

DEVON ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION IMPACT SUMMARY

APRIL 2023



IPCC 'FINAL WARNING'

- Negative environmental news can make us feel fear, despair, apathy... Or we can do something about it.
- We all have a part to play in reducing & eliminating CO2 and insisting governments & corporations replace fossil fuels with renewables, insulation & energy saving initiatives.
- But we can do even better! We supercharge our progress when we invest time & money in protecting & restoring nature.
- A 2020 WEF report found that expanding areas for nature conservation & regeneration yields a return of £5 per £1 spent.
- A March 2023 report revealed that protecting & restoring wildlife in abundance would sequester enough CO2 to keep temperatures below the 1.5 degree tipping point.
- Nature-based solutions tackle both the climate and nature crises simultaneously. There is no better investment!





Nature must be at the heart of our fight to save the planet.

People must harness nature's extraordinary powers to turn the tide on climate change.

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH, COP26



OUR WORK

- DEF protects and restores nature by enabling grassroots projects delivering tangible nature-based solutions in Devon.
- Our ambition is to protect and restore at least 30% of Devon 'for nature' by 2030.
- We channel funds to the most innovative or impactful projects, providing vital kick-start or scale-up support.
- We fill a funding gap for smaller, experimental projects, directing funds where they are needed quickly.
- Our Advisory Board of leading experts ensures we fund projects that will deliver the greatest benefits for nature.
- Since launching in July 2020, we have supported 47 brilliant grassroots projects tackling the climate and nature crises in Devon, awarding more than £630,000.



OUR PROJECTS

1 Regenerative Agriculture
Kick-starting a new School of Regenerative Land-Based Studies, training apprentices to fill a skills gap and grow the next generation of regenerative farmers.



2 Mycelium and Biochar
Trialling mycelium and biochar recipes to sequester carbon, enhance soil quality, and clean up river pollution via mycofiltration - identifying low tech solutions that can be replicated widely.



3 Plastic Clean Up
Supporting adventure beach cleans using ribs and kayaks to reach parts of the coast that other cleaners can't reach, engaging the community and having fun while cleaning up plastic pollution.



4 Seaweed Farming
Funding a pioneering pilot to prove the economic, social, and environmental benefits of seaweed farming in the region. Benefits include carbon sequestration, bioremediation, and increased marine biodiversity.



OUR PROJECTS

5 Beaver Reintroductions
Enabling nature's engineers to populate Devon's waterways where they increase biodiversity and carbon sequestration, reduce flooding and soil erosion, and enhance water quality.



6 Moss on the Moor
Exploring creative ways to regenerate peatlands with the communities who live nearby, with the aim of discovering whether this participatory approach can be delivered at significant scale.



7 Pesticide Awareness
Funding Pollenize CIC to deliver a creative awareness campaign highlighting the issues of pesticide use in Plymouth and its impact on pollinators to encourage pollinator-friendly action in the city.



8 Wild About Devon
Providing a small grants pot to empower communities to take action for wildlife across Devon: creating new wildlife sites or changing the management of gardens, parks, green spaces, churchyards, orchards, ponds, ditches and buildings, in a way which will benefit wildlife.



PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

Flete Field Lab

Experiments with mycelium & biochar to sequester carbon, enhance soil quality and clean up river pollution. Identifying low tech solutions that can be replicated widely.



PROJECT IMPACT



1 Learning from Mycelium
Flete Field Lab offers a space for sharing knowledge & skills, and collaborating & communicating across difference, bringing together a wide variety of people to build research & understanding of natural solutions for water and soil issues.



2 Biochar
Biochar is an ancient, practical, low tech nature-based solution. It is believed to increase crop yield, soil health, water management, and carbon sequestration in the soil, while mitigating erosion. However, supporting science is sparse so FFL aims to address this.



3 Mushrooms
2022: FFL delivered the only successful mycofiltration trial in the UK, using mycelium to clean toxins downstream from a sewage treatment plant. They saw a reduction in Ecoli of 47% & falls in levels of chemical pollutants too. 2023 trials will target phosphates.



4 Sharing findings
A key objective of the project is to share results from the trials, creating low tech recipes for farmers & community groups to use widely to reduce pollution & increase carbon sequestration, extending the network and impact across the globe.



WHAT'S NEXT?

DEF's priority is to increase the amount of funding available for local, tangible, nature-based solutions by inspiring more people & organisations to get involved.

We aim to encourage more grassroots regenerative projects to start-up or scale-up, by providing mentoring, expertise, connections, and vital financial support.

Your support would enable us to seed even more nature-based solutions; while showcasing project successes that ignite hope and wider action, and accelerate systemic change.





THANK YOU

DEVON ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION

Enabling local, tangible, grassroots nature-based solutions.

www.devonenvironment.org

amanda@devonenvironment.org

[@devon_enviro](https://twitter.com/devon_enviro)

