



FACTSHEET



The History of Community Land Trusts . A worldwide movement.

The community land trust movement is a young and rapidly growing movement in England and Wales, where there are now over 500 CLT groups, and the use of CLTs has started to spread across the whole country. There are currently 1,100 homes completed with 7,100 more in the pipeline. From Cornwall to Northumberland the successful projects are showing the way for more and more communities to set up their own.

However, CLTs are not an altogether new and unfamiliar concept. There is a long history of community ownership and management of land and housing in this country. For example, the original Garden Cities had a community trust that owned and managed the assets on behalf of the community, and some still do.

The CLT model itself is an import from the [United States](#), where CLTs are widely recognised as a common method of delivering permanently affordable housing. There are over 240 CLTs in the United States and the largest CLT, Champlain Housing Trust in Burlington, Vermont, owns over 3,000 homes and over 130,000 square feet of commercial and community facilities.

The first CLT, New Communities Inc, was created in 1969. However, it wasn't until the 1990s that the CLT movement really started to flourish in the USA, thanks to a favourable policy and funding environment and a lot of shared learning amongst the CLTs. CLTs are now a commonly known delivery model for providing permanent affordable housing.

In the early 2000s in England, the CLT movement in the US served as an inspiration for a number of academics and housing and community development professionals. In 2006 to 2008, a National CLT Demonstration programme, led by Community Finance Solutions, with support from Carnegie UK Trust and Tudor Trust, supported a number of pilot projects. In 2010 the Community Land Trust Network (then called the National CLT Network) was established to support the growing CLT movement and advocate on behalf of CLTs. There are now over 500 CLTs and the use of CLTs has started to spread to all parts of England and Wales. The Community Land Trust Network launched as an independent charity in June 2014.

The UK government started to encourage the sector with the Community Housing Fund providing grants to projects, and enabling the creation of specialist support hubs. Although this fund has currently expired, we are hoping this will be renewed at the end of March 2022.

There is also a CLT movement in several European countries.

Source: The Community Land Trust Network www.communitylandtrusts.org.uk