

Hitchin Community Gardens Environmental Action Plan

Action	Benefit	How	Timescale	By when	Who
Preparing the ground					
Write down reasons for developing an action plan	Being clear in our own mind will help us communicate this better to others and keep us focussed	Look at our mission, vision and values. Note down areas where there are links with sustainable development. Think about the wider social economic and environmental circumstances that our organisation works in.	Now	March 2010	Core group
Get support of trustees, staff and volunteers	It will be easier to carry out actions with support and will encourage everyone to own the changes	Talk to everyone and let them know what we are doing and why. Find out where resistance lies.	Now	March 2010	Rachel
Research collaboration opportunities	May provide financial and/or social support for our efforts as well as information	Talk to existing partners, liaise with others community gardens, find out what others have done in this area.	Now	March 2010	Vicky
Begin dealing with resistance	Makes it easier to make actions stick in the long term	Decide on our approach and work through it. Agree on critical points and areas for immediate action.	Now	March 2010	Core group

Getting the right people involved					
Talk to other organisations we are involved with	May be easier to achieve aims if we collaborate with others. Try to gain their support for what we are doing.	Make a note of the organisations that may be interested in working together. How could they help us meet our aims? What do we need from them or they from us?	Now	March 2010	Vicky
Talk to the Council	May provide help and support for our efforts.	Draw up a list of things to talk to the Council about and arrange a meeting eg park maintenance, litter disposal, recycling, energy use.	Now	March 2010	Rachel/Sandra
Set up a green team and agree on roles/ meetings & activities.	Spreads responsibility and makes the process more achievable.	Send an email to all staff/volunteers/users asking who would like to be involved. Ask a trustee to be involved	Now	March 2010	Vicky

Working out how well we are already doing – see www.trianglegarden.org/Every Action Counts.htm					
Taking stock	Helps us to see what we are already doing and to identify what we want to do next.	Establish base lines and use the five EAC themes to help identify and structure priorities for action.	Now	March 2010	Green team

Taking action - see www.trianglegarden.org/Every Action Counts.htm					
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Communicating					
Create a poster with photos of individuals and key actions made personal.	Raise awareness and foster a shared sense of purpose		Soon	April 2010	Green team

Reviewing					
Identify what worked and what we would like to do next	Lets us celebrate our successes, keeps momentum going and helps maintain focus	Arrange a meeting and ask questions: What has gone well and what not so well? Where can we improve next time? What areas do we want to focus on next? Was our partnership successful? Do we need information/advice from others on where to go next?	Later	March 2011	Green team

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Decide how we will record the information next time	Helps us to refine the process so that we can do even better in the future.	Ask ourselves: What did we like about the way we collected our information was it easy to understand? Would it have been more useful to collect it in a different way?	Later	March 2011	Green team
Decide on ways to keep communicating	Help us make changes stick by making them part of the culture of our organisation	Build relationships, continue to evaluate, continue to spread the messages and encourage new behaviours. Hold more events, lunches, quizzes etc.	Later	March 2011	Green team
Identify ways that we can lead the change locally	Promotes sustainable development externally and helps to campaign about fuel poverty, healthy lifestyles, public transport and food.	Build relationships externally, use opportunities to tell people what we have done and offer to share our experiences.	Later	March 2011	Green team