

GLIMPSES OF A DIFFERENT WORLD

Changing our vision for the economy might seem like a distant dream or wishful thinking. However, across the UK and further afield, projects are exploring and modelling alternative approaches. They offer tangible examples of where we might begin.

Each project seeks to realise a vision of flourishing for the individuals and communities involved and for the environment. They do so by aligning their objectives to values which enable fullness of life for people and for the planet. Financial sustainability sits alongside other measures of progress.

Pecan Social Supermarket

Pecan Local Pantry in Peckham is a membership scheme, helping members' money go further. For £4.50 a week, members are able to buy up to £15 worth of goods in the local pantry – from fresh fruit and veg to store cupboard favourites. In doing so, the project seeks to reduce shopping bills whilst creating a network for advice. By charging a membership fee, the project enables greater member ownership, and creates a network between those with different incomes and access needs.

Textile Re-use in Asia

The fair trade charity Traidcraft Exchange has been running a project in Bangladesh assisting local businesses who take discarded scrap fabrics from mainstream clothing factories, and turn them into recycled garments. These clothes can then be sold in the local economy and in neighbouring countries. This has both reduced the environmental impact of the local clothing industry, and created a route out of poverty for many of the workers who make the recycled clothes.

Granton Goes Greener

At Granton Parish Church in Edinburgh, the church hall plays host to a 'Swap Shop' three times a week. People bring clothes they no longer need, and swap them for something new. Once a week the community also shares in left-over food from local businesses. Since opening in 2018, the project has also developed free sewing classes, and organised bike rides and bike repair workshops.

The project primarily seeks to reduce waste and offer space to explore ways of reducing the environmental impact of the community. In doing so, it has also enabled community to be built across different generations and cultures, and nurtured wellbeing.

