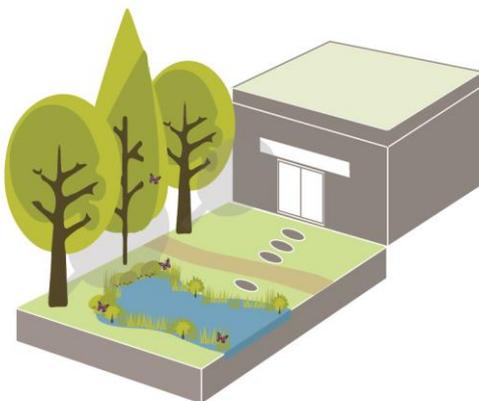


# Case studies on financing parks

## The IGNITION project

### How are parks traditionally financed?

Public parks are central to the lives of most communities and are usually owned and managed by local authorities. Park management and maintenance is funded by local authority core budgets. However, drastic and continual budget cuts are affecting local authorities ability to manage high-quality green space. The management and improved environmental functionality of parks will become increasingly important in coming years due to increased pressures from climate change and the need to super-charge our green spaces to help us to cope with increased flooding and heat stress in urban areas.



Urban Green space



### The IGNITION Nature-Based Solutions Evidence Base

The IGNITION project collated over 1,000 evidence items on nature-based solutions over 12 benefit areas. This research found that parks on average can provide:



**50%** of park visitors visit a local business before or after their visit



**30%** annual rainfall is retained



**85%** reduction in all water pollutants



**10%** increase in property value when close to a park



**6kg** soil carbon storage per m<sup>2</sup>



**10%** PM10 air pollutant removed 50metres inside park



provides a connection with nature which is hugely evidenced to increase health and wellbeing



## Parks renewable power - A case study from Salford City Council

*Current concept stage: Design and analysis*

**Investors: Salford City Council and [Renewable Heat Incentive](#) (due to end in March 2021)**

**Managed by: Salford City Council**

Greenspaces and parks can be prime spaces for green energy infrastructure for two key reasons:

- Their resources - Most greenspaces are optimal because of their land, water and wind resources, which can generate different forms of energy.
- Their location - Many greenspaces and parks are in close proximity to other public spaces with high heat and electricity demands (e.g. leisure centres and schools), which can make them ideal candidates for hosting local energy systems.

Renewable energy in parks, such as heat pumps, has the potential to generate a long-term income stream to sustain ongoing investment in other areas of greenspace management.

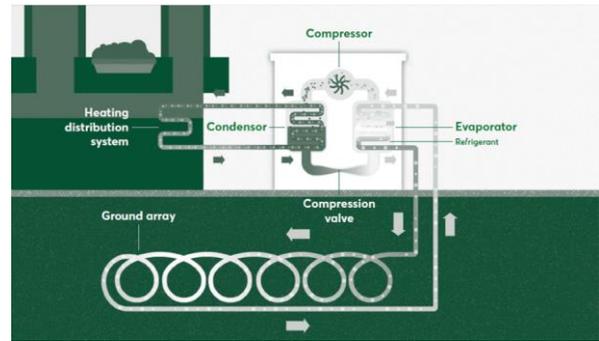


Image: Nesta – [Harnessing Renewable Energy in Parks](#)

Salford City Council identified two parks with buildings that are well used, with dated electric storage heaters and no gas supply.

Ground-source heat pumps (GSHP) and air-source heat pumps (ASHP) were analysed for these sites.

### **CAPEX (Provided by Procure Plus)**

#### **Clifton Country Park Visitor Centre:**

- ASHP install costs: £35,000 to £45,000
- GSHP install costs: £70,000 to £90,000

#### **Blackleach Country Park Visitor Centre:**

- ASHP install costs: £18,000 to £22,000
- GSHP install costs: £40,000 to £50,000

### **Total / average annual cashable benefit ([RHI payments](#) and bill saving on heating) over 20 years (Provided by Procure Plus).**

#### **Clifton Country Park Visitor Centre:**

- ASHP SCOP 3.2: £60,678.20 / £3,033.91
- GSHP SCOP 3.5: £137,324.00 / £6,866.20

#### **Blackleach Country Park Visitor Centre:**

- ASHP SCOP 3.2: £36,560.40 / £1,828.02
- GSHP SCOP 3.5: £63,914.00 / £3,195.70

## Quantifying and collating the benefits

### Carbon reduction:



#### Clifton Country Park Visitor Centre:

*Current emissions: 22,543kWh @  
136g/kWh = 30.66t*

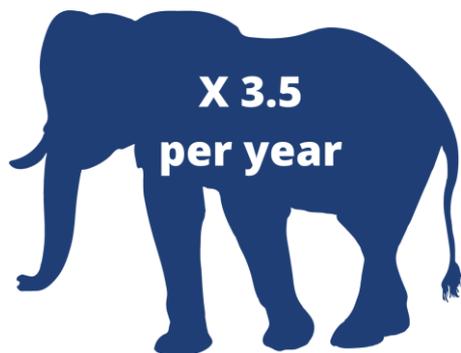
**21.08 tonnes annual saving**

(ASHP: 7,045 kWh)

**22 tonnes annual saving**

(GSHP: 6,441 kWh)

**This is the equivalent weight on three  
and a half elephants of carbon per year!**



### Carbon reduction:



#### Blackleach Country Park Visitor Centre:

*Current emissions 13,251kWh @  
136g/kWh (as per SAP 10.1) = 18t*

**12.4 tonnes annual saving**

(ASHP: 4,140 kWh)

**12.85 tonnes annual saving**

(GSHP: 3,786 kWh)

**This is the equivalent weight of seven  
cars-worth of carbon per year!**



Due to a funding change from the Renewable Heat Incentives scheme to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the project is now being delivered as an air-source heat pump; however, the above benefits would still apply if the renewable heat incentive has been utilised.