



Community Environment Associates

Community Environment Associates (CEA) is a specialist consultancy which has built up a unique track record on enabling, advising and evaluating local activity that contributes to developing more sustainable communities.

We offer a wide range of services working mostly but by no means exclusively on:

- **Community engagement and development**
- **Policy analysis and research**
- **Project development**
- **Training and facilitation**
- **Evaluation.**

Much of our work is with local organisations of many diverse types. A major focus is building engagement around the emerging environmental and ethical agenda of climate change and behaviour change. Our policy background on these issues informs work to engage communities and individuals who may be new to environmental issues.

We work extensively with local authorities and were actively involved in work on Local Agenda 21 programmes in the 1990s. Since then we have worked on a range of Strategic Partnerships and Local Area Agreements. This work varies from one-off workshops and training events to long-term development work in association with local authorities and partnerships.

We also have a thorough understanding of organisations throughout the wider voluntary and community sector. We are engaged on both social and environmental development work with many of the key national agencies and with smaller local and regional bodies.

Who we are

Community Environment Associates is run by two Directors, Chris Church and Jan McHarry, and we work with a range of other associates. Our engagement with the Voluntary and Community and Public Sectors is extensive and long-term. Both Directors worked for Friends of the Earth (England, Wales & Northern Ireland) in the 1980s. Chris was head of Regional and Local Development and Jan managed the information services.

Since that time both have undertaken a wide range of consultancy work and have built strong links with the public and voluntary sectors.

Chris Church currently chairs the London 21 sustainability network and is a member of the London Sustainable Development Commission. He has been an Associate of CDF, the Community Development Foundation, since 1996, and has led their work on environmental issues. He is a trainer for COIN, the Climate Outreach Information Network. He also co-chairs ANPED, the Northern Alliance for Sustainability, an EU-funded Europe-wide NGO network and has served on the Boards of the Environmental Law Foundation and Surfers Against Sewage.

Jan McHarry is a trustee of the Faith-Based Regeneration Network (FbRN), and on the Steering Group of the Tower Hamlets Inter-Faith Forum. She is one of the founding members of the UK Buddhist (FWBO) Eco-Practice Network. She has specialised in work on waste and recycling issues and was development consultant to the National Recycling Forum from 1995–1998. She led the development of the UK 'Buy Recycled' initiative in 1997.

A range of our clients

Some recent examples of work done by CEA include:

- Work for **Defra** and the **Community Development Foundation (CDF)** on developing Defra's new 'Every Action Counts' community engagement programme.
- Developing a set of workshops for **NCVO** on sustainable development and governance for trustees of VCS bodies.
- Leading an analysis of how Community Strategies and Strategic Partnerships in London Boroughs are helping deliver sustainable development for the **Government Office for London, London Sustainability Exchange** and other partners.
- A report on the involvement of Faith groups in work on environmental issues for the **UK Sustainable Development Commission** and **WWF**.
- A report for **CDF** and funded by **Defra** on the engagement of the wider voluntary and community sector in work on climate change.
- Work for the **London Borough of Waltham Forest** with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Communities and faith-based organisations to increase their participation in recycling.
- Work with the **London Borough of Redbridge** setting up four new local community environment organisations over an eight year period.
- 'Thinking Locally, Acting Nationally' – a major piece of research for **CDF** funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation on lessons for national policy from local action.
- Evaluation of a range of national programmes for **Groundwork UK**.
- A report for **Defra** on a framework for considering socially sustainable development issues within procurement policy work.
- Developing a programme for **bassac**, the British Association of Settlements and Social Action Centres, that enables larger community organisations to assess their impacts.
- Co-authoring a report on Environmental Justice in London for the **London Sustainability Exchange**.
- Work for the local government **Improvement and Development Agency (IdeA)** developing good practice case studies.

More information on this and other work is available from CEA.

The services we offer

Some of the areas where you might find our services useful include:

- **Building the engagement of local communities:** we have extensive experience of working with all kinds of local communities (including faith groups, black and minority ethnic communities, and those in poverty) to plan and deliver real change.
- **Climate change:** any local climate change strategy needs to look at how to demystify the issues and build local capacity and action.
- **Community planning:** we have been actively engaged in the development of community strategies and action plans as well as carrying out independent evaluation of this work.
- **Developing local action plans and projects:** we have a long track record in this field and can offer advice and engagement at every stage.
- **Environmental inequalities:** it is now widely recognised that too often the poorest communities suffer the worst environments. CEA have been actively involved in developing local and national plans for work on tackling environmental inequalities and injustice.
- **Evaluation of projects and programmes:** we are experienced in looking at outcomes and impacts of all sorts of engagement and development projects. Good evaluation of any project can help build the skills of those involved and increase the likelihood of funding and support for subsequent work.
- **Policy analysis and research:** we have worked with a number of universities and research programmes to produce detailed original research.
- **Skills development for staff, elected members and partnership bodies:** all parts of any local council or partnership have a role to play in delivering on environmental targets and sustainable communities work – we can help plan and deliver the skills programmes you may need.
- **Waste minimisation and recycling:** building public engagement in tackling waste issues remains a major challenge. We have worked with a range of waste initiatives over the last twenty years and can advise on how to link this work with community engagement.



Working with CEA

CEA are happy to discuss any ideas or plans you may have where you are seeking external advice or support. This can range from involvement in one-day events or conferences through short-term projects to longer-term development programmes. While we are based in Hackney in East London, we work across the UK.

We are always ready and interested to discuss any project ideas that you may have without obligation. Much of our work involves developing new programmes and we welcome opportunities to tender for any relevant work.

Our rates are competitive and flexible and we can also advise on fund-raising for new projects.

You can contact us by ringing Chris Church on:

020 8806 1836 or **07710 409590**

or by emailing Chris:

chrischurch@phonecoop.coop

For general CEA queries email us at:

cea@poptel.org.uk

More information about us is available at:

www.cea.suscom.org

You can write to us at:

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