RETROFIT CREDITS

Difference
Changing perceptions of disability

RETROFIT CREDITS BUYER CASE STUDY:

Difference North East

HACT | PNZ carbon

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Difference North East are a disabled persons' led organisation and disability rights charity, working to give disabled people equal access to everything non-disabled people are involved in.

They are buyers of Retrofit Credits. Their participation in the Retrofit Credits programme has delivered **3 tonnes** of carbon reduction and generated **£1,720.20** in social value, as measured by the UK Social Value Bank.

We spoke to Dr Christopher Hartworth, Director of Difference North East, about their experience with the programme.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR RETROFIT CREDITS JOURNEY.

Disabled people in the North East want to get involved in climate action, and we run our own Disabled Climate Action Forum. Like other organisations, we produce carbon and wanted to offset it. I researched tree planting, peat bog restoration and other options, but land in the North East is at a premium, and it felt like a difficult, long-term route.

Through our work with the North East Combined Authority, I came across HACT's Retrofit Credits. It met our environmental and social impact objectives, and it was local.

We wanted to add a budget line to our funding proposals to make each project carbon neutral, and ideally carbon positive. After speaking to Antoine, it was clear this was achievable and really straightforward. We can even choose for it to happen in the North East, down to a specific local authority area.

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BY PURCHASING X CREDITS, DIFFERENCE NORTH EAST HAVE...



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removed

3 TONNES

of CO2e from UK skies.

It's a win-win, and an impactful one. Climate is an issue where everyone should be able to get involved in the easiest way possible, and I'm really thankful to HACT for making that possible.

Dr Christopher Hartworth
Director, DIfference North East

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WHAT IMPACT HAVE RETROFIT CREDITS GENERATED FOR YOUR ORGANISATION AND THE COMMUNITIES YOU SERVE?

IWe produce carbon and try to minimise that, but we want to balance the equation. With Retrofit Credits, we can do that and also do important social good, like insulating people's homes and providing clean energy. How good is that? It's given us the concrete ability to put our money where our mouth is.

Thanks to HACT, we can offset the carbon we produce, and we want to shout about it. I want to point other organisations towards HACT so they can do the same.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO ANOTHER ORGANISATION CONSIDERING RETROFIT CREDITS?

We've developed a simple method other organisations can use. For each staff member and each activity, including events, we calculate the carbon we produce using established guidance and standard indicators. If we produce 0.75 tonnes of carbon equivalent, we offset that by buying a tonne of credits.

Voluntary sector organisations, and others, can calculate their carbon and offset it relatively cheaply and straightforwardly. It has a positive environmental impact and an important social impact.

If I'm a funder, and an organisation can tell me that my money will have no impact on the climate, I'll have some of that. It's a win-win, and an inexpensive one.

Climate is an issue where everyone should be able to get involved in the easiest way possible, and I'm really thankful to HACT for making that possible.

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GET IN TOUCH.

Ready to take the next step?

Get in touch with our team to learn more about how we can support your journey to net zero.

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