



Low Carbon Chilterns Co-operative - calling for 'energy friends' for community buildings

This give a 'job description', to pass on to any who might be interested in the role.

Need

We have now delivered reports on the first two community buildings, recommending energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements, with indicative costs and estimates of benefits. We have met with their management committees, and discussed the reports.

Every building and committee is different, but we have already learnt that these are not 'once off' reports - they are just the start of a relationship with each building committee. We need to be able **go on working with each one, as they take action**. They need encouragement and help to do 'quick wins', to improve the information they have, to decide the detail of what improvements to carry out, and to work out any LCCC role in providing funds and project management.

So, we need interested people in each community to play this role - to be an 'energy friend' to their local community buildings. As we already have 20 community buildings in our pipeline, we will need more and more people to 'engage', as we get to report stage on each.

Role, and capabilities needed

The role is, emphatically, *not* a 'technical energy expert' one. LCCC has those, and you will be able to refer back to them, and to our accumulating store of data and lessons learnt. It is to be an 'intelligent layman' - like the idea of a 'barefoot doctor'. You would:

- be interested and engaged with energy issues, without having had 'expert' training;
- ideally, get involved with the building from our first contact; but, at least, act as liaison person for LCCC, and front line helper/advisor, from the time we put in our first proposals report;
- meet/contact the building's committee regularly, to help move them along in implementing improvements - acting as a catalyst. (For the first post-report meeting, and whenever needed, later, a technical expert would be with you).
- build up a trusting relationship with the buildings' owners/operators, and enjoy this aspect;
- be able to:
 - interpret most of the technical stuff to people to whom it is new or unfamiliar;
 - ask them the right questions, and answer about 80% of their usual questions - from the shared LCCC experience;
 - but know which 20% of their questions must have expert advice;
- do some simple 'numbers; stuff - like analysing energy bills - with help on standard ways of doing it;
- take part in 'raising community awareness' activity if you wish, when we get to that stage.

Support from LCCC

We would provide training, and shared 'lessons learnt' and knowledge, as we gain this from buildings. We would expect the work to be on voluntary unpaid basis, but can pay reasonable expenses.

Charles Ainger, Chair, LCCC

v1 April 2013

