

## **Green and Keen Training**

*"I have been recycling at home, but would like to expand my horizons and spread the word to family and friends. In fact you could tell strangers about it too. I am getting exercise too now, as I walk to the recycling bins ....."*  
*Mary, Buckland. Green and Keen Learner.*

### **1. Summary of progress with first course**

The first cohort of local authority resident learners has completed the basic housing sustainability course, delivered for us by Learning Links.

Attendees have come from Portsea, Copnor, Hilsea, Landport, Southsea, Leigh Park, Buckland, Milton.

In response to comments made when the proposal to run the course was included in the report last year on the sustainability programme, discussions were held with the learning providers about setting up a course in the north of the city. It was their opinion that it would be better to set a central course up and expand it to other areas if successful. It was also their experience that learners preferred to use the John Pounds Centre to other locations and would travel to get there. This was borne out in practice when the attempt to start a course first at the Navigators Centre failed and attendees at the course subsequently set up at John Pounds were attracted from all over the city.

Following the course, we have discussed with learners how they might want to take this forward and how best they could help the council with housing sustainability issues. We have explained we want to extend this to all housing in the city and have particular concerns about existing housing and the uptake of energy efficiency measures etc.

Even on this short discussion they had a lot of ideas. As they were LA tenants they had many ideas about tackling the issues in the housing blocks, and they are keen to be involved in wider housing issues too.

We have agreed to meet again to look at how we can work together in more detail, including fitting in with existing initiatives. From initial discussion with them there are a few ideas which could be developed with separate funding related to private sector improvements.

We are planning to run the course again. We will also develop the next level for all householders, regardless of tenure, with the anticipated help of the council's Lifelong Learning section, which is interested in helping take this forward.

The results of this work are being fed by the Corporate Initiatives Section to a national research study by the Worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) on the effects of community engagement on changing patterns of behaviour.

## **2. Synopsis of course: Level 2 Green Champions “Green and Keen”** (information supplied by Learning Links)

### **2.1 Overview**

This is an accredited learning programme delivered by Learning Links, initially aimed at the local authority’s housing tenants and leaseholders, to promote living in more environmentally sustainable ways.

The programme focuses on reducing the waste produced by tenants and leaseholders and promotes the efficient use of energy. As well as addressing the global need to reduce our carbon footprint, this programme also aims to reduce the learner’s bills including fuel, transport and food bills.

### **2.2 Who is the Course for?**

The target group is the local authority’s housing tenants and leaseholders although the programme may be opened up to other learners depending on the funding available.

### **2.3 What previous knowledge/experience/skills is required?**

The programme is open to all learners but accreditation will only be accessible to learners who have Level 1 Literacy Skills.

### **2.4 Course Content**

The course covers:

- How communities can take action to support sustainability
- Understanding how waste reduction impacts on the environment
- How individuals can reduce their energy consumption.
- What ‘climate change’ means to people in their daily life
- Consumer choices including transport, food, appliances etc

### **2.5 What materials you will need for the course**

All materials are provided by the tutor.

### **2.6 What accreditation will I gain from this course?**

National Open College Network Level 2 unit certificate

### **2.7 How we assess your progress on the course**

The assessment methods at level 2 will include keeping a green Diary to record the learner’s goals and progress towards achieving them. Other assessment methods may include written question and answer papers, oral question and answers, presentations and group discussion. The writing will be structured and learners with essential skills needs will be supported. This could include quizzes and crosswords. Discussions will build on what the learner knows already and all learners will be encouraged to take part. The presentation will be on a topic of the learner’s choice and learners will be encouraged to use PowerPoint to develop their ICT skills.

## **2.8 What extra study/practice we expect you to do outside the class**

Over the 10 week course you will be asked to keep a note of the actions you have personally taken to reduce energy costs. You will also be asked to find out about a chosen area of environmental concern.

## **2.9 How long will the course take?**

This is a 10-week course of 2 hours a week.

## **2.10 Progression**

All learners will receive an Information, Advice and Guidance interview to identify progressions routes. Within Learning Links provision, learners may progress to programmes such as Community Development, Community Researchers or Promoting Adult Learning.

Any learners who do not have a Level 2 Literacy and Numeracy qualification will be encouraged to enrol on an appropriate course to support them in achieving the qualification.

All learners will be encouraged to help the city council improve the sustainability of housing in the city. Follow-up sessions will be held for those interested to talk about this with council officers. (This may also form part of an agreed “reward “ scheme).

## **3.Green and Keen Evaluation Summary**

Why did you join the course?

- I am very interested in environmental issues
- To learn more to help clean up our land. To be more self-aware and to spread good words. Also, to get out and meet people.
- To gain more knowledge
- To gain more knowledge of recycling and green matters
- To learn about the environment and recycling

Do you think that your knowledge of this subject has been increased?

- Yes x 5

What have you learnt on the course?

- More knowledge
- I have found out where we can take more items to be recycled. Also reusing materials (e.g. making bags out of scrap materials) and knitting.
- Lots- how to calculate a carbon footprint.
- I have learned about green issues, how to value other peoples' opinions and to listen to other people. I have learned to express my opinions
- How I can influence the environment

What is the most important thing you have learnt?

- To continue promotion
- The sustainability centre
- How to calculate a carbon footprint
- To listen to other people's opinions
- That my small input can make a difference

How will you use this in the future?

- I would like to practice the things we have learnt
- To be wiser than I was before
- Choices when shopping
- To help me to persuade the council to do more green things
- To save my own energy and waste and inform other people

Do you have more confidence in your abilities than you did before you joined the course?

- Yes x 4

On a scale of one to ten where do you think your knowledge is compared with the beginning of the course?

Score = 31 out of a possible 50

- 8 x2
- 5
- 1
- 9

Lower than five please state reason

- Already had good knowledge

How was your tutor able to meet your needs and expectations?

- Very open and honest and a very relaxed atmosphere within our class
- Very good
- She had lots of information at hand but she also got you to think and act for yourself.
- Yes, through illustration and discussion

What do you think of the venue - did it meet your needs?

- I developed vertigo and there are not facilities to help this
- A little difficult as there is no signing in or out of this building and there could be an emergency. Also, the moving of our classrooms

- Yes
- It was very nice and comfortable

Would you like to be more involved in further learning opportunities, if so what?

- More Green and Keen and perhaps an advanced course-ongoing
- Yes, as long as we could have the same teacher
- Yes- a continuation of green ideas.
- Would like to be able to continue on this course

Would you recommend Learning Links to a friend?

-Yes x5

Any other comments-

- A very enjoyable course
- As I have enjoyed this course I would like to come back for many more.
- I hope that I can come back in a weeks time because this course has boosted my confidence.

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