



Annual review 2023

Building stronger communities for a net zero future



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About us



£2.7 million

disbursed in charitable
giving during 2023

Foreword

“While corporate giving is important, we know this must be delivered hand-in-hand with active community engagement. We recognise the importance of engaging diverse community stakeholders and prioritising traditionally unheard voices in local decision-making.”



At Drax we have a long tradition of giving back in the communities where we operate. During 2023 we built on this approach by implementing a new global community strategy that combines corporate giving with enhanced on-the-ground community engagement. This is being delivered by our Community Team with a unified objective to ensure that Drax is a good neighbour in the communities where we operate.

This year we launched the Drax Foundation as our primary vehicle for corporate giving. The Drax Foundation provides grant funding for non-profit organisations that share our commitment to improving equitable access to STEM education, nature and community green spaces, and renewable energy. We have developed a range of exciting new partnerships this year, most of which prioritise underserved communities.

We understand that non-profit organisations cannot deliver impactful programmes without core funding for overhead costs, and to support for some of the less photogenic aspects of their work. We often prioritise funding for these harder-to-fundraise-for areas.

We recognise that each of our communities is unique. That’s why we also operate a Community Fund that responds to the unique challenges and opportunities in each of these communities. Local community groups and civil society are invited to apply to this Fund throughout the year. This Fund has supported a range of initiatives including local foodbanks, community sports teams, resources for local schools, and improving community buildings and green spaces.

While corporate giving is important, we know this must be delivered hand-in-hand with active community engagement. We understand the importance of engaging diverse community stakeholders and prioritising traditionally unheard voices in local decision-making. This year we piloted community engagement plans in some of our communities and will be expanding and strengthening these during 2024 to ensure that we are listening and responding to local concerns.

We are proud of all that has been achieved during 2023 and are excited to accelerate our efforts in the year ahead to ensure that we are a good neighbour in our communities.

Drax Community Team

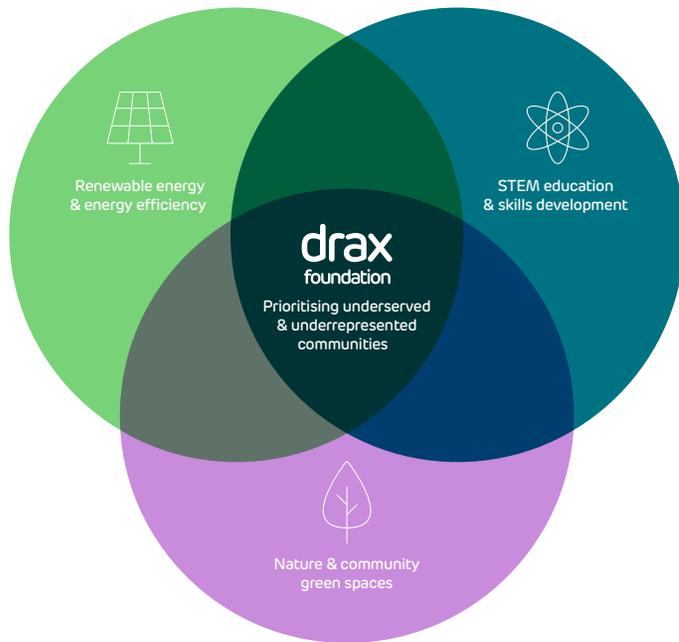
About us

The Drax Foundation

Building stronger communities for a net zero future

The Drax Foundation was established in 2023 to provide grant funding for non-profit organisations that share our commitment to improving equitable access to STEM education, community green spaces, and renewable energy¹.

We understand that non-profit organisations cannot deliver impactful programmes without core funding for overhead costs, and to support some of the less photogenic aspects of their work. That is why the Foundation often funds these 'harder-to-fundraise-for' areas of work, alongside more traditional programmatic funding.



Drax Community Fund

Giving back in our communities

Each of the communities where Drax operates has unique needs and challenges. That is why we established our Community Fund to support grassroots activities and civil society in each of our operating communities. This is part of our commitment to being a good neighbour.

Drax Community Fund	
✓ Education, life skills and employability	✓ Food and essential items
✓ Physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety	✓ Women-led community organisations
✓ Community spaces	✓ Indigenous-led community organisations
✓ Renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy poverty	✓ Youth programmes

Through all that we do, we are committed to making a measurable contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We have prioritised eight intersecting SDGs where we can have the greatest impact.



¹The Drax Foundation is a donor advised fund administered by Charities Trust (an independently registered charity with the UK Charity Commission, Charity No. 327489)

Where we work

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



Corporate giving by country

Our social investment spans larger grants for regional programmes through the Drax Foundation, and grassroots funding within each of our operating communities.

Canada

£576k

charitable giving in 2023

- £359.5k** funding to support STEM and nature projects across British Columbia and Alberta
- £175k** Community Fund giving to grassroots programmes across our operating communities in Canada
- £41.5k** emergency relief in the aftermath of wildfires in Alberta, and floods in British Columbia

US

£671k

charitable giving in 2023

- £363k** funding to support STEM and nature projects across the US South East
- £268k** Community Fund giving to support grassroots programmes in our operating communities
- £40k** emergency relief funding in the aftermath of tornados in Arkansas and Mississippi

UK

£1.3m

charitable giving in 2023

- £1.07** million funding to support STEM, nature, and energy efficiency projects across the UK
- £243.5k** Community Fund giving to support grassroots programmes in our operating communities

Giving by community

British Columbia	
£4,201	Armstrong
£24,800	Burns Lake
£2,960	Lavington
£2,960	Meadowbank
£20,180	Prince George
£2,960	Princeton
£9,170	Smithers
£78,100	Vancouver
£2,960	Westview
£10,730	Williams Lake

Alberta	
£10,530	Entwistle
£5,320	High Level
National programmes	
£401,000	

Louisiana	
£4,000	Baton Rouge
£20,770	La Salle
£91,600	Monroe
£21,743	Moorhouse
£48,000	State-wide

Mississippi	
£43,700	Amite county
£123,030	State-wide

Arkansas	
£1,200	Leola
£1,260	Russellville
£20,000	State-wide

Alabama	
£51,195	Aliceville
£32,800	Demopolis

Texas	
£144,000	State-wide

England	
£97,770	North Yorkshire (Drax Power Station)
£24,700	Ipswich
£15,700	Northampton
£7,500	London
£41,338	Various
£940,390	National programmes

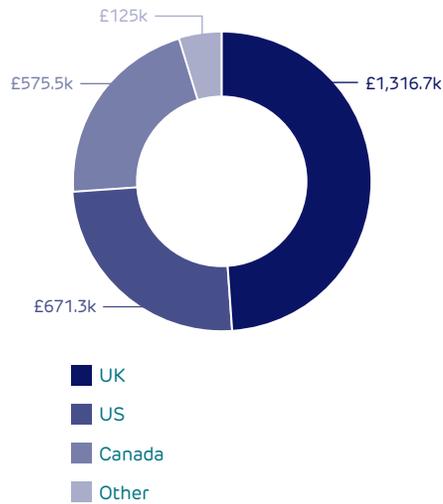
Scotland	
£15,950	Argyll & Bute (Cruachan)
£19,250	Galloway
£9,200	Lanark
£12,200	Dalduwie
£132,600	National programmes

Our impact: 2023 at-a-glance

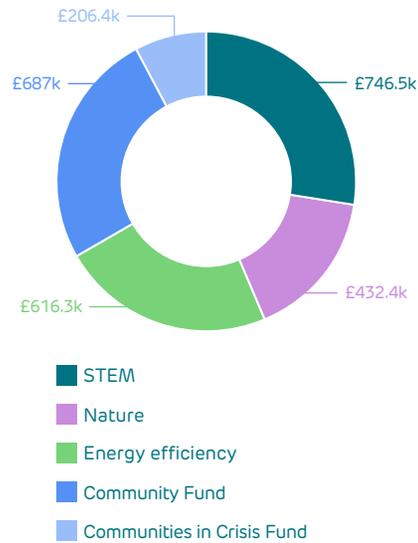
£2.7m
charitable giving during 2023

During 2023, we operated a wide range of community programming and corporate giving throughout the communities and regions where Drax operates².

2023 giving per country



2023 giving per focus area



Drax Foundation funds

STEM £746.5k → **70,300** children in STEM education **637** adults in STEM training

Nature £432.4k → **20,860** people with access to community green spaces **1,230** hectares protected or restored

Energy efficiency £616.3k → **8** schools with energy-efficient LED lighting **240** schools with energy analysis tool and education

Community Fund

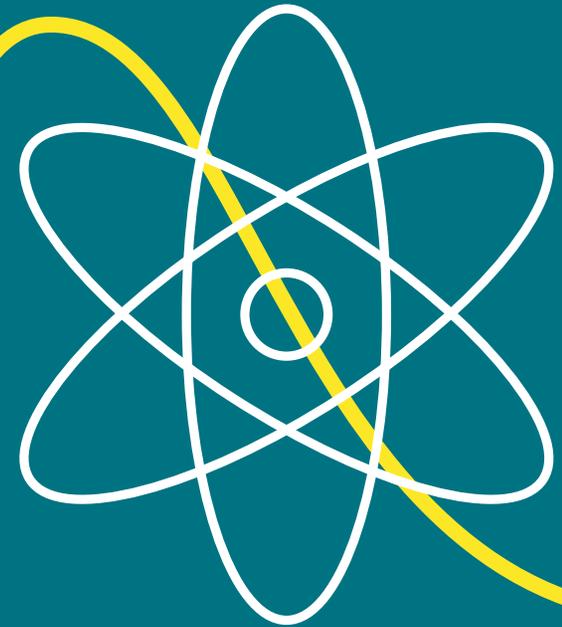
Community Fund £687k → **222** community projects supported **26,628** community members reached

Communities in Crisis Fund

Crisis Fund £206.4k → **7** crises supported US, Canada, Morocco, Libya, Gaza-Israel

²All figures in this document are in GBP. 2023 refers to calendar year 1 January – 31 December 2023. Attribution of beneficiaries is based on Drax Foundation funding as a percentage of overall project budget

STEM education and skills development



£746.5k

funding for STEM education
and skills development in 2023

Investing in girls and indigenous communities as future STEM leaders in Canada



Partner organisation: Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology

Women represent just 23% of Canadians working in STEM, and only 4.1% of the Indigenous labour force has STEM post-secondary education. The Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology (SCWIST) was established to address these challenges by promoting, encouraging, and empowering women and girls and gender-diverse people in STEM.

The Drax Foundation is supporting SCWIST's 'STEM Explore' programme to deliver 240 STEM workshops in urban areas, including workshops for Manitoba Indigenous communities, reaching 1,500 students. We are also supporting SCWIST's STEM mentoring programme, which will see 100 girls paired with diverse STEM professionals.

"On behalf of SCWIST, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the Drax Foundation's generous support for our Youth Engagement Continuum. STEM skills are life skills. With access to STEM knowledge, the youth of today – the adults of tomorrow! – can shape their own futures and chart a logical path in a rapidly changing world." – **Society for Canadian Women in Science and Technology**



Society for Canadian Women in Science & Technology (SCWIST)

Our impact with SCWIST in 2023

£57K
in grant funding

24
girls mentored by diverse STEM professionals

474
girls participating in 57 STEM workshops

Empowering minority communities in Texas to pursue careers in engineering



Partner organisation: Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME)

The Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME) was established to create equitable experiences for students from underrepresented groups to explore futures in engineering. They do this by fostering a sense of belonging, and equipping the students with knowledge, skills, and intergenerational support through state-wide programming for girls, and black, indigenous or people of colour.

The Drax Foundation has provided two rounds of funding for TAME in 2023 to support capacity building and programme expansion. We are also supporting general operating costs. This core funding will help TAME to deliver STEM programmes for around 2,000 students, while ensuring that a minimum of 82% are girls or black, indigenous or people of colour.

“TAME welcomes The Drax Foundation into our alliance as we continue to prioritise cross-sector partnerships that improve access to engineering pathways for Texas students. This support enables us to amplify our impact by investing in our programmes and capacity, and we’re very excited to engineer this new partnership.” – **Andrea Herrera Moreno, Executive Director of TAME**



Texas Alliance for Minorities in Engineering (TAME)

Our impact with TAME in 2023

£66K
in grant funding

160
students participating in STEM programmes

2
scholarships supported

Delivering STEM education in areas of low social mobility in the UK



Partner organisation: STEM Learning

The UK still struggles to attract sufficient young learners to study STEM subjects. This is a particular problem in areas of low social mobility. STEM Learning was established to tackle these challenges and improve young people's lives and prospects through STEM education.

Drax Foundation funding will create two new ENTHUSE Partnerships in clusters of schools within disadvantaged communities. These partnerships empower schools and colleges to share best practice and work collaboratively to address underachievement in STEM. This will help to build capacity within schools and improve STEM teaching and student outcomes in the longer-term.

"We are delighted with the generous funding awarded by the Drax Foundation. The partnership will help STEM Learning's mission to change the lives of thousands of young people by supporting teachers and introducing young people to inspiring role models and raising their aspirations."
 – Gill Collinson, Director of Strategy and Partnerships at STEM Learning



STEM Learning

Our impact with STEM learning in 2023

£50K
grant funding

8,500
school children participating

86
teachers trained

On The Road with Science World to bring STEM education to remote communities across British Columbia, Canada



Partner organisation: Science World

Science World is a non-profit science centre based in Vancouver that engages learners across British Columbia in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics). On The Road is a core part of Science World's outreach, reaching up to 30,000 students each year across 20 remote school districts, including First Nations.

This year we kicked-off a three-year partnership with Science World to bring On the Road to some of the rural communities where Drax operates. Our objective is to inspire and encourage more young learners to pursue STEM careers and further education.

"At Science World, our core belief is Science for All and this collaboration allows us to extend that commitment into rural and underserved communities across BC. Together with the Drax Foundation, we're making science accessible, relatable, and most importantly, fun for everyone." – Tracy Redies, President & CEO of Science World



Drax's Community Manager for Canada at On the Road event in Prince George, BC

Our impact with Science World in 2023

£75K
partnership with Science World

1,976
children participating in On the Road STEM events

16
schools in four communities reached in 2023

Partnering with Glasgow Science Centre to deliver innovative hydropower STEM education in Scottish schools



Partner organisation: Glasgow Science Centre

Glasgow Science Centre’s (GSC) mission is to inspire, motivate and encourage people of all ages, abilities, and social backgrounds to develop the skills and confidence to participate fully in a society where science and technology are prevalent.

This year we started a new partnership with GSC to develop bespoke STEM programmes to support schoolchildren in and around the communities where we operate in Scotland. Specifically, this partnership will build skills relevant to the hydropower sector, and engage children in a range of exciting, hands-on learning.

“This exciting new partnership will deliver invaluable hydro-themed education resources and is the first of its kind in Scotland. Using Glasgow Science Centre’s innovative Learning Lab approach, we will help pupils learn about the importance of, and science involved in, hydro energy in their everyday lives.” – **Dr Stuart Meiklejohn, STEM Futures Project Coordinator, Glasgow Science Centre**



Children engaging with hydro exhibition at Glasgow Science Centre

Our impact with Glasgow Science Centre in 2023-24

£58K
partnership with GSC

20
participating secondary school classes

400
participating secondary school pupils

Nature and community green spaces



£432.5k

funding for nature and
community green spaces
during 2023

Supporting environmental stewardship on the upper Texan coast in the US



Partner organisation: Houston Audubon

Houston Audubon protects birds and their habitats through land conservation, education, conservation science, and community engagement. Their community-centred approach has a sizable role to play in addressing the world's biodiversity and climate challenges.

During 2023, the Drax Foundation provided two rounds of funding for Houston Audubon. First, to co-fund a community-centred outreach pilot programme to engage families and local schools from underserved communities in meaningful nature-related events. Our second grant was to enable Houston Audubon to purchase a new truck, which is essential for them to continue carrying out vital field work across 3,000 acres of biodiversity-rich coast.

“With the generous support of the Drax Foundation, Houston Audubon can continue to lead the conservation action needed along the Upper Texas Coast to help protect our land as well as the migratory, breeding, and resident birds that depend on us for habitat protection.” – **Pete Deichmann, Houston Audubon’s Land Director**



Houston Audubon on Gulf Coast

Our impact with Houston Audubon in 2023

£61.5K
in grant funding

1,200
hectares of natural habitat protected or restored

200
people from underserved communities participating in nature-based events

Investing in Wild & Immersive nature-based experiences for youth in British Columbia, Canada



Partner organisation: University of British Columbia (Wild & Immersive)

The University of British Columbia's (UBC) Faculty of Forestry operates an outdoor development programme for children called Wild & Immersive (W&I). W&I's mission is to inspire children and youth to care for the natural environment by providing them with nature-based experiences that foster creativity, curiosity, and confidence.

Drax Foundation funding is providing bursary support for children from underserved communities including First Nations. We are also supporting outdoor education for young learners and the local community.

"We are honoured to be awarded a grant from the Drax Foundation that will extend our trail system to enable more community members to connect and enjoy the outdoors in the natural environment around Williams Lake." – **Stephanie Ewen, Manager, Alex Fraser Research Forest**



Roberta McClean Photography©

Our impact with Wild & Immersive in 2023

£45K
in grant funding

1km
accessible walking trail
in Williams Lake

316
children from underserved
communities with access to bursaries

Establishing a tree nursery to expand Argyll's rainforest clusters in Scotland



Partner organisation: Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust

Argyll & the Isles Coast and Countryside Trust (ACT) was established to maintain, enhance, and promote the coast and countryside of Argyll and the Isles. They do this by working in partnership with a range of local communities, public sector and third sector organisations. ACT is a key partner in the Alliance for Scotland's Rainforest.

This year the Drax Foundation provided two rounds of funding for ACT, helping them to expand their outdoor STEM learning to more children, and establish a native tree nursery as a key part of their new Woodland Enterprise Hub.

"This funding will help us to secure a supply of native tree species to expand, restore and connect fragments of Scotland's rainforest, and also provide great training opportunities for our Rainforest Squad!" – **Julie Young, ACT CEO**



Members of Drax Community team with ACT in Argyll

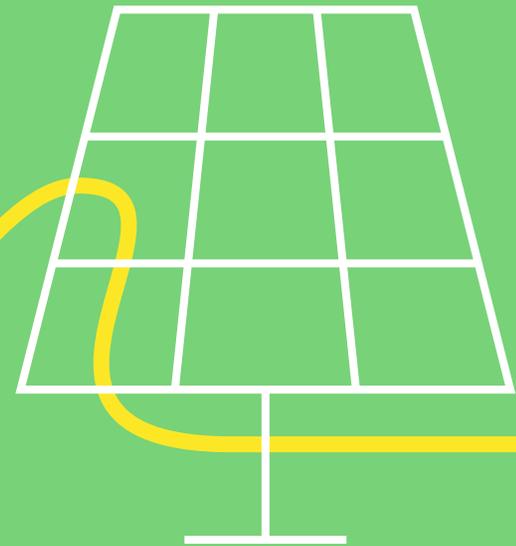
Our impact with ACT in 2023

£67K
in grant funding

750
children with access to outdoor, nature-based learning

11,500
acorns gathered to become oak trees

Renewable energy and energy efficiency



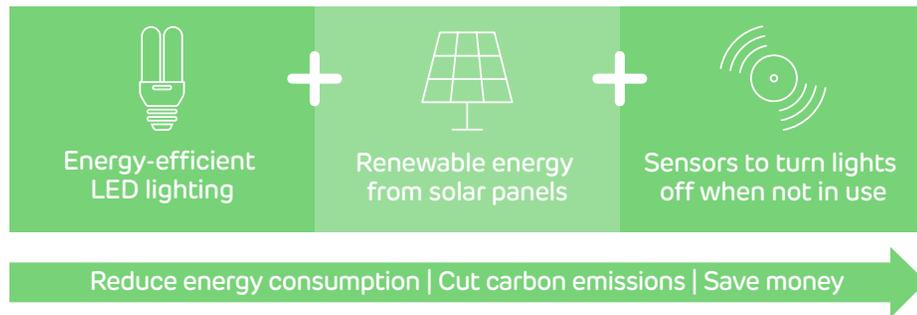
£616k

funding for renewable energy
and energy efficiency
programmes in 2023

Providing energy-efficient LED lighting for UK schools



This year we launched a new £2.5 million programme through the Drax Foundation to help schools in and around our UK operations to become more energy-efficient, reduce carbon emissions, and save money.



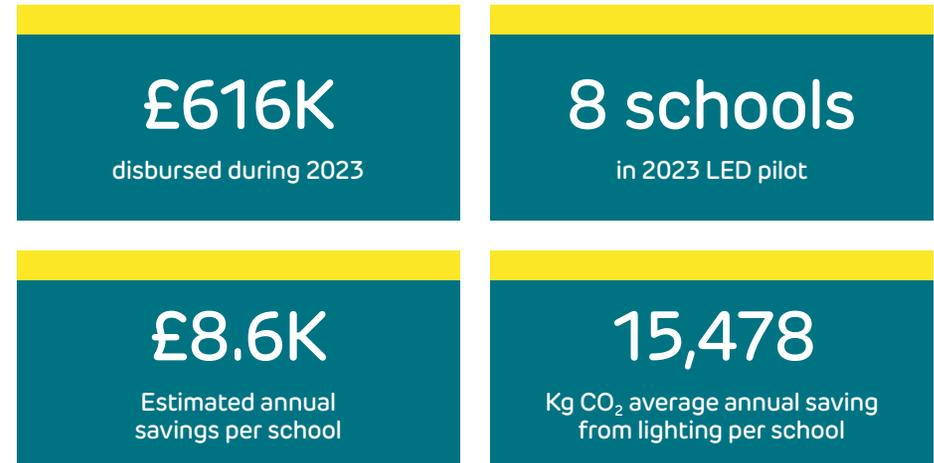
2023 LED pilot

In 2023 we conducted an LED pilot in eight schools. On average these schools are projected to save £8,600 per year on their energy bills. This money can now be reinvested back into the children’s education.

In the year ahead we will roll out LED lighting, solar panels, and motion sensors in up to 45 more participating schools to maximise energy efficiency and cost savings.

“The generosity of the Drax Foundation means our school has been able to save much needed funds and redeploy these in other areas.” – Kathy Thompson, Executive Headteacher, Kirk Sandall Junior School

Our impact in 2023



Pupils and staff from Kirk Sandall Junior School with members of Drax community team

Driving lasting behaviour change towards energy efficiency in UK schools

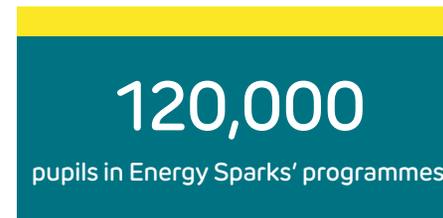
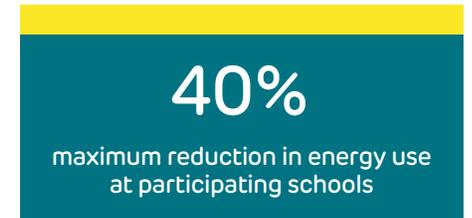


Partner organisation: Energy Sparks

UK schools account for more than half of local authorities' carbon emissions, yet most schools lack the resources or information to address this challenge. Energy Sparks provides a unique online energy management tool and education programmes that are designed to help schools take action to reduce their energy consumption and cut carbon emissions.

This year, the Drax Foundation has provided £150,000 grant funding to ensure that Energy Sparks can continue to provide their services at no cost to 240 schools in and around the communities where Drax operates. This includes crucial in-school energy and climate education, which empowers children to take action to reduce energy consumption.

Our impact with Energy Sparks in 2023

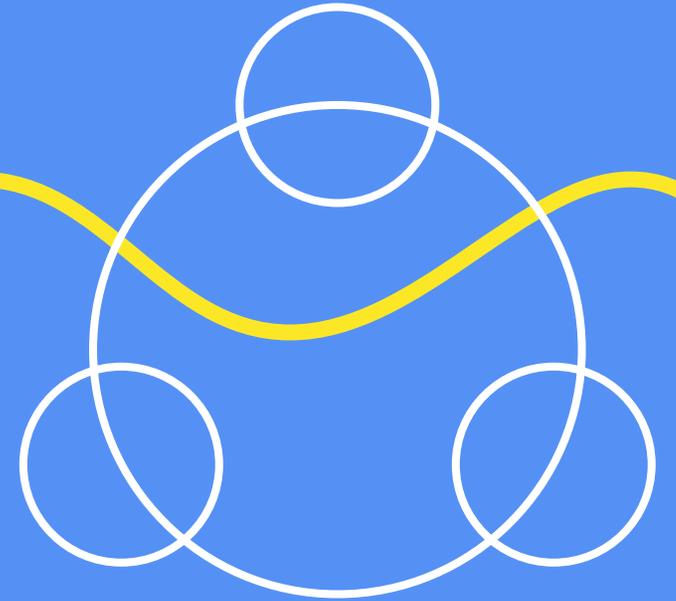


"We are delighted to receive this funding from the Drax Foundation. It will enable more young people to understand the tangible impact their actions have on reducing energy consumption and fighting climate change. The additional benefit of it is that we are helping schools save money and cutting their carbon footprints." – **Dr Claudia Towner, CEO, Energy Sparks**



Children from Carlton Primary School near Selby participating in Energy Sparks workshop

Our communities



£687k

donated to grassroots activities
through our Community Fund
during 2023

Community engagement

Drax is committed to being a good neighbour in the communities where we operate. In 2023 we launched a new overarching community strategy and Community Fund to help us deliver on this commitment.

This is underpinned by a designated team with Community Managers now in place in each of our operating countries.



Drax Community Liaison Officer with volunteers at community event in Gloster, Mississippi

Our approach to community engagement



One-way communication channels to keep communities informed



Two-way channels, including focus groups and community surveys to obtain community feedback



Use of participatory processes including community advisory groups



Working in partnership with local communities on key issues and decisions

Spotlight: Community engagement in Gloster, Mississippi

Gloster is a small, rural community of nearly 900 people in Amite County, Mississippi. Drax operates a plant in Gloster and has a strong track record of local giving and engagement. This year we appointed a new Community Liaison Officer in Gloster, which has enabled us to accelerate local engagement and charitable giving through our Community Fund.

\$130,000 commitment to install new walking track to support community health and wellbeing.

As part of our community engagement, we received feedback that the local community would benefit from new walking track to support public health. This is being funded through the Drax Community Fund. We are now working with the local City to install the walking track early in 2024.

“Drax’s impact on our community cannot be understated, and this latest contribution will provide our citizens with a much-needed community outlet for exercise, recreation and health for years to come. The citizens of Gloster have put a walking track at the top of their list of improvements and to see it come to fruition is a great day for the city.” – Jerry Norwood, Mayor of Gloster, Mississippi



Drax volunteers participating in Thanksgiving event in Gloster, November 2023

Celebrating Thanksgiving with a ‘turkey giveaway’ for 200 Gloster households

This year we kicked-off a new annual programme to donate Thanksgiving turkeys to households in Gloster during the holiday season. We are grateful to all the Drax employees and local officials who volunteered their time to support this effort.

Supporting Gloster’s Christmas Parade

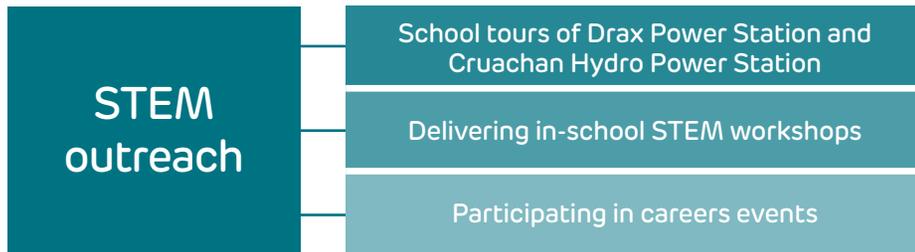
Each year we support the Gloster Christmas parade, which is led by the local Chamber of Commerce. Through our Community Fund, we provided toys and candy for local children.

Looking ahead to 2024

In the year ahead we will expand our community engagement in Gloster to include a series of focus group meetings and listening exercises to ensure that we understand community concerns and priorities. This will feed into a full Community Action & Engagement Plan, including expanding our Community Fund to support more local grassroots activities.

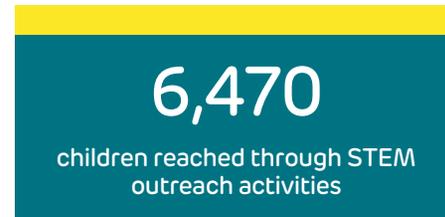
Spotlight: STEM outreach in our UK communities

One of our community priorities in the UK is to deliver educational outreach in local schools and to promote awareness of STEM careers. We have a designated Community & Education team that delivers this programme. This includes educational tours of the Drax Power Station, delivering STEM sessions in local schools, and participating in careers events to promote awareness of jobs in the energy sector. This is underpinned by our grant funding and strategic partnerships with STEM organisations.

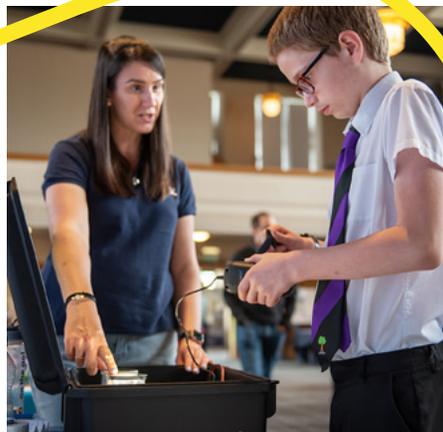


“Thank you so much to the Drax Community team for our tour of Drax Power Station. All of the students thoroughly enjoyed it and I know what they have seen and heard will directly relate to their school exams.” – **Jeanette Shipley, Head of Humanities, New Collaborative Learning Trust**

Our impact through STEM outreach in 2023



Local children at the Drax Skylark Centre



Drax Community & Education team in action

Spotlight: supporting foodbanks in our local communities during the festive season

As part of our community outreach, we make annual donations to foodbanks in each of our operating communities in the run up to the December festive season. This is a key aspect of our Community Fund, which prioritises under-served and under-represented communities.

“Thanks to the generous support of businesses like Drax we were able to provide 140 Christmas Hampers in the town of Princeton. This has a huge impact on so many lives in our little town, adding some joy to the Christmas season.” – **Scott Musgrove, Director of Princeton Food Bank, Canada**



Drax volunteers preparing food packages for homeless veterans in Louisiana

Our impact in 2023

£110k

donations to 33 foodbanks during 2023

100%

of Drax's operating communities received foodbank donations



Drax Community Manager making a donation to the Hope Kitchen in Scotland



UK Community team presenting a donation to the Two Rivers Community Pantry in Goole, North Yorkshire

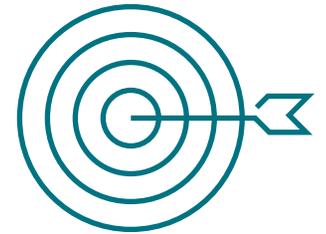
Communities in Crisis Fund

The third pillar of our corporate giving is our Communities in Crisis Fund. This was established to provide rapid donations to relief organisations working on the ground in the aftermath of natural disasters and other humanitarian crises.



Emergency	Recipient of donations	Donation (GBP)
Tornados in Mississippi, US	United Way	20,000
Tornados in Arkansas, US	United Way	20,000
Wildfires in Alberta, Canada	Red Cross	12,000
Floods in Northern BC, Canada	United Way	30,000
Floods in Libya	Red Cross	25,000
Earthquake in Morocco	Red Cross	25,000
Israel-Gaza humanitarian response	Red Cross	75,000
2023 TOTAL		£207,000

Looking ahead



In the year ahead we will continue our giving through the Drax Foundation and our Community Fund, placing greater emphasis on outreach and community engagement. We will develop a three-year plan with annual targets to ensure that we are delivering measurable social value across our operational footprint.

A priority for 2024 will be our new Bioenergy with Carbon Capture and Storage (BECCS) plant in the US, where we will deliver a full Community Benefit Plan. Across our pellet operations in the US and Canada, we will continue to strengthen community outreach and build on the fledgling non-profit partnerships we have developed during 2023.

In the UK, our Community and Education team will extend our STEM educational outreach programmes to include the communities surrounding our hydro assets in Scotland. We will also expand the rollout of LED lighting and solar panels in up to 40 local schools during 2024-2025. Alongside this, we will continue to operate our visitor centres at the Drax Power Station and Cruachan Power Station, to ensure that local schools and community groups have the opportunity to see first hand how our power stations generate renewable energy.

The community team looks forward to helping Drax to deliver on its promise to be a good neighbour in all of our operating communities.



In 2024 we will continue the rollout of LED lighting and solar energy in schools



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).