

Communities Living Sustainably – Big Lottery Funding Appendix A – Outcomes in Expression of Interest Form (extract)

1. Communities are better prepared for environmental challenges and longer term environmental change and understand the improvements they can make to live more sustainably.

A) Building community resilience to respond to natural disasters

Recently Rotherham has experienced serious floods and severe wintry conditions that exposed communities to risks. While council and public services have adjusted their services to address these challenges, it is also important that communities have the opportunity to develop their capacity to respond to natural incidents through:

- Natural disaster awareness training / advice
- Developing community champions to respond in collaboration with voluntary, emergency and council services (sand bagging, clearing snow from footpaths, delivering food to elderly / vulnerable neighbours etc).

B) Sustainable transport

We would promote the use of public transport, and in particular would link this with the proposed rapid bus corridor between Sheffield and Rotherham, to increase job opportunities for people who live in Rotherham, as well as with other activities in the South Yorkshire Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid.

We will promote the use of alternative travel methods to reduce car usage and improve health through our partnership with JE James cycles.

2. Vulnerable people affected by the impacts of climate change are able to make greener choices to help improve their quality of life.

We will provide training and community activities enabling householders to become more aware of the impact they have on the environment and how this directly affects them. Trained community champions will encourage individuals to get involved and play their part in reducing their carbon emissions. Training will cover:

- Understanding energy consumption patterns; advice on energy usage/best deals in home visits
- Understanding Green Deal - the choices it can deliver to improving homes
- Helping the community to be familiar with relevant technology
- *Grow your own food* –promoted through the local allotment societies, transformation of unused council land and green spaces into allotments, and the development of micro gardens.
- *Buy locally/reduce food miles*– opening access to market stalls and town centre street spaces for local food producers
- *Volunteering in parks and gardens* - providing significant health benefits through exercise and fresh air. Enabling people to develop gardening skills and community cohesion.

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3. Communities maximize the use of their assets and resources to create new economic opportunities and live more sustainably.

We want to create new economic opportunities through green technology. We will deliver Green Deal projects for whole streets in partnership with energy providers, developing a social enterprise as the initiative is rolled out, creating local jobs and apprenticeship opportunities, whilst also securing savings on installations through economies of scale.

We will create new retail opportunities – growing, cooking and selling local food to local people through individual initiatives and social enterprise.

We will use community buildings in the town centre to house training activities, offer a base to community groups and community champions, and develop new opportunities to work with hard to reach people. For example, the 'My Place' facility in the town centre will be used to house the activities generated by the partnership with J.E. James Cycles.

We will also recruit the Chamber of Commerce / RIDO as partners and expand on the work formerly carried out by SY Green Business Clubs and Business Community Support Officers.

4. Communities have a greater understanding of and more opportunities to use natural resources more efficiently.

With community support, we will develop a local energy conservation strategy to promote active efforts to decrease energy consumption, in addition to using energy more efficiently. Conservation steps can be taken without investment by house holders, just behaviour change.

Through the community champions initiative and work with Carbon Partners, we will work with schools in the area to help children develop a better understanding of the resources they consume and how they can use the resources in their surrounding environment to balance the carbon foot print. Using community champions from their own areas this will embed learning through the whole community. The community will be empowered to take control and responsibility of positive change and to maximise the resources available to them.