

GreenAssist Project Launched

Thanks to funding from the Big Lottery, da21 has launched an exciting new project called GreenAssist. The aim is to help community-based groups across Dorset to address sustainability and environmental issues.

Two part-time GreenAssist sustainability officers, Paul McIntosh and Susan Anders will be on hand, with Trustee Andrew Barker managing the project.

GreenAssist is working with community groups in two ways: firstly supporting green groups who work on environmental issues, in order to help to them carry out their work more effectively, and secondly advising other community-based groups who would like to address sustainability issues and become a little greener.

Support for Green Groups

GreenAssist has a vital role in providing support to community-based 'green' groups, like the many Transition Town movements which are springing up across Dorset, but also many other groups, some new but many long-established, which address a wide range of issues connected with the environment.

Groups could be working on anything – specific topics such as recycling and waste reduction; growing veg and running allotments; encouraging more sustainable transport; maintaining local green spaces and nature reserves; promoting energy efficiency and renewable sources; conserving wildlife and natural heritage; or they may be acting as watchdogs on all environmental issues in their locality.

Many of these groups may be addressing climate change while others may have more traditional environmental interests, but whatever they are working on, GreenAssist can offer support to make this work as effective as possible. (contd. page 2)



Dorset Transition Gathering

GreenAssist is already helping Dorset's many Transition Town groups by organising a major networking event for Transition Towns, in response to a request from the groups.

The Dorset Transition Gathering will be held in Dorchester on 13 March 2010, and will enable all the groups to share their experiences and successes and discuss ideas to strengthen their future work. It promises to be a very lively and uplifting event!

Each Transition Group is being allocated places, so if you would like to attend you need to contact your local Transition Town Group.

For queries and more information contact Susan Anders susan@da21.org.uk or Paul McIntosh paul@da21.org.uk. Thanks to the co-operative group for supporting this event.

da21 is now on twitter and facebook! See our website for more info and to stay in touch with sustainability in Dorset online.



NEWS
from da21
winter/spring
2010
ISSUE 36



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climate-friendly
and sustainable
communities in
Dorset**

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www.da21.org.uk

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Green Assist Project contd...

The actual support for green groups will vary according to their needs. For example, where to seek funding for a specific project. Or perhaps they're not sure how to develop a constitution (which many funders require before they will consider applications). Maybe a group would like to borrow some equipment for an event, or wants to find someone with a particular skill.

Whatever a green group needs, GreenAssist is here to help – and if we don't have the answer, we'll look for someone who does! We'll also put groups in touch with others tackling similar issues, and organise networking events, so that they can learn from the experiences of other groups and look at ways of sharing skills and resources to strengthen their work.

At da21 we already have a lot of green groups on our database, but we are aware that there must be many others around Dorset that we have not yet heard about. Small local groups and recent start-ups may not have made it onto our radar yet! So if you are part of a community group that has a role connected with any aspect of the environment or sustainability issues, do please get in touch. We would love to hear about the work you are doing, or would like to do, and talk about your needs and how we can help.

Help for Community Groups

Dorset has a large number of community-based groups, big and small, working on a wide range of local issues. Just like many individuals, community groups are starting to think about how to help combat climate change and work in a more sustainable way, but many may feel they do not yet understand the issues well enough, or are confused by the variety of messages in the media. And of course many community groups, no matter how much they may care about climate change and the environment, are simply too busy doing their own vital work to find even more time to think about sustainability. Now they can turn to da21's GreenAssist project for advice.

The steps they can take depend on each group's own situation. For instance, a community group running a village hall or other building could look at improving insulation or adjusting the heating system, to use energy more efficiently (and save money!). Many other community groups do not own the premises they use, which limits the type of changes they can make, but there are still lots of things they can do.



free energy training

Twenty five representatives from Dorset community groups recently attended a one-day "Green Communities" training seminar at the Dorford Centre, Dorchester. The trainer, Louise Rutterford, from the Energy Savings Trust said, "I provide this training all over the UK and the response from Dorset has been fantastic. All 25 places were booked within the first week of the training being advertised by da21. As far as I am aware, this is a record response." Delegates in particular were excited by the opportunities being opened up by the feed in tariff being introduced in April. A Dorset wide-conference is being organised for Sat 17th April, as well as another training event in March see <http://dorsetenergyaudit.eventbrite.com/> for more information.

Contact Green Assist

So, if you are a member of a group who would like to be better informed about climate change and other aspects of sustainability, or want to know how to make your group's activities a little greener, please get in touch with Susan Anders susan@da21.org.uk or Paul McIntosh paul@da21.org.uk or phone 01305 213721.

All groups use materials of some kind – stationery and other consumables – plus occasional equipment purchases, so they could look at more sustainable types and sources. Recycling is important too, and it's possible to recycle a whole variety of stuff, not just paper and glass. Transport is responsible for a large proportion of our carbon footprint, and there are several ways a community group might incorporate greener transport principles. Many groups provide catering for meetings and events, so looking at food choices and sources can make a difference.

GreenAssist can help a community group look at every aspect of its activities and suggest ideas to make their work a little greener, and maybe identify sources of funding or technical advice. We can show a group some options, and then they can decide which ones might suit them. Some groups may feel they first need to be better informed about climate change before thinking about changes. Green Assist can help here too, by clarifying facts, decoding jargon and explaining some of the complexities. Sustainability is a huge field, and not without controversy, but GreenAssist can answer many questions a group may have and recommend reliable sources of information for those who would like to know more details.

A Green Map for North Dorset

North Dorset was chosen as one of only two places in England to develop a new 'green map' of action by local communities to tackle climate change. The map is an 'on-line' internet resource that will help anyone interested find out what is going on in their area and how they can get involved.

A workshop meeting was held at the Sturminster Newton on October attended by community groups and officers of North Dorset District Council. The map is being developed by da21 and NDDC in association with



Louise Francis from Mapping for Change and Tom Read from Transition Town Sturminster



two national organisations, the Green Alliance and London based social enterprise 'Mapping for Change'.

Any organisation which would like to be entered onto the map, or if you would like to

know more about the project, then please contact the office. To view the map online go to <http://bit.ly/6UqPnW>

Climate-proof Tourism

Do you run a tourism-related business in Dorset?

There's a new on-line tool to help you prepare for the effects of climate change. 'Preparing for Change' is an interactive toolkit that provides information on the potential impacts of climate change on tourism businesses – what can be done to maximise opportunities as well as minimise risks, with links to relevant information and support.

Case studies, top tips and an interactive checklist enable users to create their own action plan.

www.climateprepared.com

Offshore Wind

The Crown Estate announced (8 January 2010) the successful bidders for each of the nine Round 3 offshore wind zones within UK waters. Round 3 offshore wind energy generation aims to deliver a quarter of the UK's total electricity needs by 2020. The developers for the West of Isle of Wight Zone which includes an area of Dorset are Eneco New Energy. More information about Eneco can be found at:

<https://corporateuk.eneco.nl/Pages/Default.aspx>

Eneco currently believes that around 30 per cent of the West of Isle of Wight zone could be developed, providing approximately 900 MW of capacity.

More information on round 3 can be found at:

<http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/newscontent/round3>

View the Press release in full at:

<http://www.thecrownestate.co.uk/newscontent/92-r3-developers.htmear>

Meanwhile back on land, as we came to press news reached us that the Silton Wind Farm proposal in Purbeck has been resubmitted and will be heard in March. More information www.yestowind.org.uk

Cycle route consultation

Dorset County Council is drafting a Cycling Strategy in conjunction with the boroughs of Bournemouth and Poole which will set the future direction for cycling in Dorset. An important part of this Cycling Strategy is to define a county-wide cycle network and delivery plan.

The council is asking the community to inform it of any cycle route aspirations. They have developed an online interactive route mapping tool, available at:

www.dorsetforyou.com/haveyoursaycyclenetwork.

Support Maiden Newton to Bridport Trailway

Want to win a £2000 handmade bike, or £2000 in cash? Then enter the Maiden Newton to Bridport Trailway Raffle. Tickets cost just £2 each, and every penny goes towards the long-term project of a building a 10-mile traffic-free Sustrans path along the route of the disused Bridport railway. Runners-up prizes include vouchers of up to £500 to spend at local cycle shops. Great prizes for a great project that will encourage sustainable transport in Dorset.

Buy tickets: www.justgiving.com/MaidenNewtonBridport

Allotment Help

Bridport and District Allotments Society are thinking of running short beginners' classes in growing vegetables etc, and need some experienced growers for trial Saturday sessions of about half an hour. If you would like to volunteer your skills please contact Colin Sparkes on 01308 456 479.

West Dorset Partnership Plan

After a series of workshop sessions held last summer with local groups to inform the revised community plan, the draft Community Plan 2010-26 is now out for public consultation until 12 April 2010. The draft can be viewed on www.dorsetforyou.com/communityplan/west.



da21 news and contacts

New newsletter editor opportunity

da21 needs an editor for our newsletter. You'll be responsible for four issues a year, gathering sustainability stories and news that affect Dorset in particular, but with an eye on national and international issues as well. If you're interested in taking on this voluntary post, please contact the office.

Trustees required

da21 is dependant on the hard work and involvement of its Trustees, to find out more about this interesting and rewording work please contact the office.

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susan@da21.org.uk
Paul McIntosh
paul@da21.org.uk

Amanda Brown
Special Projects Manager
amanda@da21.org.uk

Andrew Barker
Manager - GreenAssist project
andrew@da21.org.uk

Perwina Whitmore
Chair of Trustees
perwina@da21.org.uk

For further information about da21 please view the website www.da21.org.uk or contact the office
Post: P O Box 5789,
Dorchester DT2 8ZR.
Email: office@da21.org.uk
Tel: **01305 213721.**

Huge thank you to everyone for their contributions and please keep them coming - Peter - editor

newsletter@da21.org.uk

Get involved locally via the Dorset Sustainable Events Calender! www.da21.org.uk/events.html

Funding Round-up

Co-operative Grants

Running or involved with a Transition Group? The Co-operative is handing out small grants to help groups get started in the South-West call 01884 266892 or visit www.co-operative.coop Transition Sherborne has just been awarded one of these grants.

Green Energy Trust

Grants of up to £25,000 are available for renewable energy projects. Local community groups, not-for-profit organisations and charities can apply for the funding.
www.scottishpowergreentrust.co.uk

Wessex Water

The giant water supplier is offering to support community and voluntary projects that will directly benefit the environment in the Wessex Water Region. www.wessexwater.co.uk/watermark

Grants for bio-energy boilers

Grants of up to 40% of the extra cost of a biomass boiler and a fossil fuel alternative are on offer for community groups. Groups investing in biomass-fuelled heat and/or combined heat and power projects can apply for grants from Round 6 of the Bio-energy Capital Grants scheme (England only).
<http://www.bioenergycapitalgrants.org.uk>

E.ON Sustainable Energy Fund re-opened

After securing funding for 2010, the E-ON Sustainable Energy Fund is now open to receive new applications. The deadlines in 2010 to receive new applications are Friday 2 April and Friday 8 October.

The fund supports the development of efficient and sustainable energy measures for community organisations and is made up of two parts - a web resource and access to grant funding.

The fund is available to community groups, charities and not for profit organisations across England, Scotland and Wales and they invite applications for grants of up to £20,000. Examples of the types of organisations that have been granted funds in the past include schools, local and national charities, and special education colleges.

For more information visit their website:

www.eon-uk.com/about/sustainableenergyfund.aspx or email: sustainableenergyfund@eon-uk.com

New Funding Programme Launched by OMNI - Empower Community

This is a funding opportunity designed to provide communities (in the UK) with access to capital to undertake renewable energy projects and energy efficiency programmes while providing an investment opportunity with attractive returns. Designed by OMNI, a social enterprise focused on sustainable development, along with a range of organisations and individuals. For details, visit:

http://the-omni-group.net/index.php?id=empower%20community&menu=rm_empower&page=empower%20community

Rural Development Programme for England Social Enterprise Fund

Applications are invited from a new fund for community and social enterprise under the Rural Development Programme for England to support projects from community and social enterprises for the improved delivery of, and access to, basic services.

Grants can be used for;
the creation or development of community and social enterprises
the development of community buildings

Info on: <http://www.sw-ruralgateway.info/getting/social-enterprise-1.shtm>

More funding sources available on the DCA website www.dorsetcommunityaction.org.uk and in the funding section of the da21 website

New tariff scheme to encourage the growth of renewables.

The Department for Energy and Climate Change have announced a new tariff scheme to encourage the growth of small scale renewables in the UK. Households and communities who install generating technologies such as small wind turbines and solar panels will from April be entitled to claim payments for the electricity they produce. A comprehensive guide is available on regenSWs website

http://www.regensw.co.uk/downloads/RegenSW_424.doc

More details are available by contacting the office.

Events Calender & Directory of Dorset Communities in Acton

More events to view online
<http://www.da21.org.uk/events.html>

March 2010

Green Drinks - Transition Town Dorchester

Tue, 2 March, 19:30 – 23:00
Tom Brown's Public House, 47 High East Street, Dorchester, DT1 1HU
Informal social gathering for anyone interested in 'green' issues. Meet other like minded local people. Free.

Environment and Conservation Volunteering Conference -

Dorchester
Wed, 3 March, 10:00 – 15:00
Dorford Centre, Bridport Road, Developing environmental volunteering in the South West region
Cascading Project Event in Dorset More information contact j.hart@volunteeringdorset.org.uk Tel. 01305 269214.

A Farm for the Future: Film Showing: Transition Sherborne Area

Wed, 3 March, 19:00 – 21:00
Cheap Street Church Hall, Sherborne, DT9 3BJ
Continuing a series of themed events, Transition Sherborne Area will be showing A Farm for the Future and other short films that explore the issues surrounding Oil Scarcity (Peak Oil) and Food Production.

FREE - Social Enterprise Workshop - Governance and Legal Structures:

Thu, 4 March, 10:00 – 15:00
Dorchester
Need to develop a trading arm? Move from unincorporated status to that of a Company? Select the right legal structure for tax and governance purposes? Contact: Marie White Co-active Ltd Tel: 01752 - 500888 ext 230

Monkton Organic Gardening Group - Charmouth

Thu, 4 March, 10:00 – 13:00
Monkton Wyld Court, Charmouth
Every Thursday at Monkton Wyld Court. Everybody's welcome: all levels of experience. Join us in our Victorian walled kitchen garden to share skills, and enjoy the benefits of fresh produce to take home. Monkton Wyld Court, Charmouth, www.monktonwyldcourt.co.uk, 01297 560342

Transition Transport Gathering --- Transition Town Dorchester

Thu, 4 March, 19:00 – 20:00
The Corn Exchange, 48 High West Street, Dorchester, Dorset DT1 1UT
Open to anyone interested in sustainable transport including e.g walking, cycling, riding, public transport, car-sharing, sustainable transport technology, maps, safety, routes and facilities

The West Dorset Hydropower Group (WDHG) Annual General Meeting

Fri, 5 March, 19:00 – 21:00
Beaminster Public Hall
The guest speaker will be Graham Watson, our MEP, who will give us a EU perspective to the opportunities and problems of renewable energy. The AGM will be an open meeting to which all are welcome. Address for correspondence: The Mill House Crook Hill Netherbury Bridport DT6 5LX Tel.: (01308 488 267) themillhouse@dsl.pipex.com

FREE - Social Enterprise Workshop - Starting in Social Enterprise - Dorchester

Tue, 9 March, 10:00 – 15:00
Dorchester
These workshops are suitable for: • Newly started social enterprises • Voluntary organisations and charities wishing to consider developing a social enterprise • Contact Information: 0845 600 9966 enquiry@businesslinksw.co.uk

Poole Transition Meeting

Wed, 10 March, 19:30 – 22:00
Coffee Cakes and Candy, Poole High Street

Transition Towns Training - New Forest

Sat, 13 March, 09:00 – Sun, 14 March, Minstead Study Centre, New Forest SO43 7GJ
We have invited the Transition Towns Training group to run a two-day course at Minstead Study Centre, right in the heart of the New Forest. The course is residential, staying over the Saturday night, with vegetarian meals included. All Details: <http://www.newforesttransition.org>

Dorsetwide Transition gathering

Sat, 13 March, Dorchester
Organised by DA21, opportunity for us all to exchange ideas and experiences

TT Christchurch: A Rubbish Evening!

Thu, 18 March, 19:30 – 21:30
Christchurch Baptist Church, Beaconsfield Road, Christchurch, BH23 1QT
A showing of the short film "The Story of Stuff" looking out our obsession with consumption. Followed by a discussion about recycling and re-use, and what we can do in Christchurch. Free event. Refreshments available.

Ten Steps to the Perfect Funding Bid

Mon, 22 March, 10:00 – 16:30
Dorchester
Successful bid-writer and professional fundraiser Tamara Essex is sharing her secrets with you. £55 per participant Book by phone or post or in person at Burraton House 01305-251070 Or book online at www.goldhilltickets.co.uk

Bridport Renewable Energy Group
Contact: Richard Toft — Spokesman
E-mail: richard.toft@btinternet.com

Dorset Cohousing Group (DORSCOH)
Contact: Derek Fawell — Contact Person.
E-mail: info@dorscoh.org.uk

Iwerne Valley Climate Change Forum
Contact: Jonathon Ford — Contact Person
Telephone: 01747 812509

Transition Town Dorchester
Contact: Steve Atkins — Acting Chair
Web site: www.transitiontowndorchester.org
E-mail: info@transitiontowndorchester.org

Transition BH (Bournemouth BH area)
<http://transitionbh.org>
Contact: Harriet Stewart-Jones
E-mail: hello@transitionbh.org

Transition Town Bridport
Web site: <http://www.transitiontownbridport.co.uk>
Contact: David Rickard
E-mail: daverickard@phonecoop.coop

Transition Town Poole
Contact: Andy Hadley
E-mail: hadleyac@ntlworld.com

Transition Town Shaftesbury
Contact : Robin Walter
E-mail : mail@transitiontownshaftesbury.org.uk.

Transition Town Sherborne
<http://groups.google.co.uk/group/ttsherborne/>
Contact: Luke Metcalf — Co-ordinator
E-mail: realresilience@googlegmail.com

Transition Town Sturminster
<http://www.wrenfranklin.co.uk/page3.html>
Contact: Sarah Williams
E-mail: sarah@sturquest.org.uk
Telephone: 01258 471456

Transition Thorncombe
Contact: Micheal Graves
E-mail: thorncombetransitionvillage@googlegmail.com

Transition Town Wimborne
Contact: Amanda Brown
email: amanda@da21.org.uk

Weymouth and Portland Transition Towns
Web site: www.transitiontown-news.org
Contact: Jon Orrell — Chair
E-mail: jorrell@doctors.net.uk

Turn Lyme Green
Web site: <http://turnlymegreen.wordpress.com/>
Contact: Mark Silverdale — Contact
E-mail: mark@silverdale.entadsl.com

PEAT (Transition Purbeck)
Web site: <http://www.peat-da21.org/>
Contact: Brett Spiller
E-mail: peatda21@googlegmail.com

This is not an exhaustive list (far from it!), more groups are listed on our directory of Sustainability Organisations in Dorset