

News and information for Wales from:

Wales Council for Voluntary Action
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Voices for Change Cymru – tell us what you think

The funding for WCVA's Voices for Change Cymru comes to an end this year so we are carrying out a survey to find out what you think of the services it has provided.

The aim of the project is to help third sector groups to influence local and national decision makers as effectively as possible. This means providing services to help groups to make their voices heard; by understanding how political structures and processes work and building campaigning and lobbying skills. Project staff Jen Bradbury, Michelle Matheron and Sarah Ball provide advice, information and training services,

as well as developing and maintaining the Voices for Change Cymru website.

If you have ever used the Voices for Change Cymru project services, it would be really helpful if you would tell us what you think about them by completing our short online survey, which you can find at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/vfcc>. Your survey comments will help us with two things: firstly we will be able to evaluate the effectiveness of the current project and secondly we will have your views on what similar services you would like to see in future if we are able to secure more funding. This will help us to help you to continue to make your voices heard!

Green Dragon programme to support social enterprises across Wales

Social enterprises across Wales are to benefit from a free programme that will establish environmental management systems and develop their businesses using the Green Dragon Environmental Standard.

Groundwork, in partnership with the Wales Co-operative Centre's Social Enterprise Support Project, has been awarded a contract to deliver Level 1 and Level 2 of the Green Dragon Environmental Standard to social enterprises across the convergence areas of Wales. The Green Dragon Environmental Standard is a stepped system comprising five Levels of achievement, which provides the framework to make cost savings, comply with legislation, improve environmental performance and increase competitiveness.

The programme is free up to Level 2 of Green Dragon for qualifying social enterprises and offers the benefits of financial savings and improved environmental performance. The Project is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) through the European Union's Convergence programme which is administered by the Welsh Assembly Government.

Places on the programme are limited, so if you are a social enterprise interested in participating, please contact Alison Bedford, Environment Project Coordinator on 01978 757524, alison.fuller@groundwork.org.uk. For further information about Green Dragon please visit: www.greendragonems.com.

Participation Cymru unveil new citizen and community engagement training programme

Participation Cymru has launched its new training programme for public service providers in the third, public and private sectors for April - June 2011.

Our training courses are suitable for people who want to design, develop and deliver citizen engagement and public participation. The courses provide the skills you need to engage with confidence and will improve the quality of engagement your organisation delivers.

The programme includes popular courses from previous programmes like **Advanced facilitation** and **Confidence at public events**

courses, as well as brand new courses like our **Evaluating and monitoring outcomes** and **Effective partnership working** courses. Participation Cymru will also be running our popular accredited training on **Public engagement: theory and practice** in Bangor.

You can view the full training programme at www.participation.cymru.org.uk

Further information is available at www.participationcymru.org.uk/training or by contacting us on 029 2043 6596 or participationcymru@wcva.org.uk.

Call to reward Wales' outstanding volunteers

WCVA has launched the 2011 Wales Volunteer of the Year Awards which are supported by CCLA for the second year running.

Since the awards scheme started in 2004, it has grown over the years and now receives over 200 nominations in five categories, which have been chosen to reflect the range of volunteering opportunities across Wales.

As well as recognition of individuals, young people (under 25 years), and groups, the scheme also rewards 'green' volunteers and trustees. There will be up to three winners in each category, with 15 national winners presented with their awards at a ceremony in Cardiff in June, and all nominees awarded commendation certificates

at a local ceremony or by post.

The 2010 winners included two environmentalists who take weekly unpaid leave to volunteer and a trustee who has ensured the smooth running of Citizens Advice Bureaux across north Wales.

Second time supporter CCLA exists to help charities make the best of their investments. See www.ccla.co.uk for more information.

Details of the scheme, including nomination forms, are available from the WCVA Helpdesk on 0800 2888 329, or e-mail help@wcva.org.uk. They will also be available to be downloaded from the website www.wcva.org.uk/voty. The deadline for receipt of nominations is 15 April 2011.



Data Protection Act 1998 Contact details of all recipients of the National Supplement are held and processed by WCVA on computer. The information is used by WCVA for the monitoring and promotion of the voluntary sector in Wales. Contact details are disclosed to third parties for the purposes of assisting this promotion.

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