

The Kestrelman Trust



KT Trustees Report 2017/18

Achievements and performance

In the year to August 2018, the Trust made grants of just under £415,000. This was slightly lower than in the previous year but still in line with the desired range.

Grants continue to be classified into four main areas; environmental, social inclusion, relief for refugees and those in need and education and the arts. Environmental remains the largest area, making up 56% of the total granted in the 2017-18 year. Relief for refugees and those in need made up 21%, social inclusion 18% and the remainder to education and the arts.

The number of different organisations granted to this year was just 19, down from 35 in 2015-16 and 31 in 2016-17, although some of these beneficiaries received multiple grants, often for different projects. Most of these organisations are previous beneficiaries of the trust, with only a few first time beneficiaries. Despite this, the Trustees are keen to avoid a situation whereby an organisation becomes dependent on them, given the finite supply of funds.

Two-thirds of the total granted in 2017-18 was to 'strategic' projects where the aim is to make a fundamental change to how something is done, with a clear long-term focus. The remainder went to 'sticking plaster' causes, providing a short-term fix to what is often a much larger issue.

Protecting the environment and mitigating climate change remains a key area for the Trustees, as evidenced by the amount granted to such causes in 2017-18.

With six of the ten most polluted cities in the EU and a personal connection to the country, Poland, via Client Earth, was again a major beneficiary of Kestrelman Trust. Projects granted included Client Earth's Biodiversity Programme and in particular its work against illegal logging of the Bialowieza Forest; and with 90% of Poland's electricity being generated from coal, the other was Client Earth's local Air Pollution and climate change work.

The Trust also sponsored a photographic climate change awareness exhibition based around Siberia's melting permafrost at COP24 (Katowice) in December 2018. Whilst northern Russia is home to two-thirds of the world's permafrost, few reports have covered Siberia (much of the focus has been on Alaska and Canada). As the permafrost melts, dead, carbon-rich vegetation and frozen animals decompose, releasing greenhouse gases methane and carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. The thawing soil, and the release of the gases, in turn contribute to the rate of global warming, meaning a vicious cycle is at play. Experts say we have not reached a "tipping point" yet, but time is running out.

Kestrelman Trust again supported Global Justice Now and Trade Justice Movement, who are both campaigning to stop international trade deals being agreed without public scrutiny. The environmental concern is that overseas governments use such deals to allow overseas companies trading with Britain greater freedom to emit greenhouse gases than those active in Britain.

Wildlife and Countryside Link are another beneficiary to have received several grants from the Trust and this year Kestrelman part-funded a survey designed to better understand the opinions – of English farmers – on current and future agriculture policy.

The Trustees contributed towards the ongoing footpath restoration work on the Isle of Skye. This, in association with The John Muir Trust's Wild Ways Path appeal, involved repairing damaged walkways, meaning that hikers can both safely admire the nearby hills and prevent further destruction of the local biodiversity.

Other beneficiaries in the environmental category included Global Greengrants Fund and their river cleansing biodiversity work in China. Also supported was CHEM Trust's campaign for man-made – particularly hormone disrupting – chemicals to be replaced by safer alternatives, to

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prevent long term damage to humans and the wider environment.

Under the social inclusion category, grants were made to YMCA Cornwall; new beneficiary Trailblazers, which is trying to reduce re-offending rates among young people through mentoring and specialist support; and NEON (New Economy Organisers Network)'s program of training marginalised members of society to participate in civil society debate.

Other beneficiaries were Crisis and its Skylight Centre in Croydon and Medicine Sans Frontieres's (MSF) vital work in areas subject to conflict, natural disasters and epidemics – both in the relief for refugees and those in need category.

Plans for future years

The Trustees intend to continue making grants with a particular focus on environmental and green initiatives.