

Sturts Community Trust

Community Grant Programme



Sturts Community Trust is a social enterprise in Dorset, promoting sustainability through farming, housing and support of adults with learning disabilities.

Organisation: Sturts Community Trust

Project: Polyunnel Growing Together initiative.

Beneficiaries:

In relation to the people they support: 55 to 60

They were also able to carry out farm and community days which were free to attend with over 500 visitors including people aged over 65 and children/adults under 21.

Location: Dorset

Region: South West

Impact: Mannington to Nursling project which refurbished a 40km/25 mile stretch of overhead power line between Nursling and Mannington substations.

£10,000

Awarded to support the Polyunnel Growing Together initiative.

For further information please visit:

www.nationalgrid.com/responsibility/community/community-grant-programme

Community Helpline
0800 279 3408

In June 2023, Sturts Community Trust was awarded a grant of £10,000 to support their Polyunnel Growing Together initiative.

The project involved the installation of new polytunnels to enhance sustainable farming practices and foster community engagement, with the goal of increasing the production of biodynamic and organic vegetables.

Beyond its agricultural use, the polytunnels also served as a hub for educational programmes and workshops, connecting local community groups and schools to the benefits of organic farming. Additionally, it benefitted the adults Sturts Community Trust support with enriched hands-on farming experiences.

The Farm Open Day at Struts Farm was a key highlight, drawing hundreds of attendees from both the local and broader communities.

During the event, 400 participants including children and families, engaged in sowing seeds, effectively initiating the growing season with a strong sense of community and an emphasis on sustainable agriculture.

According to Sturts Community Trust, the project also strengthened their partnerships with local schools beyond what they had envisioned.

The enthusiasm from both students and teachers led to the addition of a new weekly programme with another local school, providing even more opportunities for interactive education.

The project provided a space for learning new skills, inspiring passion and a sense of accomplishment in growing fresh produce, while also contributing to the community.