

A Community Fund, administered by carbon reduction charity Nottingham Energy Partnership, supporting Nottinghamshire communities and voluntary groups to take initiatives in the reduction of carbon emissions, promotion of sustainable lifestyles and the adoption of renewable technologies.



Improvement required:
New poly tunnel cover



Grant awarded:
£3,500

Arkright Meadows Community Gardens - Background

Established in 2001, Arkwright Meadows Community (AMC) Gardens, is a vibrant community charity in the heart of the Meadows, Nottingham.

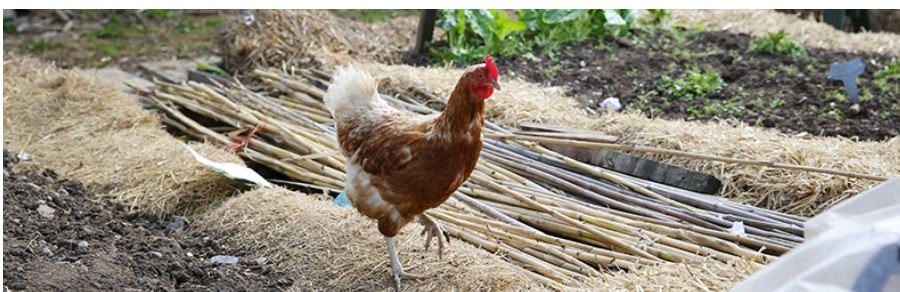
They grow and sell organic produce and run a range of activities and volunteer gardening.

The gardens provide a safe and supportive environment for volunteers where they feel welcome, valued and part of a community.

Through time spent in the gardens volunteers and visitors alike, build social networks pride and a sense of purpose. Here they can develop skills and knowledge on how to grow and cook healthy fresh produce.

In 2018 the gardens welcomed 7866 visitors and supported 81 volunteers.

AMC also hold weekly outdoor play schemes, weekly cycling events and run popular community events and workshops as well as being open to the public 5 days a week.





The Garden's need for a new poly tunnel skin

The existing poly tunnel had reached three years over its seven-year life span – it was less efficient, was visibly degrading and gaps were forming in the sides - all of which was effecting the inside temperature. A replacement was necessary to keep the garden productive all year round.

What's the tunnel used for and who benefits?

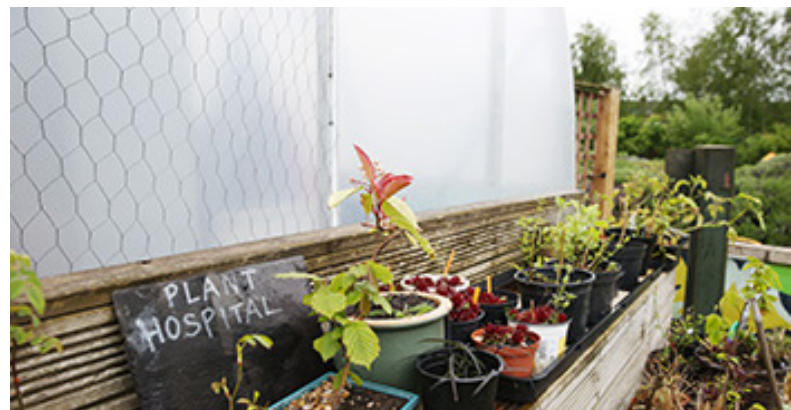
The poly tunnel provides a weatherproof space which is essential for volunteers and staff to grow plants and vegetables from seed which are sold to generate income. In the summer the tunnel houses fruit, tomatoes, and other seasonal vegetables. In winter, the tunnel hosts volunteer sessions and again, grows plants from seed.

Let's hear from the Gardens

“The replacement of our poly tunnel roof was well overdue, our produce was suffering and it was becoming very tatty. The new skin is brilliant, it is more airtight and looks smart and it sets us up for the next seven years so a great outcome all round.

NCE's grant of £3,500 was the key funding that we needed, it was great news to hear that our application had been approved. We were lucky to secure match funding from Jones 1986, a generous private donation, Lindley's Autocentres and Bentick Lodge Freemasons. Funding support for this project has been so successful that we have been able to start work on the water harvesting element of the project.

We use a lot of water in the summer for our plants, to be able to maintain the plants with rainwater harvested from the Poly tunnel roof will help to lower our reliance on mains water. We are always working on ways to make the gardens sustainable for the future and being self-sufficient in this way will be a big step towards that goal.”



Could your organisation be eligible for a Nottinghamshire Community Energy (NCE) grant?

What's the aim of NCE?

To encourage and support local communities and voluntary groups within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire to take initiatives and to establish projects in the reduction of carbon emissions, promotion of sustainable lifestyles and responsible use of finite resources.

Who is eligible?

Applications are invited from registered charities, schools, not for profit organisations and community benefit societies. Individuals, companies and councils are not eligible.

What projects are NCE looking to fund?

Initiatives and projects that mitigate climate change through:

- **the direct application of**
 - a) renewable technology
 - b) energy efficiency technologies
- **a reduction in the use of fossil fuels through actions around transport and waste products**
- **reducing Fuel Poverty or encouraging wildlife conservation and sustainable living**

What grant amounts are available?

NCE issue grants of a minimum of £2,000 and a maximum of £10,000.

They have a pot of £20,000 per year, and look fondly on projects that are also willing to secure match funding.

Request an application form

To request an application form please email philip.angus@nottenergy.com.

Find out more or connect with Nottinghamshire Community Energy

Visit our website or follow us on Twitter.

 www.nce.coop

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