WILD GODMANCHESTER

Delivered on site at Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery and funded by Cambridgeshire Community Foundation, Wild Godmanchester helped local children and families build a stronger connection with nature through free sessions that combined outdoor play, hands-on learning and simple activities to explore the natural world.

Families created habitats for wildlife at the nursery by creating container ponds, bat boxes and wildflower seed bombs, and planting sweet rocket for moths and other night-time pollinators.

The project concluded with a special moth morning, where families identified species caught in an overnight moth trap. Wild Godmanchester showed how strong local partnerships create real impact for communities, bringing together Groundwork East's experience in outdoor learning with Godmanchester Community Plant Nursery's welcoming site and local roots to create new opportunities for children and families to enjoy nature.

"THE KIDS
LOVED IT AND
SO DID WE!"

99



SCHOOL RAIN GARDENS, ESSEX

Groundwork East's landscape architecture team has been helping schools in Essex become more resilient to heavy rainfall through the design and delivery of new rain gardens. Working with drainage engineers EPG on behalf of Essex County Council, the team supported a Sustainable Drainage Systems project across six schools, many of which had large areas of tarmac and recurring surface water flooding issues.

Rain gardens are a simple but effective nature-based solution. They intercept rainwater from roofs, playgrounds and other hard surfaces, holding it temporarily before allowing it to soak slowly into the ground. This helps reduce runoff, ease pressure on drainage systems, support groundwater recharge and reduce the risk of polluted surface water entering rivers and streams.

Groundwork East developed the planting schemes, layouts, interpretation and playful design features that bring the rain gardens to life for pupils and staff. These included willow arbours, water "marble runs" that channel rainfall into planted areas, and water-reactive stencils that reveal woodland footprints when it rains.

As they establish, the rain gardens will transform school grounds into greener, more biodiverse and climate-resilient places, while giving pupils a practical, visible way to understand water, flooding and the value of nature-based solutions.

ROTHBURY PARK, WYMONDHAM

Groundwork East was pleased to support the improvements at Rothbury Park in Wymondham, helping to create a greener, more welcoming space for both people and wildlife.

Working on behalf of Wymondham Town Council and alongside Greening Wymondham, our Landscape Architecture team developed the detailed planting design and maintenance plan.

Building on the original design by Norwich City Council, we focused on increasing biodiversity through pollinator-friendly planting, new trees and other features that will provide food and shelter for wildlife. The additional tree planting will also create much-needed shade across the open, sunny site, making the park more comfortable to use as the climate changes.

Get in touch with us for a free, no obligation discussion via email at landscape.east@groundwork.org.uk

WATCH THE VIDEO TO FIND OUT MORE



CREATING A RESILIENT AND NATURE-RICH COMMUNITY SPACE

Community feedback shaped the wider project, ensuring the improvements reflected how local people use the park. Our role was to bring specialist landscape and biodiversity expertise to the partnership and help turn those ideas into a practical, sustainable plan.



[///CLOCKWORK.NIPPING.DROVE](https://clockwork.nipping.drove)



REDISCOVERING THE RIVER COLNE

In 2025/26, Groundwork East continued working with Watford Borough Council, local partners and the community to restore the River Colne as a healthier, more accessible place for wildlife and people.

The wider ten-year programme brings together habitat restoration, environmental monitoring and community involvement, recognising that long-term river recovery depends on local people feeling connected to and invested in the river.

Practical improvements were completed at Radlett Road, including bank regrading, new berms, flow deflectors and scrapes to create more varied habitats and improve river flow. Detailed designs were also developed for three southern sites, alongside plans for fish passes, weir improvements and a constructed wetland, preparing the way for further work.

Groundwork East staff, volunteers and corporate groups also tackled invasive non-native species, including Himalayan balsam, with monitoring showing positive progress across the project area.



Citizen science remained central to the programme. Volunteers continued Riverfly and outfall monitoring, received new ARMI Riverfly and MudSpotter training, and contributed evidence to Watford's annual water-quality report.

This hands-on involvement not only strengthened monitoring capacity, but also helped build local knowledge, confidence and stewardship.

Alongside the environmental work, exhibitions, family Wild Play sessions and riverside activities helped more people discover, enjoy and care for the River Colne, creating a stronger foundation for its future protection.





PLANET

Our Planet strand brings together the work Groundwork East does with individuals, communities and businesses to raise awareness of environmental impact and give people the knowledge, confidence and tools to take action. This includes practical climate education, biodiversity improvement and support for organisations to reduce carbon, costs and wider environmental impact.

PLANET IN NUMBERS 2025/26



We delivered 100 biodiversity improvement actions and nature-based solutions, helping protect and restore the natural world while supporting communities to respond to climate and environmental pressures.

This included action to reduce greenhouse gases, tackle habitat and biodiversity loss, and respond to challenges such as air pollution, urban heat, food and water security, drought, flooding and erosion. Together, these activities show how nature can be part of the solution: improving habitats, strengthening climate resilience and helping communities adapt to a changing environment. By helping organisations understand their impact, take practical action and access support, we are helping businesses play their part in creating a fairer, greener future. We also support businesses to demonstrate meaningful social value in the communities where they operate, connecting environmental responsibility with local action, community benefit and stronger relationships with people and places.



289 GROUPS

GIVEN INFO
AND ADVICE
ON ACTING
WITH GREATER
ENVIRONMENTAL
RESPONSIBILITY

120 PLANS

TO REDUCE
CARBON
DEVELOPED OVER
THE PAST 12
MONTHS

100 ACTIONS

IN BIODIVERSITY
IMPROVEMENT
AND NATURE-
BASED SOLUTIONS
UNDERTAKEN

1,535 PEOPLE

REPORTED
NOW HAVING
A GREATER
CONNECTION
WITH NATURE

£1.99 MILLION

IN POTENTIAL
COST SAVINGS
LINKED TO 13,786
tCO₂e OF
IDENTIFIED
CARBON SAVINGS

WATER LITERACY



The Water Literacy Programme has shown what can be achieved when partners come together around a shared challenge. Developed by Northumbrian Water, Waterwise and Groundwork East, and supported by wider partners across the water, environmental and community sectors, the programme set out to help people understand where water comes from, why it matters, and what practical action they can take to protect it.

Supported through Ofwat's Water Breakthrough Challenge, the programme responded to one of the UK's most pressing long-term environmental challenges: growing pressure on water resources. Its ambition was to create an accessible learning experience that could inspire people to save water at home, at work and in their communities.

GET INVOLVED

Visit the [Water Literacy website](#) or visit [LinkedIn](#) to find out more about the programme

 [BOOK A PLACE ONLINE](#)



A NATIONAL MOVEMENT TO VALUE & SAVE WATER

Groundwork East played a key role in developing and delivering the pilot, drawing on our experience of environmental education, behaviour change and Carbon Literacy training.

Thanks to a huge collective effort from project partners, trainers, communications teams and participating Groundwork Trusts, the programme not only met its original target of 2,000 learners, it exceeded it, training 2,555 people across England and Wales.

Learner feedback showed strong appetite for the course. Many joined to improve their understanding of water scarcity, sustainability and the wider water system, while others wanted practical tools to influence behaviour in their workplace or community. Evaluation showed increased awareness, motivation and confidence.

The funded pilot phase has now ended, but Water Literacy continues. The course is available to book through the Water Literacy website, or by getting in touch to discuss training for staff, partners or wider networks.

CLIMATE CHAMPIONS INSPIRES YOUNG ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

Groundwork East's Climate Champions programme was named a finalist in the Education category of the Clean and Green Awards, recognising its creative approach to climate education.

Developed for Year 5 pupils, the programme combines science, geography, maths, art and design to help children understand climate change and explore practical solutions. Across three sessions, pupils learn about climate science and take action around six themes: food, water, waste, biodiversity, energy and transport.

In its first year, Climate Champions reached more than 500 pupils across nine West Norfolk primary schools. Children worked together to create campaigns and assemblies focused on changes their schools could make, producing posters, videos, debates, leaflets and biodiversity projects. **West Winch Primary School was named the winning Climate Champions school.**

Designed with teachers and influenced by Carbon Literacy training, the programme balances the seriousness of climate change with positive, age-appropriate action, helping pupils feel informed, hopeful and able to make a difference.



MADE SMARTER BUSINESS

In January to March 2026, our sustainable business team delivered energy efficiency assessments and decarbonization reports to 21 manufacturing businesses from across the East of England, ranging from metal fabricators and engineering companies to chocolate and ice-cream makers!

We also supported some of these manufacturers to access energy efficiency grant funding to support their businesses to decarbonise by implementing projects such as installing solar PV and battery storage and moving to efficient electric heating.

The project identified total potential cost savings of over **£446,000 and 957 tCO₂e**.

The support was delivered in partnership with Norfolk County Council's Growth Hub, tapping into UK government funding from the Made Smarter scheme for digital manufacturing and advice.

 [GET INVOLVED ON OUR WEBSITE](#)





CARBON CHARTER PATHFINDER PARTNER



East of
England
COOP

This year marked over a decade of Groundwork East's partnership with the East of England Co-operative Society through their role as a Carbon Charter* 'Pathfinder Partner'.

Through the Carbon Charter environmental award scheme and sustainable business network, Groundwork's Sustainable Business Services team has helped the Co-op's local suppliers develop the knowledge, tools and confidence needed to understand and reduce their environmental impacts.

One such local supplier is Stokes Sauces, based in Suffolk, who have shown how practical changes can help a growing

food business reduce its environmental impact. The company, which produces its sauces at its rural Suffolk "Saucery", had already pioneered a fully recycled and recyclable squeeze bottle before gaining its first Carbon Charter award.

Its wider sustainability programme included switching to 100% renewable electricity, moving 75% of its vehicle fleet to electric cars, installing charging points for staff and visitors, introducing a recycling initiative to eliminate waste sent to landfill, and working with the World Land Trust to offset emissions that could not yet be removed from its operations.

[READ ABOUT THE CARBON CHARTER](#)



"We take our environmental responsibilities very seriously at Stokes and are always striving to improve our ways of working."

RICK SHEEPSHANKS, STOKES SAUCES

”

***The Carbon Charter is an environmental accreditation and sustainable business network that helps organisations understand, reduce and demonstrate their carbon impact.**

TEAM BUILDING FOR YOUR BUSINESS

We can support organisations of all sizes to turn corporate responsibility goals into action, helping to strengthen community connections and create lasting social value whilst providing an opportunity to build staff bonds.

We offer fully managed team building days tailored to each organisation, from one-off community action days to longer-term partnerships and even "micro-volunteering" sessions that we bring to your place of work. Each day is planned and led by Groundwork East, with tasks designed to meet local need while giving employees the chance to work together.

Activities can include improving school grounds, creating community gardens, building raised beds, clearing overgrown spaces, preparing areas for planting and removing invasive species from rivers and green spaces.

We are also keen to hear from organisations and community partners with sites that could benefit from practical improvements, where we can work with you to identify suitable tasks, plan the activity and manage delivery on site.



To find out more please contact Ashley Lydbrook east@groundwork.org.uk



GROUNDWORK EAST'S DECARBONISATION PATHWAY

We have been measuring and reporting our own carbon emissions since 2019 and have now achieved a **63% reduction** against our 2019/20 baseline, exceeding both of our original interim targets ahead of schedule.

This progress reflects sustained effort across the organisation, from switching to renewable electricity and installing solar PV to reducing travel, improving buildings and investing in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure.

 [READ OUR CARBON REDUCTION PLAN](#)



If you would like help to understand and reduce your organisation's carbon footprint, please get in touch east@groundwork.org.uk



The journey has not been straightforward, and there is still more to do. Our own experience has given us a clearer understanding of the practical, financial and operational challenges faced by the businesses we support.

We are now focused on improving data, reducing travel further, engaging staff, strengthening sustainable procurement and continuing the transition to electric vehicles. We are also sharing what we have learned across the Groundwork Federation, helping other trusts develop effective approaches to carbon monitoring and reduction.



WORK WITH US

In 2025/26, we worked with 1,711 organisations, businesses and funders to improve places and lives across the region.

As an independent charity, we build partnerships that create lasting impact for people, communities and the environment.

Partnering with us can help you:

- > ADDRESS LOCAL PRIORITIES AND CONNECT WITH COMMUNITIES
- > DELIVER SOCIAL VALUE THROUGH PRACTICAL, PLACE-BASED PROGRAMMES
- > MEET ESG AND SUSTAINABILITY GOALS THROUGH MEASURABLE ACTION
- > TRANSFORM OUTDOOR SPACES AND IMPROVE BIODIVERSITY, HEALTH AND WELLBEING
- > DELIVER GREEN SOCIAL PRESCRIBING THAT STRENGTHENS PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, BUILDS RESILIENCE AND CONNECTS PEOPLE WITH THE NATURAL WORLD
- > SUPPORT PEOPLE INTO GREEN SKILLS, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
- > SUPPORT HOUSEHOLDS TO MANAGE FUEL COSTS AND WIDER COST-OF-LIVING PRESSURES

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We work with businesses, local authorities, funders and voluntary organisations to design programmes that respond to local need and deliver shared outcomes. We would love to hear from you to explore how we could work together.

[GET INVOLVED ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



Working in partnership with VCSE organisations such as Emmaus Suffolk helps us reach more people and create greater impact in communities. By combining Emmaus' local relationships with Groundwork East's environmental and wellbeing expertise, the project offered accessible support rooted in local need.

In 2025, Groundwork East and Emmaus Suffolk delivered a community wellbeing programme in Ipswich, supported by Suffolk County Council's Ipswich Health and Wellbeing Fund. The pilot brought together gardening, cooking and outdoor activities to support healthier lifestyles, confidence and social connection. Activities included family growing and cooking sessions, budget cooking, gardening, landscaping and outdoor activities at Emmaus' Dales Road hub. Participants learned skills in growing food, cooking healthy affordable meals and improving shared green space while working with others.

OUR SERVICES



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PEOPLE

Support for people of all ages to upskill and find work in the growing green jobs sector

Household support to help people struggling to heat their homes stay warm and address debt

Tailored activities for children, families and young people that improves confidence and wellbeing through nature connection

Help people protect and enjoy their local green spaces



PLACES

Community food growing and healthy eating programmes for communities and schools

Community consultation and engagement

Corporate and community activity and volunteering days

Landscape design including play area and open space improvements; health, residential and school ground improvements; habitat and river corridor improvements; sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs)



PLANET

Green space improvement – landscape architecture and biodiversity improvements

Environmental training, including accredited carbon and water literacy training

Carbon footprint and management consultancy services

Environmental awareness-raising campaigns and programmes

Environmental accreditation schemes / business networks

**IN 2025/26,
VOLUNTEERS
DEDICATED OVER
1,507 HOURS TO
OUR PROJECTS AND
PROGRAMMES – A
CONTRIBUTION
VALUED AT £21,000**

THANK YOU

WE ARE DEEPLY THANKFUL FOR THE INVALUABLE SUPPORT
GROUNDWORK EAST RECEIVES FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS, FUNDERS,
PARTNERS, AND TRUSTEES.



groundwork.org.uk/east

