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Community investment is central to Drax's commitment to be a good neighbour in the communities and regions where we operate.

## Foreword

In 2023 we established the Drax Foundation and Community Fund as a central part of Drax's commitment to be a good neighbour. 2024 was an exciting year to expand these programmes and increase our impact.

During the past year we disbursed £3.6 million in grant funding and local direct giving to non-profit organisations and grassroots community programmes. This is a 33% increase in charitable giving compared to 2023.

Improving access to STEM education within underserved communities remains a key priority of the Drax Foundation. This year we supported ten STEM programmes in the UK, US and Canada, including Science World in Canada, Glasgow Science Centre in Scotland, and Boys and Girls Clubs of America in the US. This funding has helped more than 13,500 young learners to access quality STEM education in the regions where Drax operates.

We have also expanded our funding for nature programmes. This year's grants have improved access to nature and community green spaces for nearly 9,000 people, and supported nature-based learning for more than 7,000 children and young adults.

Our support for UK schools has improved energy efficiency and reduced fuel bills for more than 260 participating schools.

Alongside the Drax Foundation, we continue to support grassroots organisations in the communities where Drax operates through our Community Fund. This year we made donations to 232 local projects, including local food banks, schools, youth programmes, and other community improvement projects.

Our Community Affairs Team was strengthened this year with new Community Liaison Officers in the US and Canada. This has bolstered our ability to listen to and collaborate with our local communities, and deliver on our commitment to be a good neighbour.

**Drax Community Team** 



## About us









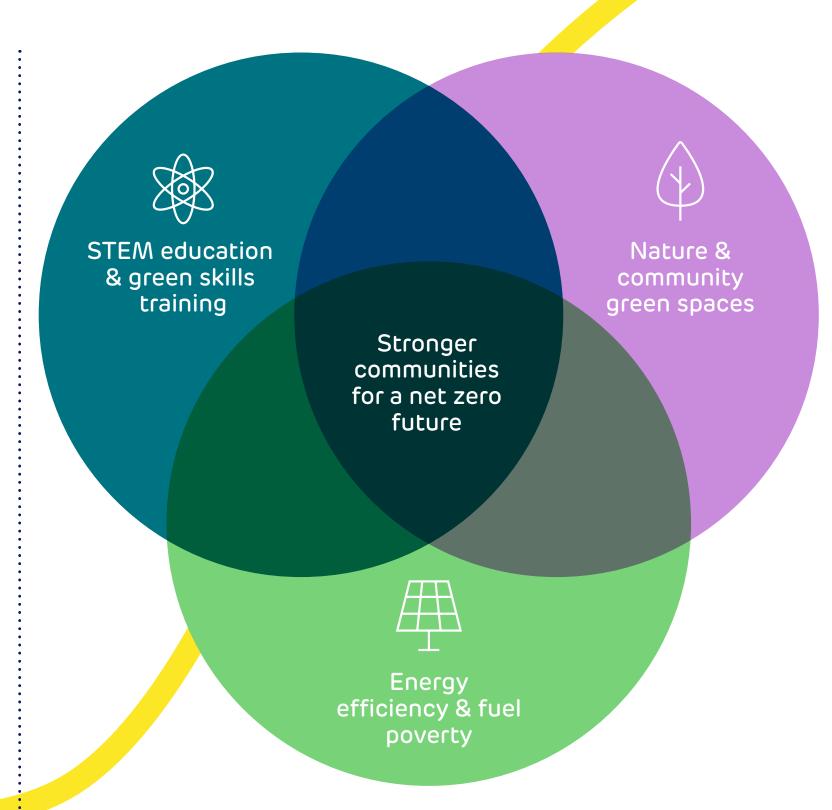




## The Drax Foundation

## **Building stronger communities** for a net zero future

The Drax Foundation provides grants of £25,000 to £150,000 for non-profit organisations that improve equitable access to STEM education, community green spaces, and measures to address fuel poverty and energy-efficiency. We recognise that to be impactful, non-profit organisations need core funding to innovate, fundraise, and build new programmes. That is why the Drax Foundation often provides funding for overhead costs and other 'harder-tofundraise-for' areas of work, alongside traditional project funding.



## **Drax Community Fund**

## Giving back in our communities

Each of the communities where Drax operates has unique needs and challenges. Our Community Fund was established to support grassroots organisations and activities with donations of £500 to £10,000. This year, we started to establish local Community Advisory Panels to help identify priority areas for funding and build relationships with local non-profit organisations 1, xty bio and community groups.

Community Fund focus areas:

- Education, life skills and employability
- Health, well-being, and safety
- Youth programmes
- Essential community services
- Improving community buildings and public spaces

**Drax Community & Education** team celebrating 'SDG Flag Day'at Drax Power Station.

## Contributing to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs)

The SDGs are 17 intersecting goals that balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: social, environmental, and economic. We have prioritised eight SDGs where we have the greatest impact through our charitable giving.

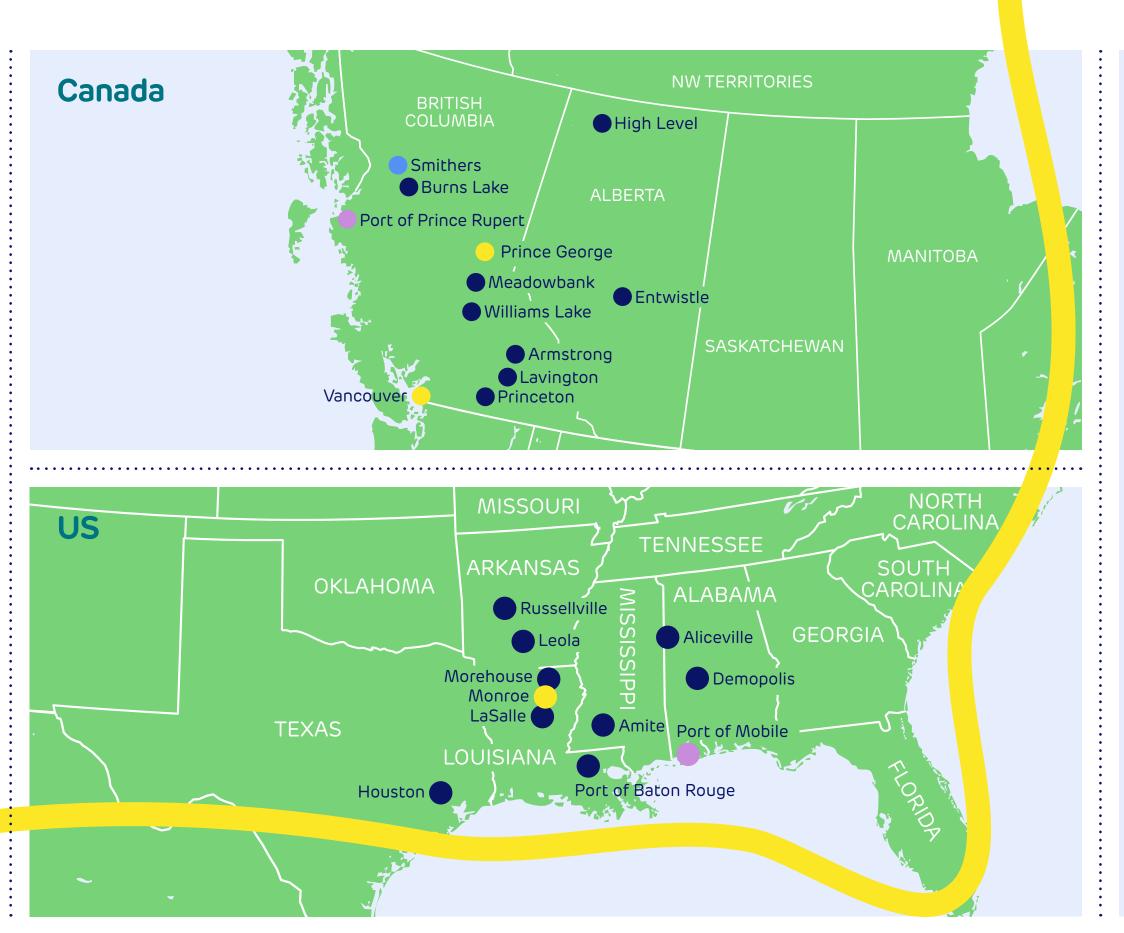


## Where we work

Our corporate giving and community engagement spans the regions and communities where Drax operates in the UK, US and Canada.

## Key to maps

- Operation plants
- Corporate office
- Ports





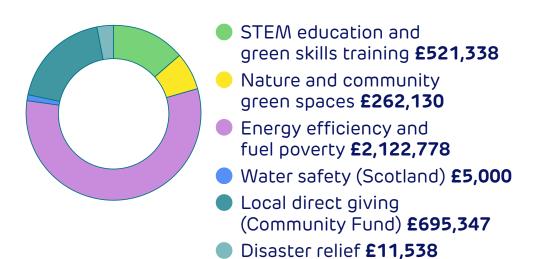
# Our Impact: 2024 at-a-glance

During 2024, we disbursed £3.6 million through the Drax Foundation and Community Fund to support non-profit organisations and community-led projects in the regions where Drax operates.

2024 giving per country



2024 giving per focus area



This reached more than 98,000 people in the communities and regions where Drax operates.

£3.6 million

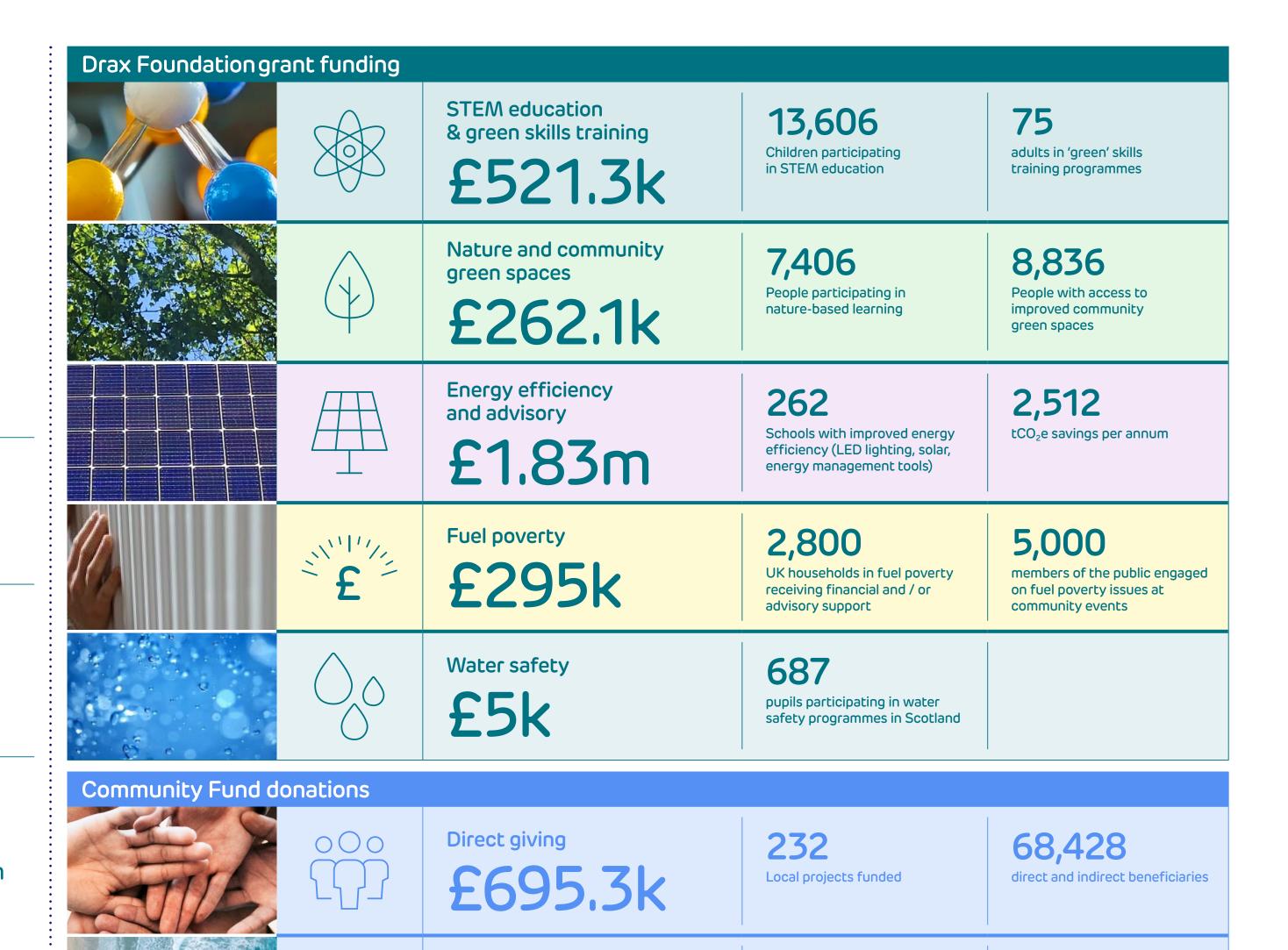
charitable giving during 2024

98,000

beneficiaries in the regions where Drax operates

>355

community meetings and events participated in by Drax Community Team during 2024



<sup>2</sup> All figures in this document are in GBP. 2024 refers to calendar year 1 January – 31 December 2024. Beneficiary numbers derive from information provided by grantees on the projected outcomes of projects funded in 2024. Attribution of beneficiaries is based on Drax Foundation funding as a percentage of overall project budget.

To support the relief effort in the

aftermath of hurricanes in Texas

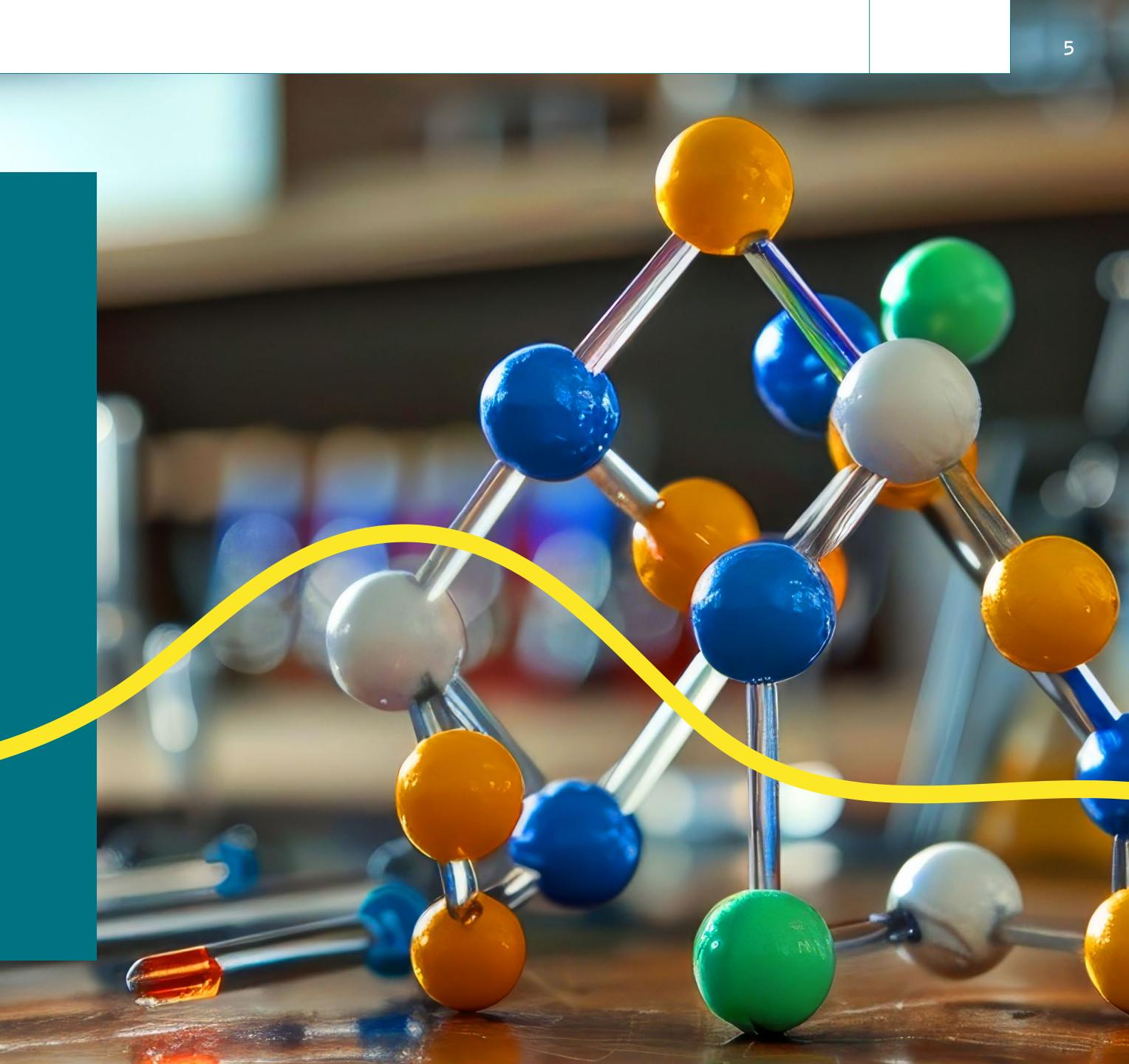
Disaster relief

STEM education and 'green' skills training



£521.3k

funding for STEM education and 'green' skills training in 2024



# 'Sustainable Futures' for youth in North Yorkshire

Speakers for Schools is the UK's leading social mobility charity. It is dedicated to levelling the playing field and improving life chances for the most disadvantaged. It does this by providing young people aged 14 to 19 with access to transformational career-enabling opportunities.

Our funding is helping Speakers for Schools to provide work experience and employability programmes in STEM-related fields for young learners in Selby, York, Hull and Doncaster. This programme combines classroom-based learning with site visits to businesses, coupled with employer visits to schools.

The objective is to create enthusiasm and promote career ambitions among young people in underserved communities and provide them with the necessary skills and experience to succeed in STEM careers. This programme emphasises participation among ethnic minorities and girls, who are currently under-represented in STEM fields.

£50,000

grant funding in 2024

510

young people participating in STEM programme



Following the success of our Workspaces of the Future project, we are delighted to be supported by the Drax Foundation once again to STEM-related work experience opportunities. This allows us to provide a project-based work experience engagement programme, building on all that we have learned from our previous collaboration to impact young people in Yorkshire who would otherwise not have access to such resources."

### James Webster

Donor Relations Manager, Speakers for Schools

Our Sustainable Development Goals









Partner organisation
Speakers for Schools



## Hydro-themed workshops for Scottish schools

Glasgow Science Centre (GSC) opened to the public in 2002, with a mission to inspire people to explore and understand the world around them and to discover and enjoy science. GSC is proud of its inclusive culture, which caters for all ages, genders, abilities, cultural and social backgrounds.

We have been working with GSC since 2023 to deliver hydro-themed STEM education for schools in and around the communities where Drax operates its Scottish hydro power stations. This year we delivered 'Learning Labs' in 27 primary schools, reaching 1,436 children. This included sessions on how hydro dams generate electricity, and how electricity is used to power homes and devices. GSC has also delivered a series of 'STEM Futures' workshops for 16 secondary schools, reaching 300 students. This course is focused on career-readiness and explores the science behind renewable energy, and the skills needed to pursue a career in this sector.

75% of participating students said that the workshops helped them to understand career options in the hydro power sector, and 53% reported that they would strongly consider a career in the sector.

£58,000

grant funding in 2024

1,436

school children participating in STEM programmes



At Glasgow Science Centre we are delighted to continue and expand our partnership with Drax, delivering hydro-themed resources and workshops across Scotland. With this support we can help more than 1,400 students learn about hydro power and its importance in their everyday lives, including inspiring the workforce of the future."

**Dr Stuart Meiklejohn**STEM Futures Project Coordinator,

Glasgow Science Centre

Our Sustainable Development Goals









**Location**Scotland, UK



Partner organisation
Glasgow Science Centre





We are partnering with Science World in Canada to deliver STEM education in the remote communities where Drax operates in British Columbia and Alberta, as part of their 'On the Road' programme

## STE/M education in rural Mississippi

Boys and Girls Clubs of America (BGCA) have been working for more than 160 years to enable young people from underserved communities to reach their full potential through career-readiness, STEM learning, financial literacy, and more.

We are working with BGCA in Southwest Mississippi, Covington County and the Golden Triangle region. Our funding is contributing to a project that will expand STEM learning to more than 1,300 young learners, 90% of whom qualify for free school meals. This includes hands-on practical STEM learning, field trips, and working with STEM robotics and programming kits to explore computer science and coding.

This support is expanding access to STEM education across multiple Mississippi counties, including Amite County, where Drax operates a plant in Gloster.

£55,000

grant funding in 2024

688

children participating in STEM programmes



We are dedicated to providing equitable access to opportunities and experiences that empower youth to become the leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers of tomorrow. We are thrilled to continue our partnership with the Drax Foundation, which will increase the number of young people participating in high-quality STEM programs at select Mississippi Clubs."

### Lisa Anastasi,

Executive Vice President and Chief Development & External Relations Officer Boys and Girls Clubs of America

Our Sustainable Development Goals









**Location**Mississippi, US



Partner organisation
Boys and Girls Clubs of America



# STEM programmes for indigenous youth in Canada

Scientists in School's mission is to ignite children's scientific curiosity and encourage them to connect scientific knowledge to their world and pique interest in careers in STEM subjects.

We have been working with Scientists in School in Canada since 2023, helping them to expand their STEM programming in the regions where Drax operates in British Columbia and Alberta. We have a particular focus on engaging indigenous youth in STEM.

This year's funding will support core costs, teacher training, and programmatic costs to enable more than 3,000 young learners from underserved communities and indigenous groups to participate in Scientists in Schools' programmes. This includes classroom and community workshops, and Family Science Nights where parents and carers can share STEM learning experiences with their children.

£57,500

grant funding in 2024

538

children with access to STEM education



Drax Foundation support has been a catalyst for our evolution as a national charity shaping the STEM skills and futures of over 350,000 youth annually. This funding has enhanced our ability to reach children and youth in rural and under-served communities in British Columbia and Alberta, with a lasting impact on increasing STEM interest and confidence, giving young scientists the opportunity to develop lifelong skills."

Cindy Adams,

Executive Director, Scientists in School

Our Sustainable Development Goals











Partner organisation
Scientists in School





# Supporting a new 'Rainforest Hub' in Argyll

ACT is a community-led charity that works with the people of Argyll in the Scottish Highlands to restore nature, address climate change, and improve access to nature-based learning for children and vulnerable groups. We have been working with ACT since 2023.

This year we have continued to support ACT's outdoor STEM learning programme with funding for STEM educators, materials, evaluation, and other core costs. We have also provided funding for a Coordinator to support the activities of ACT's Rainforest Hub in Lochgilphead, 40 miles from Drax Cruachan pumped hydro storage facility.

The Rainforest Hub was established in 2023 with co-funding from the Drax Foundation, to serve as a focal point for activity around Argyll's Rainforest. It features a new native tree nursery. ACT has also created a 'Rainforest Squad' to deliver training courses at the Rainforest Hub's outdoor learning space.

£66,000

grant funding in 2024

410

Children participating in outdoor STEM learning



Having our own native tree nursery is a game changer for us – it allows us to ensure a healthy stock of trees with local provenance for planting for our own projects, and also provides a fantastic learning opportunity for our own and others' Outdoor STEM projects, and for rainforest volunteers to really get involved with what rainforest restoration is all about."

Julie Young ACT CEO

Our Sustainable Development Goals

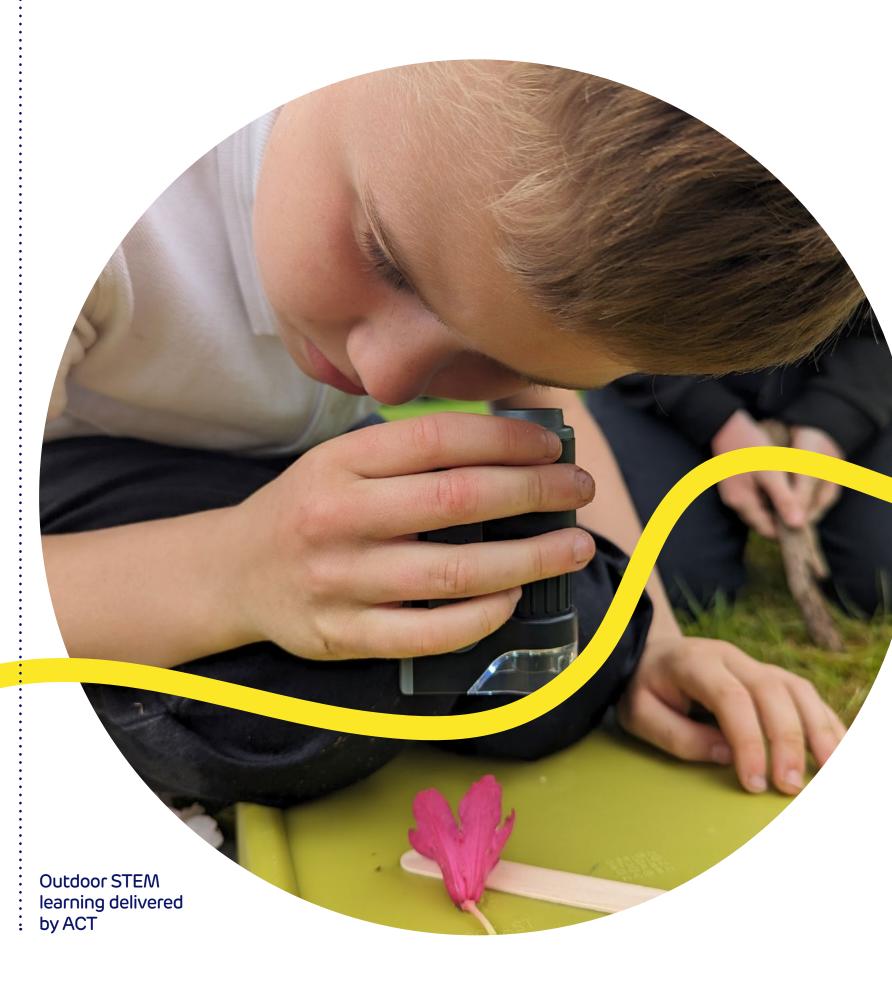








Partner organisation
Argyll Countryside Trust (ACT)



Drax Foundation funding will greatly expand the reach of our Ambassadors of the Environment program and support our mission to inspire a new generation of young leaders and environmental stewards.

**Travis Langen**Gulf Coast Center for Ecotourism & Sustainability Alabama, US



## A new generation of 'Eco Leaders' in Yorkshire

**Project: WILD C.I.C. combines** ecological conservation with community education and mental health support to protect and restore the natural environment across Yorkshire. They have a particular focus on reconnecting young people with nature.

We are supporting Project: WILD's 'Schools Go WILD!' Programme, which will deliver life science sessions in at least eight schools in North Yorkshire, reaching more than 1,000 young learners.

The purpose of this programme is to inspire children to connect with nature. Our funding will also support an intensive Environmental Leadership course for up to 30 young people, providing a deeper dive into local ecology, project management, and leadership skills. Participants will develop and deliver their own environmental projects working with local stakeholders, as a first step to becoming Environmental Leaders. £49,500

grant funding in 2024

884

young people participating in nature-based education programmes



This project will be our largest outreach programme for 2024/25, expected to reach over 2,000 young people from the local area and train a select team of youth Eco-Leaders, supporting them to make the environmental change they want to see in their community."

Nicholas Atherton.

Outreach Coordinator, Project: WILD C.I.C.

Our Sustainable **Development Goals** 







Location North Yorkshire, UK



Partner organisation **Project Wild** 



## Habitat restoration in the US South

The National Audubon Society works across the Americas to protect birds and their natural habitats. They do this through science, advocacy, and on-theground conservation. Audubon believe that where birds thrive, people prosper. A commitment to education is at the heart of their tradition.

This year we are working with Audubon Delta to support their education programmes in Mississippi, Louisiana and Arkansas. This outreach focuses on increasing people's knowledge and awareness about birds, wildlife, and the natural world, inspiring them to become active participants in Audubon's conservation work in the region.

Our funding is helping Audubon to engage at least 2,000 young people through regional programming, which will help to protect and restore up to four hectares of priority bird habitat in Mississippi.

£38,200

grant funding in 2024

4

hectares of priority bird habitat in Mississippi restored and protected



This contribution will bolster critical restoration efforts, create healthier ecosystems, and provide long-term benefits for birds and local communities. Together, we strive toward a greener, more sustainable future that fosters meaningful connections between people and nature. We look forward to continuing this partnership with the Drax Foundation as we work to ensure that birds in Mississippi and beyond have thriving habitats for generations to come."

### Allison Guzman

Director, Institutional Giving, National Audubon

Our Sustainable Development Goals









Partner organisation
National Audubon Society



## Nature-based learning for children in British Columbia

The Faculty of Forestry at the **University of British Columbia** (UBC) has established 'Wild and Immersive' to inspire children and young people to engage with and care for nature through hands-on outdoor learning and activities.

We have been supporting 'Wild and Immersive' since 2023. This year's funding is helping to maintain a 20km hiking trail and install 10 physical challenge stations along the Wilderness Adventure Loop at the Malcolm Knapp Research Forest (MKRF). We are also supporting the development of an urban forest demonstration site with new interpretive signage at MKRF and a new publicly accessible trail at the Alex Fraser Research Forest (AFRF).

Crucially, we continue to provide bursary support to ensure that children from economically disadvantaged families and Indigenous groups can participate in 'Wild & Immersive' programmes at AFRF at no cost.

£54,000

grant funding in 2024

3,159

people with access to improved outdoor learning facilities



This year's grant will help develop a new publicly accessible trail at the Alex Fraser Research Forest, This will serve as both a teaching tool for Wild & Immersive and a safe recreational space for the Williams Lake community. We are also grateful to the Drax Foundation for their ongoing contribution to the bursary fund, which enables families with financial constraints to participate in our programming."

## Mark Gill

Wild & Immersive Education Program Supervisor at the Alex Fraser Research Forest (AFRF).

Our Sustainable **Development Goals** 







Location British Columbia, Canada



Partner organisation

University of British Columbia 'Wild & Immersive'





## LED lighting and solar panels for UK schools

We are working with schools in and around the communities where Drax operates to fund the installation of energy efficiency measures, including LED lighting and solar panels. This is helping the schools to save money and reduce carbon emissions.

This year we completed LED installations in 24 schools, which is delivering average annual cost savings of more than £35,000 per school. The money saved will be channelled back into the schools to support the children's education. In addition to saving money, this intervention is reducing carbon emissions from lighting by an average of 59% per school.

During 2024 we also completed solar installations in three schools in Selby and Northampton. In the year ahead we will extend this funding to maximise savings in energy bills and cut carbon emissions.

£1.5 million

in grant funding for 27 schools during 2024

59%

average reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions among participating schools

72%

average reduction in lighting costs among participating schools



This investment in our school not only makes the school greener and more sustainable in terms of its energy usage, it also allows our school to use its limited budget to enrich and enhance the children's experiences."

### Sarah Dixon

Headteacher, Barwic Parade Community Primary School



Our Sustainable **Development Goals** 









Partner organisations GoodLight and Low Carbon Energy

> Barwic Parade Primary School, Selby, celebrating the installation of solar panels



## Energy-saving tools and education for school children

Energy Sparks' vision is a sustainable future where schools are at the heart of action to tackle climate change. They do this by equipping children and young people with the knowledge, skills and tools to take measurable action in schools and the wider community to reduce energy consumption and cut carbon emissions.

We have been working with Energy Sparks since 2023. Our funding is enabling 240 schools in and around the communities where Drax operates to access Energy Sparks' energy management tools and education programmes at no cost. These tools are designed to help schools, their pupils and staff to reduce energy consumption and cut their carbon footprint.

71 per cent of participating schools reported a reduction in electricity consumption in 2024 compared to 2023. Across all the schools funded by the Drax Foundation, there were total savings of just over £1 million and 2,100 tCO2e.

£150,000

grant funding during 2024

240

schools with access to Energy Saving tools and education

£1 million

saving in energy bills and 2,100 tCO<sub>2</sub>e across Drax-funded schools



The schools benefiting from free access to Energy Sparks' services through Drax Foundation funding have saved around £1 million off their school energy bills and 2,100 tonnes of carbon dioxide over the last year. The ongoing funding from the Drax Foundation will allow participating schools to embed energy-saving behaviours across their school communities and provide more opportunities for children and young people to develop green skills."

**Dr Claudia Towner** 

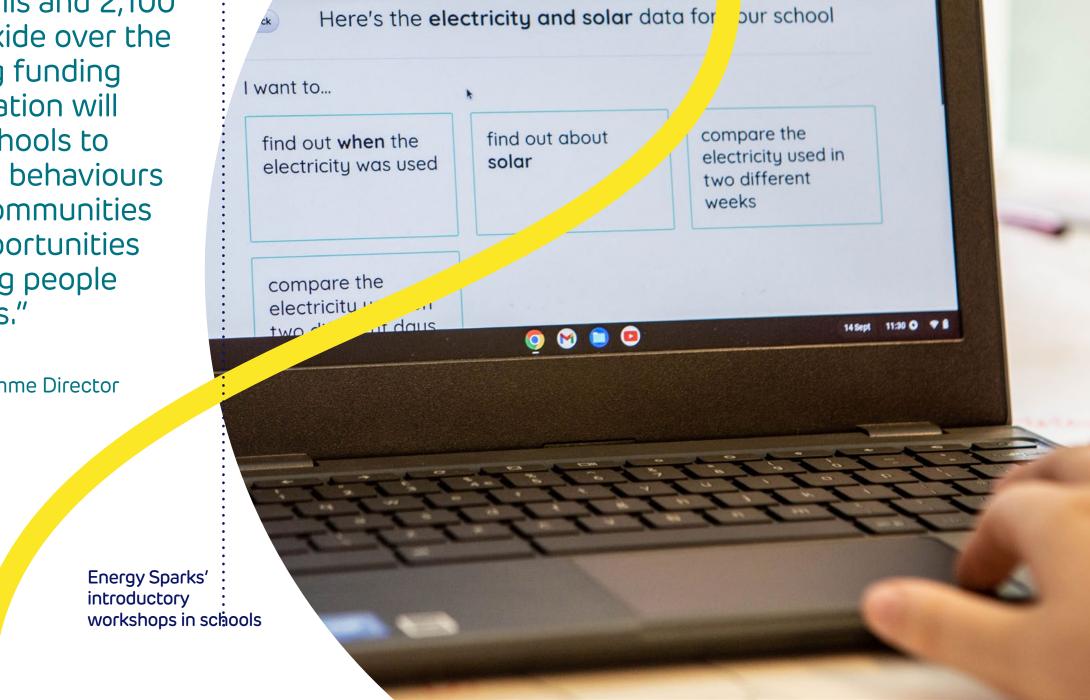
Energy Sparks CEO and Programme Director

Our Sustainable Development Goals









Location

Partner organisation

**Energy Sparks** 

# Help for UK families living in 'fuel crisis'

The Fuel Bank Foundation (FBF) supports families in 'Fuel Crisis' who prepay for their energy. They provide practical and financial support to keep the lights, power and heating on. FBF works with a network of more than 800 community-based partner organisations to identify families in need.

This year, we are proving funding for FBF to extend their services to around 1,400 households in and around the communities where Drax operates in the UK. This includes the greater Selby area, Northampton, Ipswich, Argyll & Bute, Galloway, and Lanark. In addition to providing emergency fuel vouchers and energy advice in these locations, FBF is also distributing heated throws. In a recent survey, 65% of clients reported improved physical well-being due to this support.

£100,000

grant funding in 2024

3,600

people in 1,400 households receiving financial support



This funding will help us to expand the provision of vital services to the most vulnerable in society, to ensure they don't have to live without heat, light and power, when they can't afford to top up their prepayment meter. This support will also extend to households who live off the gas grid and rely on unregulated fuels to heat and power their homes."

Matt Cole

Head of Fuel Bank Foundation

Our Sustainable Development Goals









Partner organisation
Fuel Bank Foundation





## Outreach with schools around Drax Power Station

Our Community & Education
Team delivers STEM education
to local schools and colleges,
including a group of schools in
the towns and villages surrounding
the Drax Power Station. These
'cluster schools' benefit from
regular classroom sessions from
the Drax team inlcuding STEM
learning and careers advice.

During 2024, our Community & Education Team delivered 53 outreach sessions within the 15 'cluster schools', reaching more than 3,000 students aged 7 to 18. Highlights include the introduction of a Lego Coding Club at local primary schools, including a girls' coding club. In June, the team ran a series of workshops to support Selby College's STEM event. This was supported by Drax employees from our Engineering and Chemistry teams. The event gave the students important insights into the different routes into careers in the energy sector.

The team also delivered a series of sessions from Drax 'Education Ambassadors', who participated in local careers panels, mock interviews, speed networking, and mentoring sessions within schools. These Ambassadors engaged with more than 600 young learners during 2024.

This is part of a wider programme of community engagement and educational outreach that is delivered by our UK Community & Education Team.

15

'cluster' schools in the greater Selby area

3,042

students participating in educational outreach programmes



We are loving the links with the Drax team. Meeting Sparky the Robot was fantastic for us all! Your enrichment and support for our science curriculum has been brilliant, and the engagement has been first class. Thank you so much."

### Jon Watson

Headteacher, Carlton Primary School, Selby







Community Fund, we are supporting Queens of Tomorrow to equip young girls in Louisiana with the skills and knowledge to be successful individuals and productive citizens

# Our community hub at the Cruachan Power Station, Argyll

Drax has been operating the Visitor Centre at the Cruachan Power Station in Argyll since 2018. The Centre is at the heart of the Loch Awe community, serving visitors to the area as well as local residents and school children.

In 2024 our Visitor Services Team welcomed more than 17,000 people to the Cruachan Visitor Centre. This included pupils from 14 local rural schools and further education establishments who participated in STEM educational tours of the hydro power station. These educational visits were supported by our new Transport Fund, which was established to cover schools' travel costs.

As part of the team's educational outreach they also supported Oban High School's Business Foundation Apprentice class to complete a work-based challenge to create a business plan and purchasing strategy for the Cruachan Visitor Centre gift shop. The team looks forward to expanding their community outreach in the year ahead.

17,000+

visitors to the Cruachan Visitor Centre in 2024

4

rural schools visits supported by our new Transport Fund in 2024

£20,450

donations from Community Fund to support 21 local projects and non-profit organisations in Argyll & Bute



I always enjoy my visits to Cruachan Visitor Centre. It's a fantastic facility for the local community to have, a lovely place to meet friends in the cafe, and a great way to stay up to date with Drax's plans to upgrade Cruachan and build Cruachan 2. The Visitor Services team are always so welcoming and informed!"

lan Steel Local Resident, Taynuilt Village





## Our first Community Advisory Panel in Mississippi

Drax has operated a plant in Amite County, Mississippi since 2014. In 2023 we appointed our first Community Liaison Officer in Amite to support our new US Community Manager. Together, they are rolling out our group-wide approach to community engagement and local giving.

During 2024 we held our first focus group meetings with a diverse cross-section of the local community to improve our understanding of local priorities and concerns. We then established a new Community Advisory Panel to provide input into priority projects for Community Fund donations, and to improve two-way dialogue between Drax and its neighbours.

In addition to active listening and collaboration sessions, Drax employees have participated in and supported a wide range of community events this year. This includes the annual Thanksgiving turkey give-away, community volunteering to improve public spaces, support for Christmas events, and participation in local

school careers fairs. We are also working with the local Mayor to create a walking track in Gloster to enhance local health and wellbeing. The walking track is due to be completed in early 2025.

£212,000

in Community Fund donations in Amite County during 2024



This support was a blessing to us because we were struggling. Thanks to Drax, we were able to cover a lot of our administrative needs, but most importantly, we were able to buy educational supplies and toys to help further our kids' education and opportunities."

Maria Montgomery, Owner, Kidz Kingdom, Amite County

> Members of Community Advisory Panel in Amite County, Mississippi with Drax Communities team





Thanks to the generous support of the **Drax Foundation**, we were able to offer free school programs to over 6,000 students across
Northern BC in 2023. This year, we can expand this initiative, further increasing accessibility to STEAM and breaking down financial and travel barriers, ensuring that all students in our region have access to high-quality, hands-on learning experiences. Our goal is to inspire and equip the next generation with the skills needed to navigate and thrive in an ever-evolving world.

## **Robyn Curtis**

VP Development & Partnerships, The Exploration Place, BC, Canada



## Looking ahead

Drax launched its new
Sustainability Framework in 2025
with a set of public targets designed
to benefit the climate, people, and
nature. This includes a commitment
to partner with the communities we
operate in to make a positive
contribution to their lives and
livelihoods.

In the year ahead, we will continue to invest in the communities and regions where Drax operates. We plan to build impactful partnerships with non-profit organisations through the Drax Foundation and our Community Fund.

We recognise that the energy transition must be a Just Transition, so we will help to improve equitable access to STEM education and 'green skills' training within underserved communities in the regions where Drax operates. We will achieve this through grant funding for eligible organisations, building on our strong track record of STEM funding during the last two years.

In addition to corporate community investment programmes, we will also strengthen our approach to community engagement by implementing community engagement plans in each of the locations where Drax owns and operates an asset. This will include active listening sessions and the establishment of Community Advisory Panels where needed, to support collaborative decision-making.

To reinforce these commitments, we will start reporting using the internationally recognised Business for Societal Impact (B4SI) framework to quantify and communicate our social impact.

Drax's Community Manager for Canada visiting Drax Foundation-funded project with Williams Lake First Nation in British Columbia







## www.drax.com/community

The Drax Foundation is a donor-advised fund administered by Charities Trust (an independently registered charity with the UK Charity Commission, Charity No. 327489).