

CAMBRIDGE CARBON FOOTPRINT LTD

Annual Report March 2007.

Introduction

Cambridge Carbon Footprint is a local, not-for-profit organisation with three inter-linked aims:

- a) To provide information, education and advice about climate change to people in Cambridge and the surrounding area
- b) To encourage and support people in Cambridge and the surrounding area to take personal responsibility for their contribution to climate change
- c) To promote and organise co-operation with bodies having similar or sympathetic aims.

In March 2006 we registered as a not-for-profit Company Limited by Guarantee.

Overview of the year April 2006/7

Our work has grown significantly over the year with the receipt of DEFRA funding for the Akashi and Asian Voice projects and the appointment of Shilpa Shah in July 2006 as Co-ordinator for both projects. In June 2006 we were delighted to receive the Environmental Award at the Cambridge Evening News Press Relief Community Awards. We have affiliated to 'Stop Climate Chaos' the umbrella group of NGOs campaigning on climate change, and are in the process of affiliating to Cambridge Council for Voluntary Service. We have continued our programme of Carbon Footprinting stalls at local events and have begun to develop a programme of Carbon Challenge Groups – discussion groups focused on carbon reduction. Our website remains an important source of information and point of contact and our occasional email newsletter now has over 250 subscribers. Increased media coverage of climate change has led to increased demand for our services – for stalls, groups, talks and also for interviews from journalists. We have increased our pool of volunteers to 26 and have brought eight of them onto a steering committee to oversee and advise on the organisation's work. The increase in work has tested our capacity to deliver all we have wanted to do and we have applied to Cambridge Sustainable City for core funding to extend Shilpa's hours so that from April 2007 she can take on some of the administrative burden. This has been provisionally awarded. We have also applied to Cambridge Sustainable City for money to extend our programme of Carbon Challenge Groups. Again we are delighted that this has been provisionally awarded.

Volunteers

Voluntary work is at the heart of what we do and we are blessed with a wonderful group of enthusiastic volunteers who have taken on all kinds of responsibilities. Special thanks are due to Karen who did a wonderful, professional job on the Akashi website and to everyone who has put in time on the stalls or behind the scenes.

Detail on current projects

1) Foot-printing stalls. Our aim at stalls is to engage people in individual conversations about climate change and their lives, trying to help them appreciate the actions they may be able to take. We have displays on climate change and carbon reduction, carry literature from a variety of related organisations and distribute

energy-saving light-bulbs and cloth bags to those who take part. We ran 12 stalls at community events between April 2006 and March 2007. We estimate that at least 2285 people viewed the stall at these events. A total of 491 individual footprints were calculated and 194 children took part in the children's quiz and activities. (These exclude stalls at Akashi events which will be reported on separately.)

2) Talks. We have given talks at 6 events, attended by a total of 195 people. (Again these figures exclude Akashi events.)

3) Carbon Challenge Groups. These small groups meet for five 1 ½ hour sessions over a period of 4/5 months. The aim is to use a mix of information and group support to explore what climate change is and what individuals can do about it with the goal of achieving significant CO₂ reductions, maintained over a period of time. This year we have run 5 groups with a total of 40 people.

4) Learning materials. We are developing detailed learning materials and a facilitator's pack for use in Carbon Challenge Groups with a view to expanding the number of groups we can run. Our goal is that a number of those who attend the groups will go on to facilitate groups themselves. We currently have draft materials for all sessions completed and detailed second drafts for three of the five.

5) Akashi This DEFRA funded project has as its aim to raise climate change awareness amongst the Black and Ethnic Minority and Faith groups in Cambridge. It is a joint project with Cambridge Ethnic Minority Forum who contribute their expertise to the steering group and Cambridge Architectural Research who provide office premises. Shilpa Shah has been in post since July 2006 and has been doing an excellent job working extremely hard and creatively with a variety of different communities and organisations. A separate report on the Akashi project will be available later in the project's development.

6) Asian Voice. This DEFRA funded project is a joint project with the newspaper 'Asian Voice'. The newspaper has a circulation of about 100,000, mainly amongst the South Asian community in the UK. Shilpa Shah is employed by us to write an fortnightly column on climate change for the newspaper for a period of a year between Sept 2006 and Sept 2007. This has been an extremely successful venture, introducing the topic to Asian Voice readers and encouraging participation through readers' letters. A separate report on the Asian Voice project will be available at the end of the project.

Future projects

1) Workplace project We have provisional funding from Cambridge Sustainable City to run a pilot project of carbon challenge groups in workplaces. Over the coming year we will be pursuing this with four different employers, running a group of 10-12 people in each.

2) Expansion of Carbon Challenge Groups We have provisional funding from Cambridge Sustainable City to expand our programme of Carbon Challenge Groups in the community and hope to run 16 groups in the coming year.

3) Joint work with Al-Amin We have been delighted to be approached by Abdul Arain from Al-Amin's store on Mill Road to set up a joint project promoting climate change awareness in schools and the community. This will come to fruition during the Environment Festival in May/June with a poster competition in schools and a foot-printing event based in the shop. Abdul Arain has been enormously generous in providing prizes for these events and it has been a delight to work with him.

Funding

Funding for the year April 2006/2007 is basically secure, coming from a combination of DEFRA and Cambridge Sustainable City. Over the coming months we will be exploring funding for the period beyond that.

Accounts

Our accountant is John Anderson and accounts for the financial year to December 31st 2006 are attached.

Rosemary Randall
Chairperson
March 2007.