

Welcome to the April 2008 edition of e-Thumbprint, Envolve's monthly e-newsletter

ABOUT ENVOLVE

e-Thumbprint is Envolve's e-newsletter. Envolve Partnerships for Sustainability (Envolve) supports wiser ways of living that lead to more healthy and sustainable businesses, schools and communities. We are a charity based in Bath's Green Park Station, which we also have responsibility for running. We deliver our work through three teams: Business - delivering specialist environmental consultancy to small and large businesses, charities and local authorities; Education - working with schools to promote better knowledge and understanding of the relationship between people and planet; Community - providing the support to enable individuals and communities to make a significant and lasting difference to where they live.

1) Local Businesses Could Be Missing Out on Public Sector Contracts

Many local businesses tendering for public sector contracts are falling at the first hurdle because they are unable to complete the environmental section of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (the first stage in any bid to a public sector body such as the council). At a recent event, organised by Partners in Procurement, Envolve addressed the simple question, what is an environmental policy and how do businesses get one? With an increase in environmental legislation and more environmentally aware customers and employees, businesses are increasingly forced to address Corporate Social Responsibility and their impact on the environment. To find out how your business can benefit from such advice, please contact our Environmental Consultants.

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2) Local to Global: Eco-Schools, Sustainability and Climate Change

Over 40 teachers met together at an Envolve-organised event recently to get the latest information on new ways of teaching about climate change and sustainability. Presentations and workshops covered Eco-schools and the global context of Climate Change. New educational resources, including a new Key Stage 2 pack, were distributed and explored. The afternoon session was taken up with the second Sustainable Learning Forum, where teachers share good practice, ideas and resources to take Eco-schools and other initiatives forward in their schools. Feedback was very positive. As one teacher put it: "It was a very enjoyable day and it's great to participate in something so well run and enthusiastic."

More info: <http://www.envolve.org.uk/education/index.html>

3) Online diary of local green events

Don't forget to visit Envolve's Green Diary to find out what is going on this month (and future months too). And let us know of any of your events which you would like us to include in the diary.

More info: <http://www.envolve.org.uk/diary.html>

NATIONAL NEWS

**SPOTLIGHT ON... Climate Change Bill

The Climate Change Bill is reaching its final stages. Friends of the Earth has organised a public meeting in London on 22 April with Hilary Benn, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Peter Ainsworth, Conservative Shadow Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Secretary and Steve Webb, Liberal Democrat Shadow Secretary of State for Environment, Energy, Food and Rural Affairs. This will be one of the final chances for members of the public to hear from the key players. Alternatively there is still time to contact your local MP.

More info: http://www.foe.org.uk/campaigns/climate/news/public_meeting_apr08.html

LOCAL NEWS

**SPOTLIGHT ON... Churches Together Climate Change Debate

Churches Together in Bath is organising a public debate in Bath Abbey focussing on climate change. Four relevant experts are being brought together to share their knowledge on the impact of climate change and what individuals and communities can do to address it.

Professor Anil Markandya, University of Bath economist, major contributor to U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Martin Palmer, Director of the Alliance of Religions and Conservation;

Andrew Pendleton, Climate Change Adviser, Christian Aid;

Sarah Pugh, working with 'Transition Bristol'.

The chairman will be Rev Roger Nunn, Executive Secretary of Churches Together in Bath. Entrance to the abbey is free, with a retiring collection to cover expenses. The debate begins at 7.30pm on Tuesday 29 April.

More info: <http://www.bathchurches.org.uk/events.html>

**SPOTLIGHT ON... The Square Meal Project

Bath Organic Group (BOG) is launching a new initiative at the Bath Spring Flower Show (3 – 5 May) – The Square Meal Project. The project aims to encourage people to have a go at growing their own greens.

There will be a variety of seeds, compost and planting containers provided, together with an illustrated leaflet to explain how to do it step by step. The aim is to put together a realistic set of plants towards the makings of a 'square meal' like a stir-fry, a pizza or a mixed salad. Families will be encouraged to visit the Bath Organic Garden where there will be planned follow-up sessions after the launch.

The Bath Organic Group has a community garden where anyone can participate in the cultivating of veggies and fruit. An off-shoot of this gardening community has formed itself into a project team that will encourage the setting and growing on of

seeds that can later be transplanted in people's own small gardens or at the BOG plot just off Victoria Park in Bath by the Lower Bristol Road children's playpark.



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**Best wishes,
The Envolve Team**

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Registered charity no. 1039848

Envolve is passionately optimistic about the future. We believe that together we can build a more just, equitable world that uses and shares natural resources for the good of this and future generations.

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