

Low Carbon Lake District Grants Scheme: Case Study

Hawkshead Relish

The Challenge:

Established more than 20 years ago by Mark and Maria Whitehead, Hawkshead Relish is an artisan producer of award-winning relishes, pickles and preserves. The company employs a 30-strong team in the Lake District and produces around 100 products.

Based in the historic village of Hawkshead, their three-storey 18th century shop hadn't had any substantial spend for many years. However, the owners have embarked on a £150k project to refurbish an historic building in a sustainable way which addresses the key challenges of keeping water out and keeping heat in.



The Solution:

Hawkshead Relish secured almost £13,700 from the Lake District Low Carbon Grants Scheme to help insulate the shop's roof, walls and floor. That included funding for the insulation of on-site staff accommodation.

Co-owner of Hawkshead Relish, Maria Whitehead, says, "We already had a major project in the pipeline for the shop and knew that the tiles and trusses needed to come off the roof. So, it was more logical – and cost-effective – to overhaul the entire building at the same time, insulating the new roof and fully insulating the walls over all three floors.

"These measures also go hand-in-hand with separate steps to install a new boiler system. Taken together, the changes mean we are futureproofing this historic building for years to come and of course, it makes both smart commercial and environmental sense to optimise long-term energy efficiency wherever we can."

The Results:

According to the CAfS (Cumbria Action for Sustainability) energy saving calculator, the measures Hawkshead Relish is introducing will save 2.2 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year.

Maria adds, *“Our ethos centres around high quality local produce and enabling our business to thrive and grow in a sustainable way. Every time we have the opportunity, we revisit the fundamentals of how we can make positive environmental choices which reduce costs at the same time. The Grants Scheme gave us further momentum to add value to the work we already had planned.*

“The process of researching the project and applying for the grant was also very useful. For instance, being able to quantify our carbon saving is invaluable information. Our research has even led us to other ideas and solutions which we can use to help futureproof the business further down the line.”

Round 3 will open for registrations in March 2022. [Find out more about the Low Carbon Lake District Grants Scheme here](#)

Thanks to support from the European Regional Development Fund, the Lake District Foundation is able to offer grants to community groups and small to medium sized businesses based in Cumbria wishing to reduce their Carbon Footprint.

Qualifying groups and businesses will be awarded up to 60% of project costs, and all projects will need to be completed by March 2023. State Aid Rules will apply.

The total size of the grant pot is £600,000 and applications will be reviewed by an independent expert panel. Funding is available to organisations from a range of sectors.

The [Low Carbon Lake District](#) initiative is a comprehensive programme to help tackle climate change in the National Park, working in partnership with local businesses and communities to reduce greenhouse gases and prepare for the impacts of climate change. Led by the **Lake District National Park Authority**, other key partners include the **Lake District Foundation**, the **National Trust**, **South Lakeland District Council** and **Cumbria Tourism**.

Low Carbon Lake District has received funding from the England European Structural and Investment Funds Growth Programme 2014-2020. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and the Department for Work and Pensions (and in London the intermediate body Greater London Authority) are the Managing Authorities for European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund funding through the Growth Programme, funds established by the European Union to help local areas stimulate their economic development. By investing in projects the funds will help to support innovation, businesses, skills and employment to improve local growth and create jobs. For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/europeangrowth-funding>.

The Northern Powerhouse is a key aspect of this Government's approach to addressing the productivity gap in the North and ensuring a stronger, more sustainable economy for all parts of the UK. Alongside over €1.5 billion of European Regional Development Fund support for businesses and communities across the North, the government has awarded £3.4 billion in three rounds of Growth Deals across the Northern Powerhouse.