



# EDEN PROJECT

ANNUAL REVIEW 2017/18

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## CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

What would it take for the world to shift its focus from the short-term issues that currently dominate political and social discourse, centred as they are on the individual and on the differences that are used to define us? What needs to happen for the world to recognise the greater value and importance of our common interests in protecting vital ecosystems and developing sustainable ways of sharing the limited resources of our planet?

We have long had scientific consensus around climate change and biodiversity loss, tangible current evidence of human suffering and the means with which to communicate with almost every person on the planet. And the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change have told us that we have just twelve years in which to bring about far-reaching change to almost every aspect of our lives if we are to avoid the most extreme scenarios. Great hope lies in the potential for closed-loop systems of consumption and production, but leadership is required to make it happen.

It is possible that men and women of power will have the courage to respond to the challenge. But the evidence of this year is that it is at the community level that change is happening: cities and states are defying federal governments; consumers are demanding to understand the true cost of what they are buying; neighbourhoods are working together to clean up the pollution they see around them. And this is where the Eden Project is making an impact: a practical and vivid demonstration of the capacity of ordinary citizens to organize and to transform their own environment for the better.

What it will take is education, optimism, the courage to challenge and defy the historic order, and a determination to play whatever part we can in every aspect of our lives. It will take cooperation between people who are like-minded and a willingness to engage constructively with those who are not.

Working at the Eden Project in Cornwall, as well as in small teams across the UK and internationally, is a group of talented, creative, positive people who are tirelessly bringing environmental ecology to life. With our collective experience, knowledge and considerable global networks, we are helping tens of thousands of local communities build the social ecology that will allow them to take responsibility into their own hands.

Through the efforts of our horticulturalists, our story-tellers, our education programmes and our catering teams; through art, architecture and botany; through the proliferation of wild flowers and the meticulous reduction of waste; through the Big Lunch, Commonwealth Big Lunch and Big Walk, as well as through Eden Project International and the creation of new Eden Projects in other countries, the Eden Project is playing its part in as many different ways and different places as its resources and talents allow.

Thank you, to all those colleagues, volunteers, visitors, partner organisations and donors who have helped us to fulfil our mission this year. Please stick with us; that mission has never been more vital.



**Edward Benthall, Eden Trustee and Chairman  
of the Eden Trust**



## INTRODUCTION

The past few years have been a period of sustained growth for the Eden Project. That's welcome news, given the urgency and importance of our work. Year on year we've been investing in our site and our programmes, attracting more visitors, increasing our earnings and building the global partnerships that we're all going to need to tackle the environmental, political and societal challenges we most care about. We've also been focusing on our local relationships in Cornwall and the South West, and strengthening our team.

In 2017-18 we were able to begin capitalising on the efforts of those recent years to broaden our ambitions and our impact. During the year we began to fulfil our promise to connect people with each other and the living world on a global scale. We established a new company within the Eden family, Eden Project International Ltd, with the aim of opening an Eden Project on every inhabited continent by 2025. We expanded The Big Lunch, already a fixture on the calendar of neighbourhoods up and down the UK, to create community events across the Commonwealth, with 45 nations participating in an important experiment to reach across geopolitical divides and highlight that which unites us.

At Eden in Cornwall we told global stories, opening our Western Australia garden (with the Australian High Commissioner doing the honours), celebrated our first National Collection of plants (the beautiful and varied *Kniphofia* of South Africa) and in the Rainforest Biome showcased our ongoing research with the University of the West of England into ways to mitigate the loss of biodiversity caused by the uncontrolled expansion of oil palm cultivation.

We welcomed new audiences, notably through our first Proud Eden weekend and the launch of the Eden Arts Festival, but also by taking the show on the road with the Great Big Walk, linking community projects throughout the UK by the simple and meaningful method of walking the length of the land while visiting as many of them as we could.

And we rolled our sleeves up and experimented with some small-scale initiatives that we aim to make large scale as we prove their value - Social Prescribing, Deep Roots New Shoots and It's Great Outdoors, gathering data to encourage others to share our passion for learning and healing in the outdoors.

With the help of our partners, donors and friends we've built quite a platform. The coming year will see us make use of our resilience and energy to push forward in developing new Eden Projects in the UK and beyond, to develop a Sustainability Strategy that will affect profoundly every area of our activities, to tackle the difficult issue of plastics on our site, to launch Invisible Worlds and the National Wildflower Centre at our Cornish home, and to bring the arts to the centre of the way we engage as many people as possible with the massive issues facing our planet today.



**Gordon Seabright, CEO, Eden Project**





## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

For almost 20 years, Cornwall has been home to a scientific visitor destination with an international reputation.

Here, a collection of the most useful plants to humanity provides the stage set and cultural platform to showcase our dependence on the natural world. Eden's exhibits, events and education programmes explore ideas and approaches that could shape a sustainable future for all.



Journey into Space

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### **JOURNEY INTO SPACE**

This summer Eden looked to the stars with the first year of a space-themed summer programme. Featuring an astronaut training school, a live show and a Solar System Safari, Journey into Space challenged our visitors' skills and perceptions. Its underlying purpose was to show the stark contrast between our barren neighbours and the lush habitats of our home planet; a timely reminder of what we stand to lose if we don't take action.





Rainbow Biomes celebrating Proud Eden.

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### PROUD EDEN

Eden is about inclusion. We celebrate our differences as well as what we have in common. This year we hosted our first ever LGBTQ event, Proud Eden. Artists appearing included Matthew Todd, former editor of *Attitude*, talking about his book *Straight Jacket How to be Gay and Happy*; Dean Atta, award-winning poet and one of the most influential LGBTQ people in the UK; the West End show *Outings*; and Lucy Le Brocq with her photos of drag kings.





Just what the doctor ordered?

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### OPERATION EARTH

It's not every day you see a person dressed up as a planet. Visitors to the Med Biome this spring had the chance to see what happens when the Earth goes to the doctor for a check-up. Expertly performed and animated by our storytelling team with the help of our visitors, the half-hour show was designed to draw attention to the work of environmental scientists who monitor changes to the planet's habitats. Amongst the problems the show highlighted were ocean plastics, biodiversity loss and atmospheric pollution. Eden Project scripted the section on ocean plastics, an issue that it continues to address through its supply chains. A series of related activities including 'meet the scientist' sessions were run alongside the show, and it's estimated that its messages reached over 28,000 Eden visitors.

Operation Earth was performed by the staff of 10 other science and discovery centres around the UK and at 10 Downing Street later in the year.

Operation Earth was funded by the National Environmental Research Council (NERC) and delivered by the Association of Science and Discovery Centres. It was co-developed by the ASDC, Natural History Museum, Dynamic Edinburgh and the Eden Project.





Ghost dancers

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### GHOST DANCE

Eden also provides the venue for one-off events. In July, 300 students from across Cornwall performed a unique version of one of the most celebrated contemporary dance pieces ever at Eden. Fourteen schools and colleges showcased their creative responses to *Ghost Dances*, Christopher Bruce's masterpiece. Students from five to eighteen have been working with the intentionally renowned dance company Rambert and Cornish dance group Dance Republic 2 in partnership with Eden's schools team, to perform their own interpretations of *Ghost Dances*. Set to traditional Chilean music, the original piece was written in tribute to the victims of political oppression in South America and tells the stories of the daily lives of ordinary people which are interrupted by death in the form of 'ghost dancers'.





Park run through Eden.

## PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

### ON THE RUN

Eden is committed to improving people's health and wellbeing which is why we started hosting five-kilometre parkruns every Saturday morning. It's entirely organised by local volunteers with support from the Eden team.

Established in 2004, parkruns take place in outdoor locations around the UK and in 14 other countries. They are always free and are open to runners, joggers and walkers of all abilities, from beginners to Olympians.

Eden's parkrun is intended to be easier than some others as it takes place entirely on tarmac. The course begins in the coach park at the top of the site before entering the main garden and taking a scenic route around the paths in front of the Biomes.

Like all parkrun events, the Eden Project parkrun is a personal challenge and not a race.

Participants set their own targets and will receive their times by text, email and through the parkrun website [www.parkrun.org.uk](http://www.parkrun.org.uk).





Red hot pokers

## LIFE SCIENCES AND HORTICULTURE

This year brought the National Wildflower Centre to the Eden Project, a new Western Australia garden, a gold medal at the Cornish Garden Society and the groundwork for a number of future projects both at Eden and abroad, including a new Korea Garden in partnership with the National Arboretum of Korea and the City of Seoul, and a partnership with the Earlham Institute in the Columbia Grow project.

The Outdoor Gardens have been enhanced by the restoration of the Arena and new *Dicksonia* planting on the Zig Zag through Time pathway, and we have been awarded National Collection status for our *Kniphofia* collection.

Our commitment to research continues with our pollinator research with the University of Exeter and a new research link with University College London.



Part of the new Western Australia garden in the Med Biome.

## LIFE SCIENCES AND HORTICULTURE

### WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Spring 2017 saw the opening of our new Western Australia garden by the Australian High Commissioner. Four years in the making, the garden was created with the help of Kings Park Botanic Garden in Perth and sponsored by Western Australia Tourism. Split into three main areas, the exhibit recreates the jarrah and banksia woodlands of the *kwongan*, an area rich in spectacular flora which thrives on the Earth's oldest and most infertile soils, and a bed of the region's iconic plants, including grass trees and kangaroo paws. To make space, the entire California exhibit was moved to a new location, a new irrigation system was installed, and the existing soil was replaced with a specially designed low-nutrient mix.





Tropical arborist Craig Lewis in the Rainforest Biome.

## LIFE SCIENCES AND HORTICULTURE

### HAVE CHAINSAW WILL TRAVEL

Following the devastation of Hurricane Irma in 2017, Eden sent tropical arborist Craig Lewis to the Kampong in Miami to help with the clean-up operation. One of five gardens that makes up the National Tropical Botanical Garden in Florida, the Kampong has a stunning collection of exotic fruit and flower trees. Eden's Director of Life Sciences Mike Maunder is a trustee and former director of the Kampong. Thankfully, while there aren't many opportunities to deal with hurricane damage at Eden, Craig was able to draw on his experience of working in the field for Voluntary Services Overseas in Indonesia and a previous stint in Miami in the 1990s clearing up after a previous hurricane.





A growing partnership with Korea.

## LIFE SCIENCES AND HORTICULTURE

### KOREA WE GO

The first steps towards a new Korean garden were made this year with the signing of an MOU with the Korean National Arboretum and City of Seoul. A delegation led by KNA Director General Dr You-Mi Lee visited Eden in July 2017 to meet with the executive team. The agreement has identified joint initiatives in conservation, training and horticulture and will also see the creation of a Korean garden at the Eden Project that illustrates Korea's extraordinary progress in regenerating natural habitats.

'We are greatly looking forward to working with the Korean National Arboretum. We share so many values and ambitions. The regeneration of biodiversity is a key theme for Eden and the Koreans have shown global leadership in rebuilding their ecology.'  
Gordon Seabright, CEO Eden Project.





Visitors learn how to identify which products contain palm oil.

## LIFE SCIENCES AND HORTICULTURE

### OIL PALM EXHIBIT

Oil palm is in a bewildering number of products under an equally bemusing number of different names. The damage the oil palm industry is doing to rainforest habitats is much more obvious. In 2017, we collaborated with the University of the West of England, Bristol (UWE), to revamp our oil palm exhibit. The new exhibit explores the effects palm oil production has on the world and shows how we can work towards producing it more sustainably. Part of a wider project that also looked at using bird's nest ferns to increase biodiversity in oil palm plantations, our collaboration with UWE brings cutting-edge science back to the Biome to tell an important story for our times.





Stink-again, titan arum close up.

## LIFE SCIENCES AND HORTICULTURE

### TITAN ARUM

The titan arum *Amorphophallus titanum* has been a fixture at Eden for some years now. Tim Grigg at our Watering Lane Nursery has grown 24 of them since 2001. The flowers only open for around 48 hours, during which time they emit a stench like rotting flesh to attract pollinators which prefer to lay their eggs in something dead. Hence the nickname 'corpse flower'. But no one knows exactly how the titan arum makes itself so stinky, so we invited microbiologists from the University of Exeter to investigate. Dr Ben Raymond and Andrew Matthews have isolated various bacteria from the flower and put them in different locations around Eden to see which creatures are lured by individual bacteria.





*Kniphofia* 'Gladness'.

## LIFE SCIENCES AND HORTICULTURE

### RED-HOT POKERS – OUR FIRST NATIONAL COLLECTION

Our display of red-hot pokers (*Kniphofia*) has been awarded National Plant Collection status by the conservation charity Plant Heritage. Planted in early 2016, it features nearly 2,000 individual red-hot pokers of 79 cultivars, with a further 21 species and varieties being grown at our Watering Lane Nursery for spring planting. The collection is one of only two in the UK and the only one on the UK mainland - the other being on the Isle of Wight, whose keeper has been working closely with Eden to help us locate further cultivars.

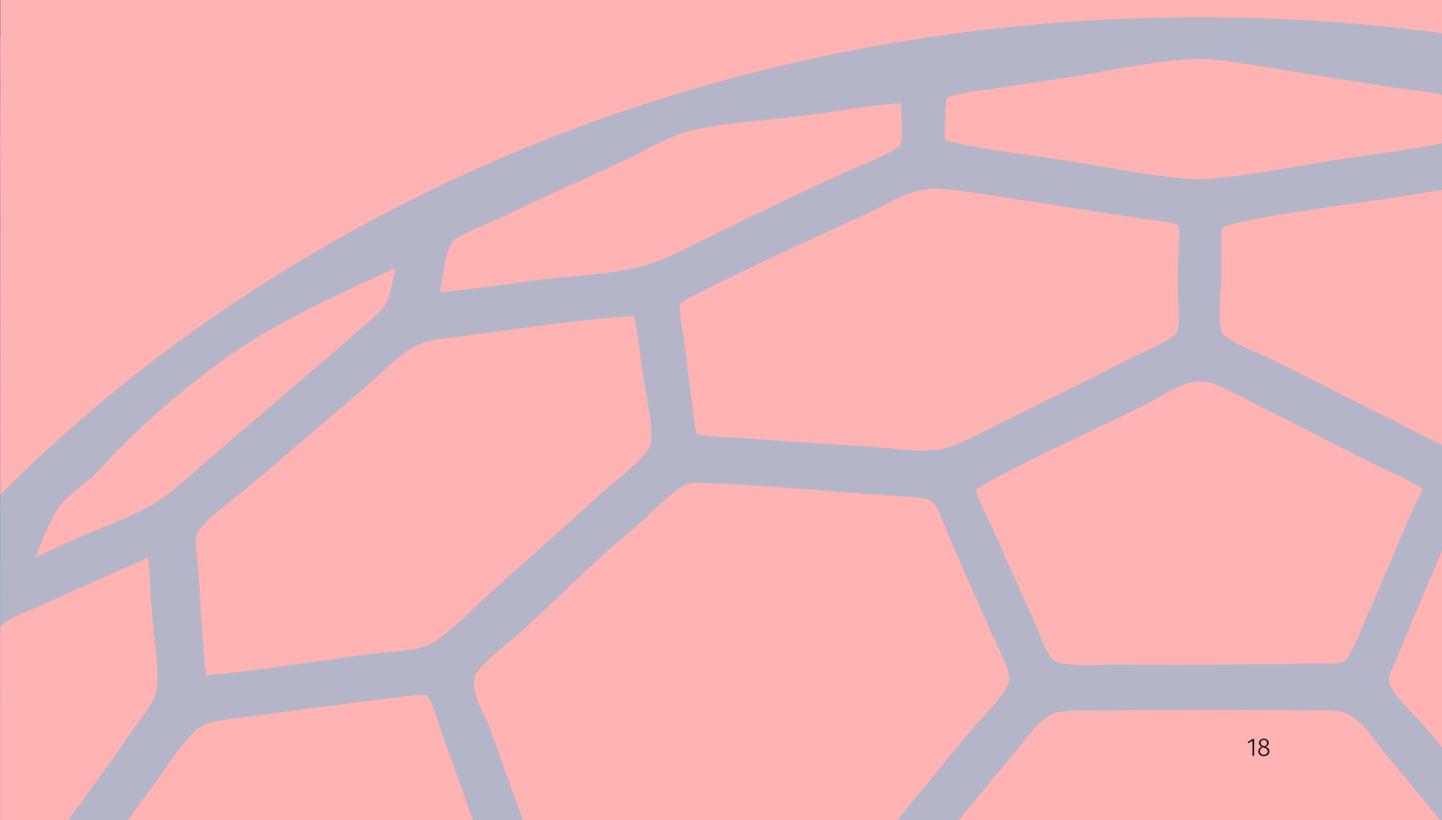




## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

We believe it's vital that people understand that humans depend on the living world and recognise the need to work together to solve the problems that face us.

These issues are complex, and Eden has always engaged with the widest audience possible in a way that enables them to be taken on board as easily as possible. Behind the scenes, we run engagement programmes and research projects that provide people across the UK with a better understanding of the world they live in and how they can help change it for the better.





The Great Big Walk starting line with Jo Brand.



## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### THE GREAT BIG WALK

Five teams set off from Batley, West Yorkshire, where the late Jo Cox was MP, to shine a light on the amazing community work that goes on in the UK. Fourteen walkers, including two Eden team members, walked over 200 miles to Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, London and Cornwall in time to celebrate a Big Lunch in their communities. Between them the walkers covered over 1,400 miles between 29 May and 18 June, covering on average 26 miles a day. Over 150 community groups were visited along the way, including wheelchair dancers, memory cafés, and groups working with the homeless.

The team was supported throughout by the Eden Communities Team with the help of Renault's Electric Vehicles, FitBit, Bupa and the YHA. The whole initiative was made possible by the National Lottery, which funded the majority of the walk, as well as the Pears Foundation and the Prince's Foundation.





Food, fun and friendship are the key ingredients of a Big Lunch.



## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### THE BIG LUNCH

Now in its ninth year, the Big Lunch is our flagship community programme. In 2017, 9.3 million people sat down to share a meal with their neighbours, putting names to faces and celebrating what they have in common. For some it's the first step to transforming their communities. Over the years it's evolved to include Lunar Lunches (allowing those observing religious festivals like Ramadan to participate) and led to the creation of the Great Big Walk as a prelude to the Big Lunch itself.

**91%**

of Big Lunch organisers met new people at their Big Lunch

**87%**

of organisers said the Big Lunch made them feel better about their neighbourhood

**79%**

of people attending a Big Lunch now socialise more within their community

**91%**

of people attending a Big Lunch said they felt closer to their neighbours as a result



At the launch of the Commonwealth Big Lunch in London.



## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### COMMONWEALTH BIG LUNCH

In March 2018 the Big Lunch went global, ahead of the main event later in June that year, inviting the 53 countries in the Commonwealth to lunch as part of the programme of events to celebrate the UK's hosting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. The Commonwealth is home to a third of the planet's population, making the Commonwealth Big Lunch the biggest ever held, but more importantly bringing people together to share food and stories together wherever they are in the world.





## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### DEEP ROOTS, NEW SHOOTS

Grandparents are society's unsung heroes. With more parents working part- or full-time, grandparents are increasingly filling the gap. Most grandparents find looking after their grandchildren rewarding, but some find joining parent-toddler groups uncomfortable and many feel isolated. Using the Eden site and its wider estate, Deep Roots, New Shoots brings grandparent carers together through a series of sessions designed to meet their needs that are delivered by a team of volunteers who are over 50 themselves. Grandparents and grandchildren are invited to take part in story-telling, special events themed around our summer programme Journey into Space, as well as outdoor activities at a Little Eden for grandparents, providing the chance to play together outside in nature. Thousands of participants have taken part in Deep Roots activities since the project started in 2017 with an average satisfaction rating of 97%. Plans are in place for laboratory sessions in the new Eden Lab in the Core for Deep Roots New Shoots participants in May 2018.

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'You're the only group I've been to where you really talk to the children. You know, from the moment you arrive and do the trail that the expectation is that you're doing this together. It isn't a chore but a pure pleasure and a joy.'

**Grandparent participant**

'Even the very youngest visitors are made to feel a part of the Eden Community. Today, my little one made new friends and learned new skills with a little help from Emma and Rosie. Mud, marshmallows and dinosaurs – what more could a kid want?'

**Dr. Amit Patel @ BlindDad\_Uk**

**1.6**

Million grandparents help  
to look after grandchildren



it's great outdoors

## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### IT'S GREAT OUTDOORS

Encouraging children to spend more time in nature has been one of Eden's key themes for over a decade. Our Big Lottery-funded project 'Mud between your toes' introduced den building and outdoor play to thousands of families and its follow-up Muddy Shorts took families out of their comfort zones into the woods. There have been other initiatives like these across the country and yet things only appear to be getting worse. A 2016 report stated that the UK is still 'among the most nature-depleted countries in the world' and that three-quarters of British children spend less time outside than prison inmates. An obesity crisis is looming; it's predicted that as a result of diet and a lack of exercise a quarter of all children will be obese by 2050. It's Great Outdoors is a UK-wide pilot project that tries to address the problem directly by sending families a series of themed play kits to help them spend time together in. The kits included instructions and materials for a series of play activities that collectively covered all sixteen of the different types of play. Six different kits were sent out over the course of a year, resulting in 419 outdoor play sessions and a lot of information about what really works when it comes to getting families to play outside.

.....

'You don't get the same thing from, say, soft play. Lovely though it is, it is still soft. What risk is there, really? When they jump from this rock to that rock, it's a whole different feeling. Nothing is regular outside.'

'The project has helped me realise how easy play is when you're close to nature. How kids just love to play; they never seem to get bored. If there are trees to climb on, water to paddle in, that sort of stuff, it's very easy to give them unstructured time. It's made me more aware of that.'

#### Partisipent feedback





Setting off on a health walk.

## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

Fulfilling our increasing healthcare needs as a society is presenting new and difficult challenges to our healthcare system. In many cases these challenges cannot be met by existing services because the problems are not always clinical but social and lifestyle-related. Being happy and connected to nature has a positive effect on both our mental and physical wellbeing; and the more we can see and feel the benefits of our connection to nature, the easier it is to make choices about living a sustainable life. For many years Eden has been running nature-based programmes at our site in Cornwall. With our experience and expertise, we know that we can be part of the solution to the current healthcare challenges, and since June 2016 we have been doing just that via our social prescribing programme now called Nature's Way. Social prescribing is a service that enables GPs, nurses and other health professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services. As part of their prescription, patients with diabetes, COPD or cardiac conditions receive a 'dose' of weekly walking at Eden. Those with anxiety and depression are given a prescription for therapeutic horticulture in a quiet area away from the main Eden site. And those who are over 65 and feel that they are at risk of loneliness and isolation are prescribed our weekly Walk and Talk Lunch Club.

**4 million**

Diabetes now affects almost 4 million people in the UK

**1 in 6**

hospital beds now taken with someone with diabetes

#### Loneliness

Increasing cases of loneliness and isolation particularly older people (research suggests worse for your health than smoking 15 a day)

**1 in 4**

Approximately people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year

**1 in 5**

(at least) GP appointments are now made for non-medical issues (such as loneliness)



## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

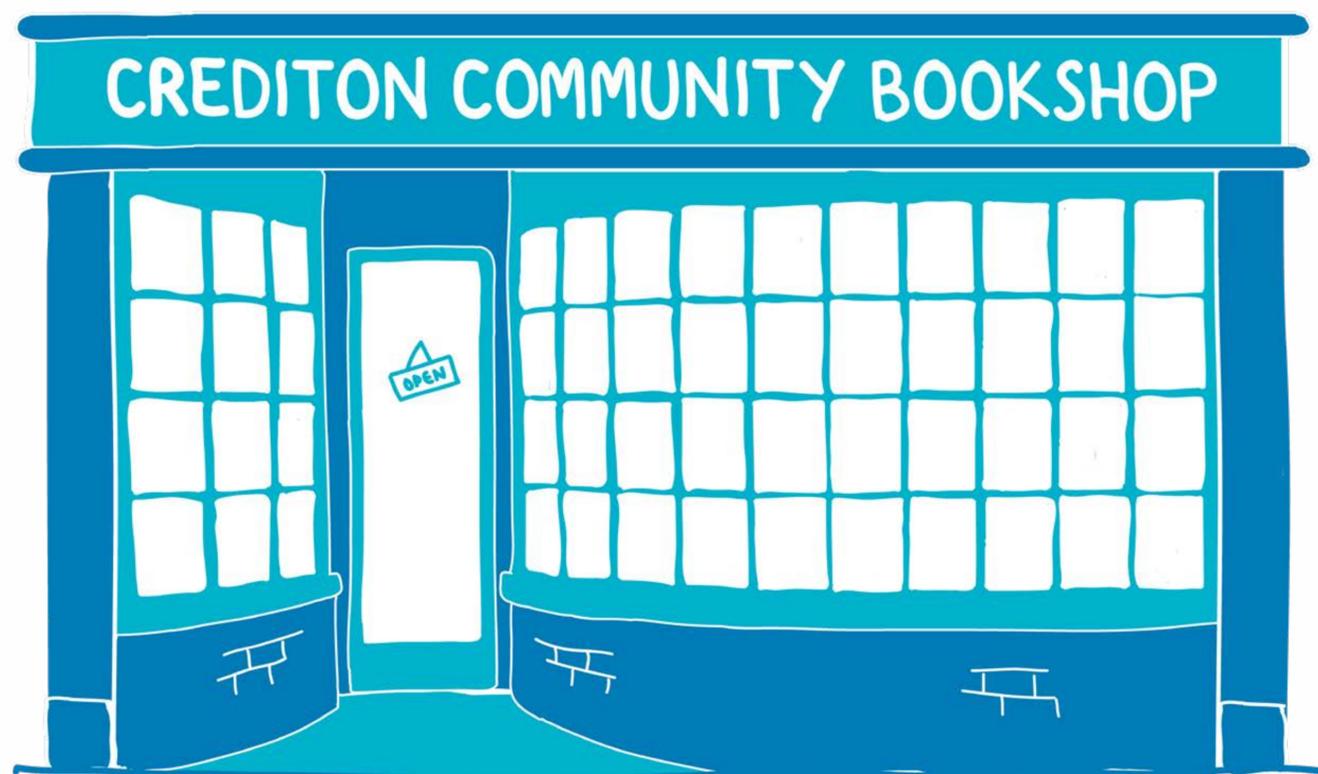
### YOUTH CAMP

Most of the visitors who stay overnight at Eden use the YHA Snoozeboxes, but in April 31 scouts aged 10-12 from four different local scout groups slept in the Rainforest Biome as part of our second youth camp experiment.

The camp was designed to allow young people to explore what community means to them on a personal, local and global level and featured a series of activities that challenged their creative, collaborative and leadership skills.

Our understanding of community affects every part of our lives but we rarely get a chance to explore what this means in-depth alongside our peers. We also know that the experiences that people have while young have a profound influence on the paths they take in later life. Our youth camp pilot programme explores our capacity to use the assets of our site and work with other organisations to create unique experiences for young people outside of their usual school and home-learning environments.





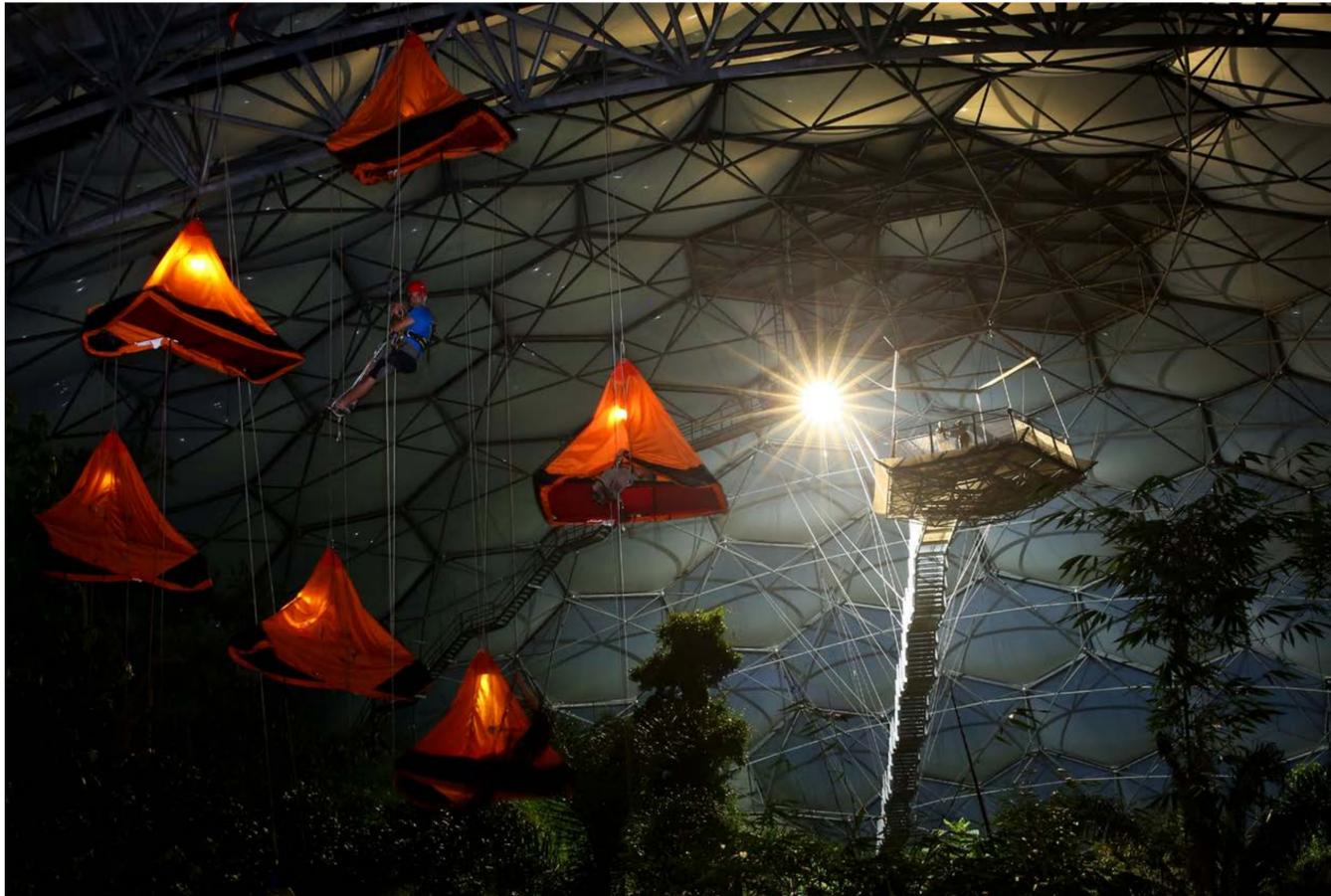
One of the graphics from the Community Business Weekend kit we created.

## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### COMMUNITY BUSINESS WEEKEND

There are over 7,000 community-owned businesses in England alone offering an incredible range of services to local people. Community-owned businesses can be real powerhouses for change, providing jobs and generating income that can be reinvested into other community projects. It's estimated that community businesses generate over a £1 billion a year. We've been running sessions on community-owned businesses at our Community Camps for several years now and we published *The Eden Field Guide to Community-owned assets and enterprises*. In 2017, Power to Change, a trust endowed by the Big Lottery Fund, asked the Eden Communities team to create a kit to help community businesses at all stages of development to engage with their local public. It was such a success that we've been asked to create another kit for next year's event as well.





Hanging out at the big canopy campout.

## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### EDEN – CORNWALL'S VILLAGE HALL

We're lucky - over a million people a year come to our visitor attraction in Cornwall, which makes it a great platform for our charitable mission. But our mission extends beyond projects and campaigns. We might be an increasingly international organisation, but our roots are here in Cornwall and we believe one of our key roles is to give other local organisations our support. We call it being 'Cornwall's village hall' and we provide space for other charities and community groups to raise awareness (and money) for their good causes.

#### Macmillan Christmas Fair

The Macmillan Christmas Fair takes place every November at Eden to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Eden waives its entry fee to all fair-goers, and funds collected from tickets for the fair itself go straight to Macmillan. The fair has raised over £600,000 for Cornwall's cancer patients since it began.

#### Sleep Out

Homelessness is a local issue that often gets overlooked - Cornwall has the third highest number of rough sleepers in the UK. Eden hosts a Cornish Sleep Out under the canopy of the Link Building for the benefit of local homeless charities as part of a wider national campaign now in its fourth year. Sleep Out 2017 raised £5,000 in sponsorship.

#### Big Canopy Campout

We also try and support organisations from outside of the county whose work we admire. In June we hosted a Big Canopy Campout on behalf of the World Land Trust to raise money to buy a piece of rainforest along the Kinabatangan River in North Borneo.





## EDEN PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

### MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDERS

Two-thirds of people in the UK have no one to speak to about personal problems and a quarter of people suffer from mental health issues each year. That's why Eden has appointed its first Mental Health First Aiders. Our eleven-strong team were trained as part of a national campaign led by MIND and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) to improve mental health in the workplace.





## EDEN PROJECT INTERNATIONAL

Eden Project International was formed as a separate company under the Eden Trust. It aims to deliver social and ecological benefits at a time of environmental decline and social disruption by working in partnership with like-minded organisations around the world. These new Edens will focus on the global challenges that face specific localities, such as soil, water, food and biodiversity. Eden Project International is currently working on projects in China, Australia and New Zealand with Grimshaw Architects, the original architects of the Eden Project. A new team has been formed at Eden to take these ideas forward.



Concept plan for Qingdao.

## EDEN PROJECTS INTERNATIONAL

### CURRENT PROJECTS

In February 2018, David Harland, Chief Executive of Eden Project International, signed a historic agreement setting out the terms of the development of the Eden Project in Qingdao. The agreement with China Jinmao Holdings was signed at the British Ambassador's Residence in Beijing and covers the design, construction and operation of the attraction. Eden will be a full partner in turning this currently damaged land into a viable visitor destination as it did with Bodelva almost 20 years ago.

Eden Qingdao will focus on one of the great global issues of our time - water, telling the stories of its abundance, scarcity, and quality in a unique, Eden way with a Chinese and global audience in mind. It will feature the world's largest indoor waterfall, roughly the height of Niagara Falls.

#### **New Zealand**

Eden is working with a local trust to develop plans for a social enterprise and attraction in the earthquake-damaged Red Zone. The project will explore stories of nature and culture, restoring native ecology along the iconic River Avon shoreline.

#### **Eden Project North**

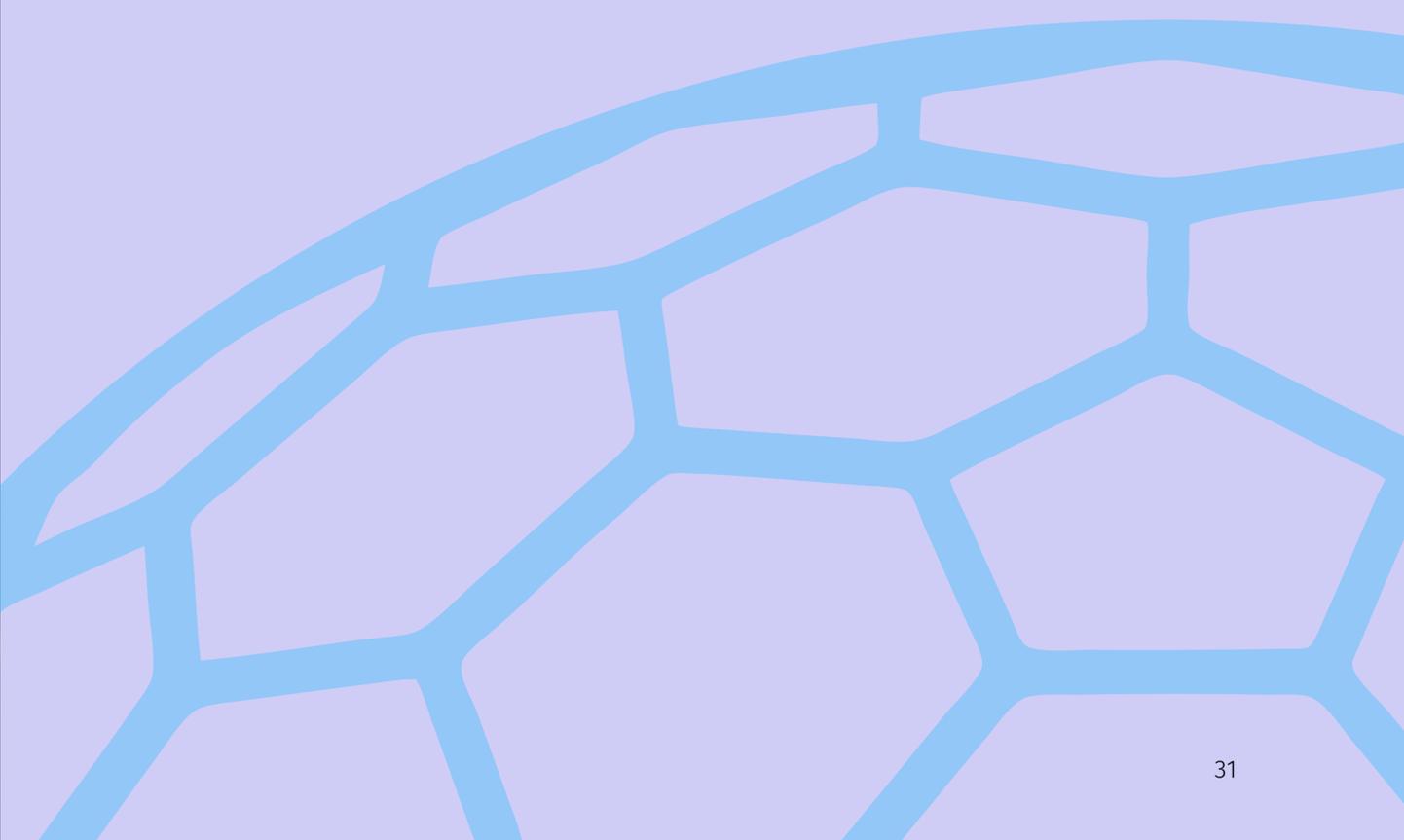
We have been approached to help rejuvenate the once-thriving seaside resort of Morecambe Bay. We aim to reimagine what a seaside destination can offer, creating a world-class tourist attraction that is completely in tune with its natural surroundings.





## EDUCATION

Education is at the heart of what we do at Eden. While much of it is delivered informally to our visitors, we have a thriving formal education programme that covers all ages, from preschool to postgraduate. We also run HotHouse, our residential courses for businesses.





One of our new teacher training sessions in the Eden Lab.

## EDUCATION

### EARLY YEARS, SCHOOLS, DEGREE COURSES AND BEYOND

Our Little Eden sessions continue to run year-round, now with the support of Nesta, which is funding free places for grandparent carers as part of the Deep Roots, New Shoots programme. Our schools programme has seen an increase in workshops and residential courses. In the autumn we delivered a continuing professional development course for Cornwall early years team and developed school grounds and outdoor spaces at ACE MAT schools Beacon and St Kew - the latter with Eden Project Learning students.

The Schools Team works collaboratively with other parts of the Eden Team, developing and delivering the second Youth Camp (see p.25 ) with the Eden Communities Team. We also work with external organisations; see Ghost Dances on p.9 for more information.

Future plans include the construction of a roundhouse at Little Carne Farm (where Little Eden sessions are delivered) to allow for further expansion in the summer term 2018.

Although aimed at people outside of formal education, the Gamechangers programme brings people who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) into the workplace through Eden experiences and volunteering placements.

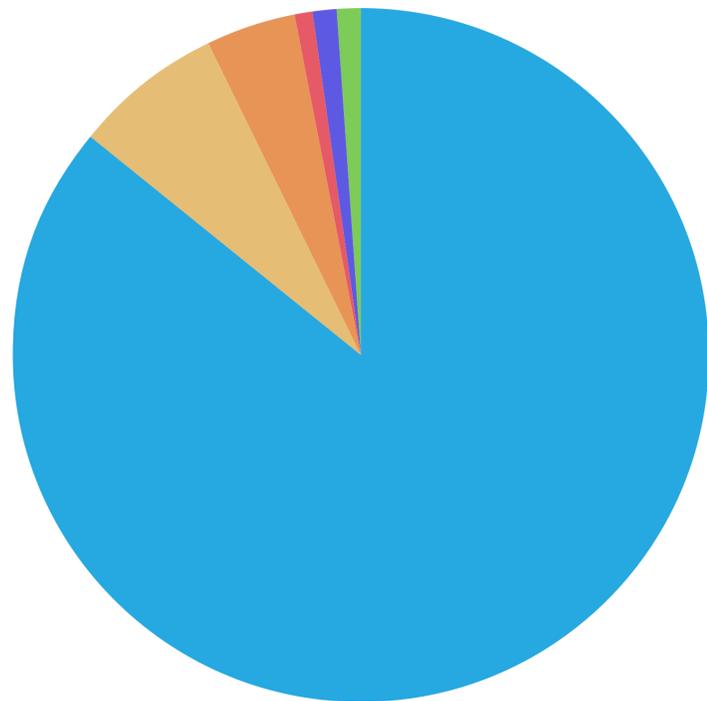
Our higher education programme is delivered in partnership with Cornwall College and the University of Plymouth. In 2017 we had 120 students enrolled on foundation and degree courses. We offer courses in Horticulture (including landscaping and plant science), Event Management and Renewable Energy as well as a new PGCE course. In 2018, our first cohort graduated from Eden.





# REGENERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is at the heart of what the Eden Project is all about and is a major part of the message it hopes to convey. At Eden, sustainability means regenerative sustainability; how we can generate more environmental, social and economic good. Not just minimizing harm, but making things better: whether it is transforming a worked-out quarry into a global garden, creating jobs in an area of economic deprivation, or improving the wellbeing of individuals by providing opportunities for them to connect with nature.



**What made up Eden's carbon footprint this year?**

- 86%** Energy for electricity, heating and cooking on gas
- 7%** Business travel (air and car)
- 4%** Fuel for Eden vehicles
- 1%** Refrigerants and catering gases
- 1%** Water
- 1%** Waste

**REGENERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY**

**SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING**

We are very pleased to report that carbon emissions went down by 27% when compared to our baseline year (2012/13) with an overall carbon footprint of 2,721 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e. This is due to a number of key operational changes and the hard work of our team to improve efficiencies. In addition, the Core building was closed to the public for refurbishment between September and May which contributed towards a reduction in energy use of 548 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e.

We also saw a significant reduction in staff travel as Eden Project International was incorporated as a limited company in June so will account for the carbon footprint of their travel separately from now on. We will continue to offset our own travel with Climate Care.

Wastewater reduced significantly due to improved maintenance in the plumbing system. We can also report a reduction of total waste by 16 tonnes, an increase in recycling of 67 tonnes and 100% of our food waste was composted.

Activity highlights of 2016/17 include embarking on a new relationship with Simply Cups, the UK's first dedicated paper cup collection and recycling service. We also took the first steps in our single-use plastic reduction plan by banning plastic straws in our cafés and restaurants and collaborating with Refill Cornwall to encourage our visitors to refill their own water bottles with free good-quality Cornish tap water.

All of our electricity is bought from Good Energy who supply energy from 100% renewable sources.

**100%**  
100% of our food waste is composted

**100%**  
100% of our electricity is from renewable sources

**66%**  
66% of the water we use at Eden is collected on site.



## REGENERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY

### COFFEE CAPSULES

Part of our mission is to make it easier for people to do the right thing rather than telling them they're doing the wrong thing, and we work with carefully selected partners to make that possible. We started working with Fresh Coffee in 2015 to offer sustainably produced coffee in sustainable packaging, offering a range of coffees certified FairTrade or Rainforest Alliance. Used coffee grounds fuel the coffee roaster, so creating a closed loop system. However, there's no escaping the fact that over 30% of people in the UK use coffee capsules. Although many producers have in-store recycling schemes it's estimated that the majority of 340 million capsules produced still go to landfill, where they take around 200 years to decompose. That's why we worked with our partners to produce a fully compostable coffee capsule. While most coffee capsules are made from aluminium and plastic, Eden Coffee Capsules are free from aluminium and oil-based plastics. Instead, they're made from biodegradable bioplastic that's manufactured using renewable energy and the packaging is printed with vegetable inks and 100% recyclable. The capsules are available from Waitrose and the Eden Shop. [edenproject.com/shop](https://edenproject.com/shop)





Eden's onsite recycleable coffee cups

## REGENERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY

### SIMPLY CUPS

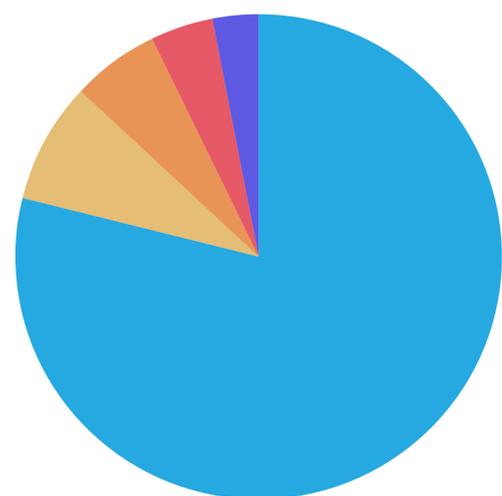
With over a million visitors a year, it's not surprising that Eden sells a lot of hot drinks. Most of them are served in crockery, but for those who want to wander we provided compostable paper cups - until we realised that they weren't easy to compost after all. The plastic lining that makes the cups able to hold liquid makes them hard to recycle, and only a few places in the UK have the specialist equipment. So we started looking for alternatives. In November, we switched to Simply Cups, a closed loop system. Cups are disposed of in special bins around Eden and collected by Simply Cups to be processed into its patented polymer which is turned into products for our gift shops by ashortwalk - a Cornish company that makes environmentally friendly products. For those who want a more permanent solution, we offer a discount on hot drinks to those who bring their own cups and sell a range of reusable cups on site, some of which are made from our visitors' recycled coffee cups.





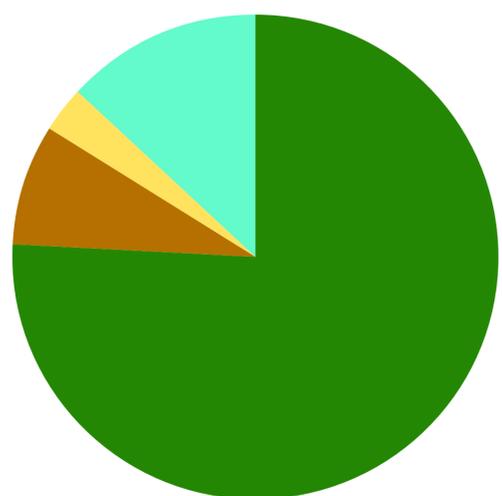
## FINANCIAL REPORTING

### Revenue



- **79%** Visitor related income
- **8%** Grants and donations
- **6%** Gift Aid
- **4%** International
- **3%** Other income

### Expenditure



- **76%** Eden onsite education
- **8%** Outreach projects
- **3%** International projects
- **13%** Governance and administration

Eden Project Group Accounts	Mar-17 Group Actual YTD £000s	Mar-16 Group Actual YTD £000s
Group Earnings before interest	1,805	1,885
(Reduction) / Increase in net current liabilities	(999)	796
Net Cash Inflow from Core Activities	806	2,681
Net Interest Paid	(445)	(506)
Net Investment in Fixed assets	(1,047)	(673)
Loan and Lease Advances	1,535	284
Loan and Lease Repayments	(1,067)	(1,662)
Net Cash (Outflow) / Inflow	(218)	124

## FINANCIAL REPORTING

It's been a good year for the Eden Project. We made a cash surplus from trading of more than £1.6 million in the last financial year. Turnover and visitor numbers also increased significantly during the period.

Annual accounts for 2016/17 show that the trading cash surplus of £1,653,000 was down on the previous year's figure of £1,823,000. However, it is the fourth successive year that Eden has recorded a significant profit.

2016 saw Eden making big investments in its staff and on improvements to the site. There have been increased costs meeting and exceeding the National Living Wage requirements by applying the rate to employees from age 21 rather than the mandatory 25.

Building on the success of the previous three years, turnover increased for the financial year by more than £1.8 million, mainly due to the increase in visitor numbers. For the first time since 2011, Eden welcomed more than a million visitors in a 12-month period and recorded our highest visitor numbers for December since opening.

Any surplus generated from the visitor destination and related income streams is used to support maintenance and investment on our site, educational programmes and financing costs. The surplus is not sufficient to cover all the costs, and like many charities we seek the support of Charitable Trusts, grants and donations to deliver new educational projects in the societal, health and science arenas.

Eden is grateful for the support of its funders (a full list of which can be found on p.45 of this document) which has enabled the creation of the Weather Maker in the Rainforest Biome, the development of Invisible Worlds and the continuing success of Eden's development and outreach projects (see p.18).

The full financial report can be found here:  
<https://beta.companieshouse.gov.uk/company/04487099>

'It has been another encouraging year, with good results in terms of our trading surplus, turnover and visitor numbers, all of which have helped us make significant investments in the team and our site.'

**Peter Wroe, Finance Director**

## REGENERATIVE SUSTAINABILITY

### CARBON FOOTPRINT EDEN PROJECT

	Source	2017/2018		2016/2017		Baseline year 2012/2013	
		Units	CO <sub>2</sub> e (t)	Units	CO <sub>2</sub> e (t)	Units	CO <sub>2</sub> e (t)
<b>Energy</b>	Electricity (kWh)	4125101.66	1450	4,316,637.0	1,778.7	4,764,421.0	2,191.7
	Gas (kWh)	4887536	900	5,180,820.6	953.3	5,671,168.0	1,050.4
	LPG (l)	128604	28	128,741.0	193.8	128,053.0	196.3
	Oil (l)	0	0	0	0	991.0	2.5
	Bottled Gas (catering LPG)(l)	2720	4	3,020.4	4.5	1,923.0	3.0
	Renewable generation (kWh)	20190.63	0	32,376.7	0	68,924.0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>			<b>2382</b>		<b>2,930.2</b>	
<b>Fuel for Eden vehicles</b>	Diesel (l)	6805.91	18	6,827.9	17.8	38,834.4	100.3
	Gas oil (red diesel) l	24285.9	72	30,974.0	91.9	0.0	-
	Petrol (l)	5498.72	12	6,883.9	15.1	9,171.4	20.1
	LPG (l)	7427	11	9,772.0	14.7	18,719.0	28.2
	<b>Total</b>		<b>44017.53</b>	<b>113</b>		<b>139.5</b>	
<b>Refrigerants and catering gases</b>	R134a (kg)	6.875	10	1.78	2.5	4.10	5.3
	R404a (kg)	2.27	9	8.23	32.3	3.80	12.4
	R417a (kg)	10	23	1.0	1.4	0.00	0.0
	R407c (kg)	0	-	0.85	1.5	-	-
	CO <sub>2</sub> (l)	185.805	-	1598.1	1.6	-	-
	R452a	0.2	0	-	-	-	-
	CO <sub>2</sub> (kg)	335.3	0	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>			<b>43</b>		<b>39.4</b>		<b>17.7</b>
<b>Business travel</b>	Car (km)	131135.9653	23	174,271.7	32.6	218,812.5	41.4
	Domestic flights (passenger km)	92964.038	25	123,036.0	34.3	84,804.5	24.9
	Short-haul flights (passenger km)	20108.164	3	20,941.0	3.5	10,851.5	1.8
	Long-haul flights (passenger km)	384343.086	76	576,607.0	110.5	177,655.0	37.3
	International flights (passenger km)	91268.532	16	340,931.0	61.0	-	-
	<b>Total</b>		<b>719819.7853</b>	<b>144</b>		<b>241.9</b>	
<b>Water</b>	Mains water supply (m <sup>3</sup> )	18209	6	11,137.9	3.8	13,393.0	4.6
	Water treatment (m <sup>3</sup> )	24948	18	54,615.5	38.7	25,127.0	17.8
	Rain & Ground water usage (m <sup>3</sup> )	6739	-	43,477.6	0	11,734.0	0.0
	<b>Total</b>			<b>24</b>		<b>42.5</b>	
<b>Waste</b>	Food - Aerobic/anaerobic digestion (tonnes)	50.3	1	65.0	1.4	5.7	0.0
	Food - Compost (tonnes)	35.8	0	-	-	-	-
	Recycled (tonnes)	227	5	159.1	3.3	206.4	4.5
	Energy recovery (tonnes)	93.4	2	180.9	3.8	0.0	0.0
	Clinical & Haz waste (tonnes)	6.4	0	5.5	0.1	10.1	4.0
	Landfill (tonnes)	36.786	7	55.3	11.0	161.1	45.1
	<b>Total</b>		<b>449.686</b>	<b>16</b>		<b>19.6</b>	
<b>Total (tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e)</b>			<b>2721</b>		<b>3,413.2</b>		<b>3,746.5</b>

The carbon emissions calculation for 2016/2017 are based on Defra 2016 greenhouse gas conversion factors. Well to tank emissions have been omitted for 2016/2017 reporting in line with The Planet Mark's Code of Practice. 2012/2013 is our baseline year against which we compare performance. With regard to flights, we have included figures from our travel partner Key Travel only.



## FUTURE PLANS





The proposed site is on the lefthand side of the photograph.

## FUTURE PLANS

### FOYLE RIVER GARDENS

For the past five years, Eden has been working with Foyle River Gardens, a local partnership in Derry-Londonderry, to explore ways of rejuvenating the historic riverside from Foyle Bridge towards Culmore Point. Foyle River Gardens will link the historic local estates of Boom Hall and Brook Hall, transforming them into a new cultural destination for the community which will create jobs and help drive social, economic and environmental regeneration. The project will open up 250 acres of previously inaccessible land to the public, providing recreational space, entertainment and learning. Eden and its partners have invited Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University to collaborate on the project.





## FUTURE PLANS

### **NATIONAL WILDFLOWER CENTRE**

The National Wildflower Centre (NWC) is set to become part of the Eden Project following the closure of its site at Knowsley in Liverpool in early 2017. A longstanding partner of the Eden Project, the NWC opened in 2000 as a Millennium Project. Operating as a charitable visitor attraction, education facility and venue it championed wildflowers in both rural and urban locations across the UK, working on projects such as the landmark Tale of Two Cities. This new phase is generously supported by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and will see the establishment of a new facility at Eden that includes seed cleaning and storage facilities, as well as new creative conservation projects that use wildflowers to bring biodiversity, delight and colour to the lives of communities.





# INVISIBLE WORLDS

∞ Blue creators Studio Swine.

## FUTURE PLANS

### INVISIBLE WORLDS

This year saw intensive preparation for the launch of Invisible Worlds. The Core building was closed for refurbishment in the autumn - nothing less than a reimagining of some of the spaces, creating a new laboratory, two play areas for different age groups and a new exhibition space to host a series of exhibitions over the coming years, starting with Bristol-based artist Luke Jerram's Glass Microbiology show. In December 2017, artists were invited to submit their concepts for the centrepiece of Invisible Worlds and the commission was awarded to Studio Swine for ∞ *Blue* (Infinity blue), a homage to the cyanobacteria that helped make life on Earth possible. Three further introductory exhibits were commissioned covering different aspects of Invisible Worlds - evolution, microbial life and Earth systems. Invisible Worlds will launch with a week of related activities in the May bank holiday half-term 2018.





Close up of *Dionysus* by Tim Shaw.

## FUTURE PLANS

### ARTS COUNCIL FUNDING

‘The tension at the heart of Eden comes from daring to give artists a voice, yet harnessing their work to our agenda,’ wrote Sir Tim Smit in 2001. That tension has produced some memorable pieces of art over the years, encompassing sculptures like Sue and Pete Hill’s *Eve* in her glade, bacchanalian rites in the Med Biome, and our visitors’ favourite, the driftwood horse by Heather Jansch, as well as more ephemeral collaborations. We’ve hosted residencies from a diverse range of artists including John Dyer and Amazonian Indian artist Nixiwaka Yawanawá, Linda Rutenberg and Angela Easterling, and inaugurated our own arts festival. Our approach has continued to evolve as we tackle more complex subjects. *Invisible You* used art as the medium for an exploration of microbial life in and on our bodies.

Now, art at Eden enters a new phase. We have been awarded £350,000 by the Arts Council to help transform our site into a hub for the arts in Mid- and East Cornwall. It will, in the words of Sir Tim, allow us to ‘explore, play, test and create interventions with emerging and established artists, road-tested by our visitors and staff; a Living Laboratory where art is a provocation, stimulating action and hope.’



## OUR FUNDERS

Albert Van den Bergh and Jane Hartley Fund

Arts Council A4E

Association of Science and Discovery Centres

The Big Lottery Fund (Big Local)

The Big Lottery Fund (The Big Lunch Programme)

Cabinet Office

Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

Dr Mortimer and Theresa Sackler Foundation

Esmée Fairbairn

European Social Fund (Living Well)

European Social Fund and The Big Lottery Fund (Building Better Opportunities)

Good Energy

Innovate UK

Nesta

The Pears Foundation

The Prince of Wales's Charitable Foundation

Power to Change - Peer Network Grant

Pukka Herbs

Renault

St Austell Brewery

University of Exeter

The Wellcome Trust

Western Australia Tourism

William Grant

The Wolfson Foundation

Woodford Investment Management (Neil Woodford and Craig Newman)

### Gifts in wills

Mr Keith Osborne

Mr Roy Brewster

# THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

## **TRUSTEES**

Edward Benthall, Chairman of the Eden Trust

Jonathan Drori

Lucy Parker

Penny Parker

Richard Reid

Sir Ferrers Vyvyan

Geoffrey Austin (appointed June 2017)

Professor Adam Beaumont (appointed June 2017)

Kevin Havelock (appointed June 2017)

Sir Ghillean Prance (resigned December 2017)

Dame Georgina Mace (appointed January 2018)

## **THE EDEN PROJECT LIMITED BOARD.**

Eden Project Limited is managed by a Board of Executive and Non-executive Directors.

## **NON-EXECUTIVE CHAIR**

Judith Donovan CBE

## **DIRECTORS**

Sir Tim Smit KBE, Executive Vice Chair of EPL

Gordon Seabright, CEO of EPL

Mike Maunder, board director of EPL

Peter Stewart MVO, board director of EPL

Peter Wroe, board director of EPL

David Harland, board director of EPL (resigned January 2018)

Angela Marshall, non-executive board director of EPL

Caroline White, non-executive board director of EPL

Lucy Edge, non-executive board director of EPL

Andrew Walmsley, non-executive board director of EPL (resigned December 2017)

Andrew Peters, non-executive board director of EPL (resigned March 2018)

## **EDEN PROJECT INTERNATIONAL LTD**

Eden Project International Ltd (EPIL) is an entity formed as part of the Eden Trust, created to drive the establishment of Edens around the world.

## **THE EDEN PROJECT INTERNATIONAL LTD BOARD**

Chairman Sir Tim Smit KBE - Executive Co-Chair of EPIL

Geoffrey Wilkinson - Non-Executive Co-Chair of EPIL

## **DIRECTORS**

David Harland - CEO of EPIL

Keric Morris, non-executive board director of EPIL

Helen Owers, non-executive board director of EPIL

Gordon Seabright, board director (resigned Jan 2018)

Mike Maunder, board director (resigned April 2018)

# TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS



# IN MEMORIAM

**LADY MARY HOLBOROW 1936–2017**