



Transition Stroud
(Company number 06978217)

Directors' report and financial statements
for the year ended 31st August 2022



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Company information for the year ended 31 August 2022

Full name

Transition Stroud

Registered company number

06978217

Principal address

The Exchange
Brick Row
Stroud
GL5 1DF

Directors

Fred Barker
Camilla Barnes
Dmytro Bojaniwskyj
Katharina Child
Adrian Oldman
Caroline Pankhurst
Nigel Westaway
Martin Whiteside

Bankers

The Co-operative Bank plc
1 Balloon Street
Manchester
M60 4EP



The directors submit their annual report and accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022.

Objects of the company

The Company is established for the benefit of the community of the Stroud District to take, and inspire others to take, collaborative actions that strengthen local communities and respond positively to the challenges of climate change and declining energy supplies, in accordance with policies and decisions determined by members.

Governing document

Transition Stroud is a company limited by guarantee. It operates under its memorandum and articles of association dated 1st August 2009, amended 9th September 2009 and 9th June 2021. It has no share capital and the liability of each member in the event of winding up is limited to £1.

Directors

Fred Barker, Dmytro Bojaniwskyj, Adrian Oldman, Nigel Westaway and Martin Whiteside held office during the whole of the period from 1 September 2021 to the date of this report. Changes in directors holding office were as follows:

Camilla Barnes appointed 4 April 2022

Katharina Child appointed 1 August 2022

Caroline Pankhurst appointed 4 April 2022

Paul Hofman resigned 21 November 2021

Charlotte Mitchell resigned 10 August 2022

Exemptions

The directors have taken advantage of the exemptions available to small companies, including the audit exemption (see statement on balance sheet).



Introduction

Transition Stroud “Inspires Action for a Sustainable Future”.

Our aim is to reduce Stroud District's dependence on a carbon-based economy, by building community resilience in the face of challenges such as peak oil, climate change and recession. TS engages with people to raise awareness of the issues and discuss solutions.

The work of Transition Stroud over the last year can be divided into three areas:

1. The work of our Action Groups

Transition Stroud has a number of action groups who seek to involve Stroud residents in the work that we do. This ranges from repair cafes, textiles recycling, Edible Stroud and mapping and sharing local carbon reduction initiatives.

Transition Stroud provides the supportive framework for their activities through providing insurance cover, helping with grant applications, giving access to additional funding for new initiatives, providing an approved health and safety assessment and running outreach activity both online and off.

2. Climate Action Networks

TS has been encouraging and supporting the formation and growth of groups which are focussing on climate and sustainability at the town and parish level. We have been convening a regular, district wide online Forum to bring representatives together around themed meetings, inviting specialist speakers to share their work and answer questions.

3. Engagement with the community

We need to engage with individuals and families from across the various communities within our district if we are to help encourage and inspire them to take action to reduce their carbon footprint and single use plastic. We do this through a variety of mediums including: a regular newsletter, website, Facebook and Twitter. We also respond to public consultations at local and county level to promote a more sustainable approach to a range of developing policies.

Further information is given in the pages below

1. The work of our Action Groups

Transition Stroud supported and promoted the work of our action groups throughout the year. Below are reports from groups on their work over the last year.



Edible Stroud

Aims to grow more food locally and to provide a wildlife friendly environment from which we will all benefit. Fruit and nut trees, soft fruit bushes, herbs and flowers are planted by volunteers for all to harvest and enjoy.

In March we were finally able to run our National Lottery funded tree grafting workshop at Days Cottage. The funding came to us via the Transition Network. Some people paid for their space as the funded spaces were quickly booked up. In all 12 of us were taught a technique for grafting apple trees and then we were each given a choice of local varieties of apple to graft and take home for planting. Time will tell how many are successful.

On our site at Stroud Train Station we cleared the growth from round the raised beds and laid weed suppressing membrane topped with woodchip to keep things at bay. We tidied the beds and transplanted some squash plants grown by one of our volunteers. Some of us are also in Stroud Seed Saving Group; we are hoping to save the seeds from the squash so that it can be grown again next year. The station is an ideal spot as cross contamination with other squash varieties is unlikely as there are no gardens or allotments nearby.

Textile Group

The textile group mend and update clothes; swap fabric, knit and crochet and learn new skills

We have continued to meet monthly to mend clothes, upcycle and swap items of clothing and material in order to keep textiles out of landfill.

Initially we continued to use the lovely Trinity rooms, we had some meetings outside whilst the weather was nice and recently we have returned to meeting in members homes. We have daytime and evening sessions and members agree on various themes for our meetings, such as darning, making buttons, using a sewing machine etc.

We became involved with Edible Stroud's station project and made banners for the railings saying Welcome to Stroud, Transition Town, Reduce Reuse Recycle, Save the bees protect our seas plant trees and Edible Stroud. Following a verbal agreement to hang them, they were subsequently taken down and we were told that we did not have permission. You may have seen some of them at the recent relaunch of the Repair Cafe at the Trinity Rooms.

Our group continues to offer mending skills and ideas on upcycling to people, along with clothes swapping. No skills required. We want people to come who do not know how to sew on a button or mend a hole in a jumper or sock, or what to do with the much loved but boring old black jacket to liven it up. For information about meetings contact Clare on textiles@transitionstroud.org



Repair Cafés

The Repair Cafés fix mechanical, electrical and other goods in return for a donation
Report pending

Mapping Group

The group is working towards mapping the ever-growing number of initiatives in the Stroud district focused on moving to carbon neutrality. The aim is to provide this information to individuals, community groups and others looking to get involved in, or start up, such projects through a digital map that richly describes and catalogues each project
Report pending

2. The development of Climate Action Groups across the District

We continued our focus on building and supporting the network of Climate Action Groups across the District

We have continued to work towards two outcomes that form part of that vision that by 2030 Stroud district will be carbon neutral and local communities will be resilient. These outcomes are that by 2030:

- a wide range of vibrant climate action groups in local communities across the Stroud district are contributing significantly to sustaining carbon neutrality and community resilience; and
- there is widespread sharing of information, experience and learning between groups and projects that contribute to sustaining carbon neutrality and community resilience.

The **number of active climate action groups** (or 'networks') across the district has remained steady at around 15. The map of groups and contacts is available [here](#).

Since the last AGM, a new group has formed in Sheepscombe, and we have supported a meeting and workshop to help set up a group in Nympsfield. Note, however, that a couple of groups on the map exist in name only (Painswick and Randwick), and in a couple of areas long-standing intentions to form new groups have not come to fruition (Cainscross and Standish). Stroud Town CAN is also yet to re-emerge following an organisational review.

The TS Board is also discussing how to stimulate and enable practical climate-related initiatives in communities within the district without climate action groups.



We have also continued to **support the network** of local CAGs/CANs across the District. To this end, over the last year we have convened five meetings of the **district-wide CAN Forum** for representatives of local groups - four online and one face-to-face (F2F).

The meetings have focused on the following themes:

- November 21 Engaging businesses on climate change
- January 22 Group development and capacity building
- March 22 Diversity and inclusion
- May 22 F2F workshop – various topics
- September 22 Local energy

Each of the online meetings has featured speakers from local, regional or national organisations and provided opportunity for discussion on the activities that can be taken by local groups. The meetings continue to be well attended with positive feedback.

The F2F workshop in May was also well attended and enabled vibrant discussion across a range of topics including biodiversity, cargo bikes, community engagement, Library of Things, repair cafes, CAN strategy and a toolkit for community climate action. The F2F workshop is likely to be an annual event.

Notes of the meetings, speaker presentations and video recordings (of the online meetings) are publicly available on the [CAN Forum website](#).

In addition, we have established a CAN Forum Facebook Group to encourage an exchange of information and views between meetings. The group has close to 80 members, and is proving to be more popular than the 'Slack workspace' that it has replaced.

Following a suggestion at the F2F workshop and a survey of local CANs, we are also developing an online resource library of CAN materials.

We have also continued to liaise and collaborate with the **2030 team at Stroud District Council**. We have involvement in the 2030 'Community Engagement Board' through Fred Barker's membership. The Board is at the early stage of developing a work programme.

Development of Projects

We have taken the opportunity provided by discussion at the Forum, and with local CANs, to enable and support the **development of projects**.



The most fruitful of these promises to be the **collaboration with the Big Solar Co-op**, to enable the installation of rooftop PV on non-domestic properties. Following an offer of match-funding from BSC for a part-time local coordinator, we raised grant monies from Stroud District Council, and Cainscross, Rodborough, Stonehouse and Stroud Parish/Town Councils. A local co-ordinator – Mary Ardley – took up her post in June and has started to engage building owners/managers, and recruit local volunteers to assist with the project. As part of the project, we convene a Local Advisory Panel, with representatives from the funding councils.

We also facilitated early discussions between [Co Cars](#), Stroud Valleys Community Car Club (SVCCC) and Stroud District Council to establish an **Electric Car Club in the district**. We understand that discussion has continued 'behind the scenes' between Co Cars and SDC about the technical requirements for siting a pilot scheme.

Other projects have been more challenging:

- **Rooftop solar (domestic)** – following Stroud District Council's decision not to proceed with a local [Solar Together](#) campaign, considerable effort was put into engagement with installers about creating a local bulk install scheme. This has not come to fruition, largely because of market conditions (high demand for installs and equipment supply challenges). Instead we have developed advice for the TS website to help homeowners navigate the options and find the best approach. The advice outlines the [things to consider when choosing an installer](#), [how to fund a PV installation](#) and what to do if things go wrong.
- **Community Wind** – a briefing session for local CANs at the end of September 2021 focussed on potentially suitable areas across the district and sought local groups willing to take the next steps in building local support for an application to the Rural Communities Energy Fund for site feasibility assessment. Although no groups were willing to take this on, some have engaged with their neighbourhood planning process to include support for community wind.

In addition, we initiated early discussions with potential local partners about a bid into the third round of the National Lottery **Climate Action Fund**, which focuses on nature-based solutions and climate. These discussions did not result in preparation of a bid.

We have also initiated conversations with a public-facing platform/app called **Future Friendly**, with the aim of encouraging Stroud-based businesses to promote more of what they are doing to reduce their impact on the environment to the public.



Finally, in October, we advertised for a part-time Network Support Worker, following Fred Barker's decision to retire from his role.

3. Engagement with the Community

Local community outreach needs to increase if all groups and individuals within Stroud are to be aware of activities and opportunities to move towards a more sustainable way of living. Our audience consists of individuals, families, businesses, statutory authorities and other voluntary organisations.

After the Covid restrictions of the past two years, in 2022 there have been a number of community focused events where TS attended and taken part at which people have been able to come together and find out more about our work.

Potato Day

Saturday February 5th, Stroud Farmers' Market

The ever popular, annual Stroud Potato Day was a great success at the Market. Even the sun shone to remind us that the spring growing season is on its way. Down to Earth Seed Bank Saver, Richard Holland did a short recording for BBC Radio Gloucestershire, which was brilliant.

Volunteers from Down to Earth and Transition Stroud (TS) managed to keep up with the demand for seed spuds and the stall was sold out by 12.30pm! The Lemon Drizzle Potato Cake from TS's Norah Kennedy was a great success and there was keen interest in the TS Recipe books of potato dishes

from local chefs, Norah and Josie Cowgil (of Edible Stroud) with illustrations by Jeff (who sells books in The Shambles every Saturday) and printing by Stroud's Dennis Gould. This book was commissioned and published a few years ago by TS.

Many varieties of potatoes were on offer with the more common names (Desiree and Pink Fir Apple) rubbing shoulders with the newer ones (Lucera and Ambo). The purple skinned Blue Danube may be difficult to find when harvesting, but is a delicious spud with stunning flowers. The children of Stroud customers were all given a 'Rainbow' potato to encourage their own adventure with growing and digging up the magic tubers later in the year. Like buried treasure!

Many thanks go again to Gerb and his team for the stall and to all our helpers and customers. Transition Stroud started the Potato Day ten years ago in what is now The Five Valleys shopping area and Down to Earth has several Community Growing Schemes in the District, including The Vale Hospital in Dursley.



Stonehouse Climate Fayre

Sunday April 3rd, Stonehouse Community Centre

The events was organized by Stonehouse Community Climate Action Forum and funded by Stonehouse Town Council. A number of TS Directors attended and we had a table to display leaflets about our work and had the opportunity to share information about our activities and the CAN Network and Forum many of the visitors.

Big Nature Festival in the Park

Sunday July 3rd, Stratford Park

This family focused day was organised by Stroud Nature and hosted over 20 organisations and groups focused on nature and the environment. TS had a gazebo and stall and provided activities for kids (planting a seed, a mini wind-turbine to light up LEDs, making a paper windmill) while parents and other adults were invited to respond to a series of themed questions and prompts around sustainability and the environment. A number of Directors came along to take part, and we had constant chats and engagement all day. The data collected from the surveys will be useful in helping us develop our strategy and further outreach over the next year.

Great Big Green Week

September 24th - October 2nd

We were kindly loaned the use of a property from a local business on the London Road as a pop-up shop and made plans to run some events with other local groups to line up with the national Great Big Green Week. A number of the events were unfortunately cancelled but we did have a town centre presence for the week with a host of information in the window and on display boards inside. We promoted other local groups and initiatives and held some events in a variety of locations.

We hosted an energy advice stall from the Warm and Well team at Severn Wye Energy Agency on the Sub rooms forecourt and a Repair Café at the Museum on the Park pavilion. Access Bike ran a bike advice doctor in the pop-up shop space which was well attended.

We initiated and strengthened relationship with a number of local groups, including Access Bike, Creative Sustainability, Stroud Valley Project, School Food Matters, Warm and Well, Gloucestershire Youth Climate Group and The Museum in the Park.

Online Outreach

Our social media manager moved on in March after a year in post and we recruited a new person for the role who took over in July.



Newsletter

Our newsletter goes to our mailing list of over 1,000 people on a monthly basis. It promotes the work that TS action groups are doing, provides a forum for articles on sustainability and has a campaigning role. The content focuses on local action and positive stories with the aim to uplift and engage people, supporting many other local initiatives as well by sharing their news and events.

In the last year we have looked for ways to reach more people through a wider range of stories and information. This has included news from other Transition Groups in the immediate area and longer profile pieces about people involved in local groups, called the Transitioneers, which has continued to be well received. The membership of the newsletter has not increased much but the opening rate has grown from around 43% to an average of 50%.

Website

The website continues to be a repository of information about Transition Stroud activity, such as minutes and information about established Action Groups, with new information being shared through social media accounts. We have updated processes for giving one off or regular donations.

We have continued to develop the subsite which focuses on the district wide CAN groups and the CAN Forum. We are now listing resources from the CANs alongside the information about where to find or set up local groups and minutes and resources from the CAN Forum meetings.

The majority of our online engagement is through our social media sites rather than our websites, which only achieve visitor numbers in the low thousands.

Social Media

The social media feeds on Facebook and Twitter run with the same agenda as the newsletter – a local focus and an emphasis on action and positivity. Messages included the work of our action groups, latest news and support for other sustainability projects in the district. Where possible (usually on Twitter) attention is also given to sustainability work coming from local town councils and the district council.

The Facebook page now has 1,708 followers and a total 'reach' of more than 10,000 so far this year. Around 3 or 4 posts per week are sent, each usually reaching between 100 and 200 people per post. Wider community news is included alongside Transition Network news and TS Stroud activities.

The Twitter account has 2,434 followers and shares regular content over the week. We are now reaching between 6,000 – 8,000 impressions per month.

We recently started an Instagram account to see how that works for increased engagement online.



Summary

Transition Stroud continues to build on its living strategy to respond to the challenges and opportunities that Stroud District Carbon Neutral 2030 brings. TS is seeking to help contribute to a Stroud District community response to climate change - and to work with key partners to deliver this.

We are making a positive contribution to creating a sustainable, resilient community as is demonstrated in the report above through our support for Climate Action Groups across the District, the work of our Action Groups and our engagement with local communities. Nevertheless, we still need to reach more of the public who aren't already involved in sustainability issues. We'd like part of our focus for 2023 to come up with strategies to reach these more "unusual suspects".

The current volunteer TS directors have a strong commitment to the work that we do and the group has a range of valuable skills. We have been joined by three new Directors this year which has lowered the average age and helped move towards a more balanced gender split on the Council. We are continuing to make an active effort to recruit a broader range of Directors.

Grants and donations received

Transition Stroud gratefully acknowledge the voluntary and financial support of many individuals and organisations and detail the grants and donations received during the year in the notes to the financial statements. Particularly helpful has been the funding received from monthly donations by individuals, and grants to promote solar energy from Stroud District Council and the town/parish councils of Cainscross, Rodborough, Stroud and Stonehouse.

We continue to utilise funds from the Climate Action Groups Network Support Grant from Stroud District Council which helps the work of the CAN Forum and developing the CAN Network.

Small company provisions:

This report has been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

Signed on behalf of the board:

Signed: **Dmytro Bojaniwskyj** Dated: **9th November 2022**

Dmytro Bojaniwskyj, Director

Financial Statements

Transition Stroud Income and expenditure account for the year ended 31 August 2022

			2022	2021
		Notes		
			£	£
Income				
Grants and donations		1 & 2	8,890	5,600
Bank interest				-
Sundry income				-
Total income			8,890	5,600
Expenditure				
Projects		3	6,038	3,446
Core services			8,943	8,581
Total expenditure			14,981	12,027
Net income/(expenditure) for the year			-6,091	-6,427

Transition Stroud
Balance sheet
at 31 August 2022

		2022	2021
	Notes	£	£
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets		-	-
Investments (long term)		-	-
Total fixed assets		-	-
Current assets			
Debtors	4	-	-
Cash at hand and in bank	5	32,531	32,084
Total current assets			
Liabilities			
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	6	(25,977)	(19,439)
Net current assets		6,554	12,645
Creditors: amounts falling due after one year		-	-
Net assets		6,554	12,645
Funds			
Funds at beginning of year		12,645	19,072
Net income for the year		-6,091	-6,427
Funds at 31 August 2022		6,554	12,645

The Directors are satisfied that the company is entitled to exemption from the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (the Act) relating to the audit of the accounts for the year by virtue of section 477, and that no member or members have requested an audit pursuant to section 476 of the Act. The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for: i. ensuring that the company keeps proper accounting records which comply with section 386 of the Act and ii. preparing accounts which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of the financial year and of its surplus or deficiency for the financial year in accordance with the requirements of sections 394 and 395, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company and with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008). These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the special provisions for small companies under Part 15 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors declare that they have approved the accounts above. Signed on behalf of the directors

Signed: **Dmytro Bojaniwskyj** Dated: **10th November 2022**

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 August 2022

1. Accounting policies

Basis of the preparation of the accounts

These financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention and in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard for Smaller Entities (effective April 2008) and the Companies Act 2006.

Grants and donations

Revenue grants are taken into the income and expenditure account in the period in which they were received but if the grant is for an activity that spans more than one financial year the part of the grant linked to activity in the following year(s) is treated as deferred income.

Interest is included when receivable by the company.

Governance costs

Governance costs include those incurred in the governance of the company and its assets and are primarily associated with constituted and statutory activities.

2. Grants & donations

	2022	2021
	£	£
Stroud DC Community Investment Grant		1,000
Donations via standing order and card payments	2,635	2,146
Donations raised at film evenings		62
Donations raised at supporters event		11
Donations raised at Potato Day	267	110
Grant for mapping project from Transition Network		2,400
Grant for Edible Stroud from Transition Network		423
Grant for CAN website from Stroud Town Council		1,305
Grants for Big Solar project:		
Stroud District Council	7,000	-
Cainscross Town Council	500	-
Stroud Town Council	3,000	-
Stonehouse Town Council	2,000	-
Rodborough Parish Council	500	-
Release / (deferral) of grants received	(7,012)	(1,857)
	8,890	5,600

3. Projects expenditure

	2022	2022
	£	£
Climate Action Groups Network support	902	849
Big Solar	3,376	-
Carbon mapping	1,710	774
Textile Group	50	-
Stroud Seed Bank		500
Stroud Town Climate Action Network website		525
Nailsworth Climate Action Network retrofit fair		75
Earth Community Trust Trinity Rooms		300
Edible Stroud		423
Total	6,038	3,446

4. Debtors

There were no debtors in 2022 [2021: nil]

5. Cash at bank and in hand - analysis

	2022	2021
	£	£
Sums recognised as deferred income		
Climate Action Groups Network Support: SDC grant	14,607	15,509
Big Solar grants	9,624	-
Repair Café: Nailsworth Town Council grant	750	750
Carbon mapping project: Transition Network grant	216	1,926
CAN website: Stroud Town Council grant	780	780
Total cash recognised as deferred income	25,977	18,965
Sums internally earmarked by Council		
Edible Stroud	71	71
Textiles Group	291	341
Total cash internally earmarked	362	412
General funds		
Unrestricted funds	6,192	12,707
Total general funds	6,192	12,707
TOTAL CASH	32,531	32,084

6. Creditors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Deferred income	25,977	18,965
Other creditors	-	474
Total creditors	25,977	19,439

7. Staff costs and numbers

Transition Stroud did not directly employ any staff during the year.

8. Directors' remuneration, benefits and expenses

Directors give their time voluntarily and do not get paid for their services to the organisation.

9. Related party transactions

Web hosting services were purchased at arms' length for £486 from director Paul Hofman. [2021: nil]

10. Commitments under operating leases

During the period the company had no annual commitments under non-cancellable operating leases.

11. Glossary of terms

Creditors: These comprise (i) amounts held on behalf of funders to support activities after the end of the accounting period, and (ii) amounts owed by the organisation but not paid during the accounting period.

Debtors: These are amounts owed to the organisation, but not received in the accounting period.