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North East charities receive grants to empower young people to take action on the climate emergency

Funding awarded to three organisations in the North East through the Energy Saving Trust Foundation's Youth Climate Action Fund, supported by Airbnb

Three organisations from across the North East of England have been awarded funding to develop projects focused on inspiring young people to engage with, and take action on, the climate emergency. The grants have been awarded by the Energy Saving Trust Foundation's Youth Climate Action Fund which is part funded by Airbnb.

The Foundation is pleased to announce that AutismAble in South Shields, Building Self Belief in County Durham and Three13 Training and Enterprise Ltd in Tees valley will each be receiving two-year grants of up to £40,000 to continue and expand their important work.

The successful initiatives include workshops to raise environmental awareness with autistic young people, a project focused on empowering young people to preserve and celebrate their local environment, and vocational training opportunities in the circular economy for care-experienced young people¹.

Jim Metcalfe, chair of the Energy Saving Trust Foundation, said:

"Young people across the UK are committed to tackling the climate emergency. Our aim as a Foundation is to back young people to feel confident about taking climate action because we know that many may not have the opportunities and tools to get started, especially if they are experiencing social exclusion. We're proud to announce the charities and organisations across the country who we will be working with over the next two years to deliver climate-focused projects in local communities."

Amanda Cupples, General Manager for Northern Europe at Airbnb, said:



“Young people have an important role to play as the next generation of climate leaders. We are proud to support organisations that are inspiring and equipping young people with the tools they need to drive change in their communities and beyond.”

Community interest company, [AutismAble](#), will be delivering a series of workshops designed to raise environmental awareness, promote energy efficiency and increase knowledge of clean energy with autistic young people in the area. Young people will have the opportunity to set up a small scale renewable energy project within their community.

Andrew Forster, Service Development Director at AutismAble said: "We are thrilled to announce that AutismAble has been chosen as a partner by the Energy Saving Trust Foundation for our 'Think Smart' Project. This initiative will be led by and for autistic individuals through our 'Young Persons Voice' Group and aims to provide young people and their families with knowledge and practical solutions to address environmental challenges.

“'Think Smart' will focus on raising environmental awareness, promoting energy efficiency, engaging with clean energy opportunities, and launching community-based renewable energy projects. Our goal is to directly engage at least 36 young people in our workshops but also to extend our reach and influence to over 100 family members by 2026.”

County Durham based community interest organisation, [Building Self Belief](#), will deliver its 'Tow Law Eco-Youth Ambassadors' project. This focuses on enabling and empowering young people to preserve and enhance their shared environment, culminating in a community celebration event and documentary film to educate the wider community around environmental issues.

Christine Thomas, CEO of Building Self Belief said: “We’re incredibly grateful for the support of the Energy Saving Trust Foundation in supporting the 'Tow Law Eco-Youth Ambassadors' Project' across the next two years. It’s a wonderful opportunity to support



the understanding of local young people around sustainability and the environment, whilst developing their self confidence so that they can take a lead in addressing these vital issues in the future.”

[Three13 Training and Enterprise Ltd](#), based in Tees Valley will provide vocational training in the circular economy to care experienced young people. Those in year eight will engage in a work-based training programme to gain vocational qualifications as they establish a new circular economy loop in their neighbourhood, improving local soil quality and reducing waste.

David Mumford, Three13 Director said: “We're really excited to get started on our 'Composting for Change' project - providing a platform for care-experienced young people to gain green skills and lead the way in challenging our community's attitude to food waste. 'Why sit in a classroom when your learning could help someone else?' has become a bit of a motto for us at Three13 and it really resonates with the young people we work with.”

These awards are part of the first round of national funding awarded by the Energy Saving Trust Foundation's Youth Climate Action Fund which is part funded by Airbnb. This follows a successful pilot launch in the West Midlands last year.

Charities and community interest groups from across the UK that might be interested in future funding opportunities are encouraged to look out for further communication from the Foundation or visit <https://energysavingtrust.org.uk/the-foundation>

Ends

Notes to editors

For more information or interviews contact Energy Saving Trust's press office media@est.org.uk

References:

(1) Full list of project grants awarded in the North East in this UK grant round:

Organisation name	Location	Project
AutismAble	Tyne and Wear	Autismable, based in South Shields, Tyne and Wear, will be delivering a series of workshops designed to raise environmental awareness, promote energy efficiency and knowledge of clean energy with autistic young people in their community. Young people will have the opportunity to set up a small scale renewable energy project within their community.
Building Self-Belief CIO	County Durham	Building Self Belief CIO based in County Durham, will deliver the 'Tow Law Eco-Youth Ambassadors' project to enable and empower young people to preserve and enhance their shared environment, culminating in a community celebration event and documentary film to educate the wider community around environmental issues.
Three13 Training and Enterprise Ltd	Tees Valley	Three13 Training and Enterprise Ltd, based in Tees Valley will provide vocational training in the circular economy to care experienced young people. Each year eight young people will engage in a work-based training programme to gain vocational qualifications as they establish a new circular economy loop in their neighbourhood, to improve local soil quality and reduce waste.

About the Energy Saving Trust Foundation



The Energy Saving Trust Foundation is the charitable arm of Energy Saving Trust and was established in 2014. The Foundation shares Energy Saving Trust's mission to address the climate emergency. The Foundation supports youth-led projects in the UK to empower young people experiencing inequality to take meaningful action on the climate emergency, focussing on the issues that matter most to them.

About Airbnb

Airbnb was born in 2007 when two Hosts welcomed three guests to their San Francisco home, and has since grown to over 4 million Hosts who have welcomed more than 1 billion guest arrivals in almost every country across the globe. Every day, Hosts offer unique stays and experiences that make it possible for guests to connect with communities in a more authentic way.