



NAEE Annual Report 2024

This report covers the work of NAEE from August 2023 to July 2024. It is a statement of key developments and issues faced and includes the 2023/24 income/expenditure statement as well as our auditor's report. The version of this report that is approved at the 2024 AGM will be sent to the Charity Commission as our formal report for the year.

Policy developments relevant to environmental education: a brief overview

The Department for Education's non-statutory [Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy](#) continues to be the main form of Government guidance available to schools in England. This includes the [National Education Nature Park](#) that was launched in October 2023 with the invitation to educational establishments to register for resources and to put their grounds on a national habitat map. Although uptake is understandably limited at this stage, the ambition is clear with the claim that all education settings in the country could create a space twice the size of Birmingham for wildlife to thrive in and for children to learn about their environment.

Meanwhile, the [Curriculum for Wales](#), which began implementation in 2022, became statutory for all pupils up to Year Nine. This organises the traditional disciplines into four core purposes and six Areas of Learning Experience (AoLE). With one core purpose being the development of ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world, there is a definite place for environmental education within this framework. This structure is not dissimilar to Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence, which began a cycle of review this year. Also in Scotland, the recently updated [GTCS Standards for Provisional Registration](#) include explicit reference to sustainability in a number of places.

The year ended in July 2024 with a moment of significant change as Labour won the general election. The new government wasted no time in announcing that there would be a review of the National Curriculum along with assessment practices in England to be chaired by Professor Becky Francis (this will no doubt become a focus for next year's report). With the review promising 'evolution not revolution', it is unlikely that there will be such a radical re-think in England as there has been in Scotland and Wales.

Internationally, at COP28 in Dubai, the youth constituency (YOUNGO) issued a [statement](#) that echoed the main concerns of the UN climate change process although it did include one bullet point calling for all children to have access to 'high quality education' that should include 'climate change education that incorporates the best available science and principles of climate justice.'

Financial position

The financial statement for 2023/24 saw a decrease in income as one-off donations received previously were not repeated. Expenditure, on the other hand, increased as the organisation had committed to a number of collaborative projects using its accumulated funds.

2022/23		2023/24	
Income	Expenditure	Income	Expenditure
£17,085.70	£14,919.43	£12,341.03	£21,234.97

While these projects pay dividends in terms of our charitable objectives, we cannot continue to fund such work without first identifying additional sources of income to support them.

92% of expenditure went directly on the main ways we deliver our charitable objectives: bursaries, publications, networking, communications, and the website.

As always, we must note that this does not include the considerable and incalculable, in-kind contribution from members and volunteers to the operation of the Association for which we give our heartfelt thanks.

Fuller details of the Association's audited accounts are available in our annual return to the Charity Commission which can be found on the Charity Commission's website.

Funded projects

This year has been unusual in that the association has been able to support a number of project developments with partners. These are:

- Leicester Learn (with Leicester City Council)
- Supernature: Growing gardens and communities (with the Warden Bay Resident's Association)
- Zero Carbon Taster Sessions (with the Green Schools Project)
- Ofsted-style Research Project (with authors from the University of Oxford)
- New funded projects were set up with the Green Schools Project (Zero Carbon Schools Taster Sessions)
- Arts, education and the environment (The Big Brum Theatre Company).

Trustee changes

In 2023 we said a farewell to Bill Scott who ably chaired the association for six years. At the 2023 AGM, Paul Vare was confirmed as the new NAEE Chair. We also welcomed three new trustees, Andrea Gabriel (Education and Learning Manager at Keep Scotland Beautiful), Lee Jowett (a former NAEE Fellow and now Climate Change and Sustainability Fellow at Sheffield Hallam University) and Quinn Runkle (Director of Education, SOS-UK).

The Board held five meetings in 2023/24 comprising one face-to-face meeting in London, three online meetings via Zoom and one email exchange in which the change in Chair was agreed.

Engagement with schools and young people

The Kenrick bursary programme continues to attract an increasingly high number and standard of applications from teachers in the West Midlands. The level of environmental awareness of some teachers and their knowledge of the current issues facing pupils and families in their catchment area is becoming more evident. The total grant project money for 2023/24 was £6,406.

Over the twelve years that the scheme has been in operation 138 different schools have been awarded a grant (total value £56,670) to support their visits to one of four environmental education centres. All these centres offer environmental education experiences led by an experienced educator employed by the centre.

Communications

The weekly newsletter, prepared by former Chair of Trustees, Bill Scott, and delivered to members by email continued to be a source of information for members throughout the year. As Bill announces his retirement from the role, we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks for his tireless work on behalf of the association.

In this year we also published two volumes of our journal, *Environmental Education*, which has been published continuously since 1971:

Vol 133 (Autumn 2023) entitled 'Teaching the Future' was guest edited the youth-led organisation *Teach the Future* and, as such, a first in the history of the journal

Vol 134 (Spring 2024) entitled 'Small Wonders' focuses on invertebrates.

Income Expenditure Statement 2023/2024

Income

	£
M & G Dividends	9103.76
Membership	1474.83
Donations	1094.97
Royalties	190.08
Interest	477.39
Consultancy	<u>0.00</u>
Total Income	<u><u>12341.03</u></u>

Expenditure

Kenrick School Bursaries Payments	6206.00
Kenrick School Bursary Support	366.00
Professional Office Support	2200.00
Journal Editing Fees	860.00
Journal Printing	811.20
Journal Distribution by Post	277.04
Microsoft Business Standard Subs	36.00
Consultancy/Speaker Fees	200.00
Website Management Fee	233.86
Website Hosting by eUKHost	92.67
Travel Expenses & Subsistence	0.00
Insurance	248.87
Room Hire	0.00
Stationery & Postage	13.50
Audit Fee	80.00
Information Commissioner's Office Fee	35.00
Trustee Board Costs	396.90
PayPal Transaction Fees	24.46
Advertising /Publicity	0.00
Development Project Spending	8264.71
DropBox Costs	362.88
Zoom Costs	143.88
Company Tax return	360.00
Bank Charges	22.00
Total Expenditure	<u><u>21234.97</u></u>
Balance B/F from 22/23	38208.22
Plus Income	<u>12341.03</u>
	50549.25
Less Expenditure	21234.97
Balance C/F	<u><u>29314.28</u></u>

Bank reconciliation 1.08.24

Current Account	5111.83
Trust Account	2457.70
Investment Account	26629.36
Old Current Account	777.80
PayPal	<u>793.59</u>
	<u>35770.28</u>

Less unrepresented cheques

Payment to Tamarack Consultancy Services	3800.00	000228
School Bursary Payments 2023 -2024 - L19	2256.00	
School Bursary Payments 2022-2023	<u>400.00</u>	000101
	6456.00	
	<u>29314.28</u>	

Difference 0.00

Auditor's Report

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Sue Shanks
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7 September 2024

Dear Sue

Accounts Audit y/e 31.07.24
2-7 September 2024

Thank you for sending through the documentation to enable me to complete the audit for the financial year 2023-2024.

I can confirm that:

- full accounts have been maintained for the past financial year
- a budget was set and income and expenditure were monitored against this during the year
- there is a system for approving invoices prior to payment

Income in the year August 23 to July 24 fell by just under 28%, or £4,745 against last year. This was primarily caused by a fall in donations and membership fees. Expenditure rose by just over 42%, due to a substantial increase in project development spend. Expenditure exceeded income by £8,893.94 during the year. The overall financial position of the charity remains very strong, with a share holding of over £165,000, and just over £29,300 held in the various bank accounts.

As previously, I completed the following:

- Checked that the brought forward balance from the previous year, plus income, less expenditure, equaled the combined balance in the four bank accounts and the Paypal account at year end.
- Compared the bank balances with the online bank statements.
- Looked at the bank reconciliation to check it balanced
- Contraed the transfers between the different bank accounts and the Paypal account
- I viewed the invoices for three payments:
 - Cal Salter, invoice 21, £550.00, paid 31.10.23
 - Zero Carbon School Taster Sessions, £1,350.00, paid 11.07.24
 - Mail & Print, £811.20, paid 03.01.24.

Each of the invoices had been marked as cleared for payment, with the date of approval recorded. The cheques raised had been signed by two signatories who were also noted on the invoice.

I also looked at the Risk Register and the Certificate of Public Liability insurance, and it was confirmed that, as previously, there was no PAYE system in operation nor VAT reclaimed.

I am confident that the paperwork and evidence submitted to me demonstrates that the accounts records have been properly maintained and that sound financial control procedures were in place for the financial year 2023-2024.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Simmons
Internal Auditor