

Vision 21 projects 2010 - 2011

GrowVision - This beautifully designed exhibition promotes the importance of sustainable food. The exhibition is funded by Big Lottery Fund's 'Awards for All'. Staffing hours for the exhibition are nearly full and the project ends in August however should any groups/event holders wish to display the exhibition then this can be arranged. Tour dates and pictures of the display boards are on the Vision 21 website.

Cheltenham Community Climate Champions - This project is funded by Cheltenham Borough Council. A group of champions (individuals passionate about the environment) attend regular meetings to learn more about a variety of environmental issues. The meetings give champions the opportunity to receive presentations, ask questions, initiate and support practical actions and meet like-minded people. The project must meet certain objectives, set by CBC, relating to recycling and waste minimisation but otherwise the meetings/actions can be based around all climate change related issues. ***A new co-ordinator for this project started on 21st July.***

Reclaim - Reclaim is our furniture re-use enterprise based at Lansdown Industrial Estate, Cheltenham. It helps to avoid landfill by enabling reusable furniture and other household goods to be sold on, very affordably to the local community. The scheme also has a workshop where carpentry and upholstery work takes place and a volunteer who fixes up donated bicycles. Reclaim has many volunteers who often find it difficult to find paid employment or even work experience. The volunteers thoroughly enjoy their time at the project, gain work experience and are therefore in the future about to provide a reference to potential employers. The project enables these individuals to build confidence too giving them more chance to find paid work in the future. The Reclaim Enterprise supports the overall charity through its re-use activities and provides an income for the charity.

Repaint - Repaint is a national community project of which Vision 21's run the Cheltenham branch from the Reclaim warehouses.

Get up and Grow - This project consists of a free series of training each spring to help people develop their growing knowledge (delivered by volunteers). This year had its best numbers yet! The project used to include three growing spaces, managed voluntarily. We have had to move away from this due to financial resources and time constraints but have since secured funding for Get up and Grow more ... see below.

Get up and Grow More - This project which came from Get up and Grow (community allotment strand, which is currently closing). Vision 21 recently secured three years funding from the Local Food Grant (subject to conditions) for Get up and Grow More. The idea is to get three community growing spaces up and running throughout Gloucestershire. We are now looking for planning permission for sheds at all three sites. The sites will be in Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Cirencester.

Energy Saving Project - This project in Partnership with Cheltenham VCA (Voluntary & Community Action) is funded by Cheltenham Borough Council's (CBC) Low Carbon Partnership. The project, managed by Mike Bush, involves providing energy audits and advice to voluntary sector organisations and businesses in Cheltenham. The project will run until around April 2012.

Staff Awareness Project - This project also funded by CBC's Low Carbon Partnership is to create a pack of ideas for businesses to use to increase the environmental awareness of their staff. The Low Carbon Partnership is made up of Council Officers and local

businesses and of which many have contributed to pack of ideas and are keen to benefit from ideas from others. The University of Gloucestershire has also been involved in this project and has produced a report about the barriers of engaging with climate change issues. A final hard copy and brand new website showcasing these should be launched by the LCP in September 2011.

[The Gloucestershire Green Guide](#) - This resource was heavily contributed to by volunteers. The Green Guide is a website which provides contact details for green (greener) businesses in Gloucestershire, so promoting their goods and services. The site includes information on where to buy local food, green energy, recycling and much, much more. This resource is continually growing and offers local green businesses free advertising.

[Cheltenham Environment Business Champions](#) - Recently Vision 21 ran an event for local businesses (for the second time), educating their staff on how to become environmental champions! The event went very well and following on from this we are encouraging the businesses involved to invite us to their site for a visit and look at their energy use etc. This project is funded by Cheltenham Borough Council.

[Cheltenham Transition Town](#) - Transition Town is an international initiative bringing very localised groups of people together to tackle/prepare for climate change and peak oil. Vision 21 was successful in securing funding to get a Cheltenham group set up two years ago. This project has now become independent from Vision 21, from August 2011. This group organises many events/meetings of which dates are uploaded to the webpage and V21 calendar but can also be found on TTs own website.