

Update from Vision 21, Gloucestershire's Climate Change Charity – April 2011

Vision 21 News

- Vision 21's new Sustainable Food exhibition '**GrowVision**' is now available to tour Gloucestershire! This wonderfully designed exhibition funded by the National Lottery through Big Lottery Fund highlights the importance of sustainable food. To view the exhibition online, book for your event or to view touring dates [click here](#). Also **see vacancies below**, relating to this project.
- **Reclaim**, Vision 21's household goods re-use enterprise, continues to extend their **opening hours to include Saturdays!** The warehouses are open Monday – Saturdays 10am – 4pm and includes the Community RePaint project which provides re-usable paints and varnishes for a **small donation**. If you have unwanted items or need items to furnish your home please call the warehouse on 01242 228823 or drop in, the address is Reclaim, Unit 25b Lansdown Industrial Estate, Cheltenham, GL51 8PL. (The industrial estate entrance is opposite the rear entrance of Cheltenham train station). White goods, i.e. washing machines, fridges etc, in good working order, are particularly welcomed as they are often much needed in the community, these **can be collected for free!**
- Vision 21 continues to provide **free energy efficiency advice** to Cheltenham businesses and voluntary sector groups as part of a project funded by the Cheltenham Low Carbon Partnership. **To book your free audit** or to find out more email mbush@vision21.org.uk or call 01242 224321. Also [click here](#) for more details.
- For the third year running Vision 21 will be offering **free 'grow your own'** taster sessions. [Click here](#) for dates and topics. If you are able to promote these sessions by putting out leaflets or a poster please contact the office for hard copies. An electronic copy of the poster attached.
- **Cheltenham Community Climate Champions** – A meeting will soon be scheduled for late April/early May, details to follow. For more info on the project [click here](#).
- **Office space and meeting room hire** is available at the Vision 21 offices, central Cheltenham. For more details please contact the office.
- **Volunteering.** There are a variety of volunteering opportunities at Vision 21 both at Reclaim and at the town centre office including opportunities to become a Trustee! The organisation relies very much on the time and commitment of volunteers and is extremely grateful for this. Likewise the organisation will make every effort to provide development and training opportunities to volunteers. Trustees play a vital role in leading the organisation. For more details on becoming a Trustee please contact Rick Smith via email at ricksmith@vision21.org.uk or telephone 07956 627646. For more information on volunteering generally please reply to this email or call 01242 224321.

Events

Cheltenham Transition Town's Spring Programme of Possibilities continues, details are attached. Please feel free to pass this on to anyone who you think may be interested.

GrowVision tour dates [click here](#).

To view details of many more sustainability themed events taking place throughout the County [click here](#). If you would like Vision 21 to promote your event, **for free on the calendar**, please provide the office with the details.

Other news

Transition Lunch on Fridays!

As part of the Transition Town Cheltenham initiative, to reduce dependence on non-renewable resources, George's Organic Cafe (10 Bennington St, next to Tesco Metro on the lower High St) have been holding a weekly Transition Lunch each Friday from 12.30pm until 2pm. As intensive meat production is heavily dependent on oil, their Transition Lunches have been entirely vegetarian. The menu varies from week to week, depending on what's in season. Menus are priced at £4 for a main course, and if you have the main course, soup and a pudding are £1 each. A recent menu was: parsnip, cheese & rosemary soup, followed by great nut pie with potatoes boulangere & braised leeks, with rhubarb & lemon tart to follow. For more details email majallison2000@yahoo.com

FREE PlanLoCaL resource

The Centre for Sustainable Energy has just launched a set of new resources for communities wanting to create a low carbon future through influencing local planning policy and by setting up their own renewable energy projects. These include over 40 short films on technologies, case studies and project management skills to help community groups set up renewables projects, as well as a resources pack of info, planning exercises, templates for running events, an image bank and case studies to help groups get started. The full contents of the pack can be downloaded or ordered in hard copy from the PlanLoCaL project website (www.planlocal.org.uk). This is an entirely free resource and community groups in Gloucestershire are encouraged to use it for their own projects and events. As a planning blogger commented after the recent launch event: "I don't gain anything by promoting this resource. It's just really damn good."

Plan LoCaL is a three-year project run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (www.cse.org.uk). See www.planlocal.org.uk for more detail or contact Rachel Coxcoon at CSE (rachel.coxcoon@cse.org.uk).

Vacancies

Vision 21 is looking for part time, temporary, sessional workers to staff their new GrowVision Exhibition at events and venues throughout Gloucestershire. For details [click here](#).