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Sharing Ideas and Developing Local Cooperation

You're probably not the only organisation working to improve your environmental performance in your area. Others may be facing very similar problems and it makes sense to share ideas, expertise, and problems to be solved. You may even want to develop partnership with other VCS bodies on issues such as bulk purchasing.

It therefore makes good sense to work out who else is active in your area. Some ways to do this include:

Make contact through your local Council for Voluntary Service or similar organisation. Ask if they know anyone else working on these issues and perhaps write a short article about what you're doing and inviting others to make contact.

Develop links with environmental organisations. Every Action Counts links both environmental and social development organisations, so it may well be useful to make contact with local organisations, such as your local Groundwork Trust, BTCV, Friends of the Earth group or Wildlife Trust. All of these may have ideas or advice. Your local Energy Advice Centre can advise you and may also know of others working on the same issues.

Use other local networks to find local expertise. In many areas there are electronic news lists about environmental issues. Local organisations may know of these or some internet searching may turn them up.

Publicise what you're doing and invite people to come and find out more. You and others could learn from experts and from each other if you organised a meeting or workshop on 'greening your office'. Find one or two experts (the Energy Advice Centre would be a good place to start) and invite other VCS bodies to join in. Some regions have set up networks specifically to share expertise like this.