



every action counts



2008 review

Being part of the Every Action Counts Consortium meant that 2007 was a busy year for the Educational Centres Association (ECA) We collaborate with local projects, partnerships and wider networks & have a website at www.e-c-a.ac.uk where you can find out more about us and our commitment to increase understanding of the environment & issues of sustainability. Our involvement in the Consortium is based on the belief, with others in the third sector, that by taking quite small steps we can still make a significant impact & contribute to environmental sustainability.

We thought that we would share some of last year's highlights with you so you can see how many people have been motivated to take action and to encourage you to get involved.

What is Every Action Counts?

Every Action Counts is an initiative designed to help voluntary and community groups, clubs & societies take actions to become more environmentally aware and sustainable.

It is based around the five themes of save energy, travel wisely, shop ethically, save our resources and care for your area.

Registering with Every Action Counts is free and gives access to ideas, resources and materials to help make changes.

We also encourage people to become community champions; volunteers who after training visit groups local to them to help them create an action plan of the changes they wish to make.



Wildlife Trusts Partnership

During the summer we developed a partnership with fellow Consortium member the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts and from July received money to work with their members in the three Eastern counties (see photo above). Active collaboration with the Trusts in Essex, Norfolk & Suffolk enables us to obtain wildlife advice for the region's community groups which are involved in Every Action Counts. So if you know of a group that would like to make their area more wildlife friendly, for example a village hall's grounds that would make a good wildlife area or restoring some waste ground, please contact us and we may be able to provide free advice to the group.

We can help you make every action count

By the end of the year over seventeen hundred community groups in England had decided to make every action count. In addition over a thousand people had volunteered to become community champions to help groups develop their action plans.

We are delighted that so many groups have registered with the initiative and are working to make a difference in their community.

If you are are involved with a group that you think would be interested in joining please let us know. If you would like to become or to have more information on becoming a community champion please contact us at info@e-c-a.ac.uk 0844 2495594 or 21 Ebbisham Drive, Norwich, NR4 6HQ.

The Earth Event

We started promoting Every Action Counts in Norfolk at The Forum in Norwich in March. The Earth Event ran along side the Earth from the Air exhibition, which featured aerial photographs of our planet taken by Yann Arthus Bertrand. We took part in three strands of the event, Junk Wise, Go Green and the Alternative Energy Exhibition.



Events

One of the ways in which the ECA has been promoting Every Action Counts to the community is by attending events such as green fairs and conferences with a environmental / sustainability theme.

Events we attended include –

Wymondham Environment Fair

Swaffham Volunteers Fair

Breathing Places Launch

Royal Norfolk Show

Fairhaven Green Fair

Inspire East People for Places conference

Wild About Norfolk

Norfolk Waste Partnership conference

Suffolk Creating the Greenest County conference

CEO meets with Hilary Benn Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Transition Essex

The Forum Eco Fair

Eurostar Launch

The Earth Event

People and Wildlife – Wildlife Trusts conference

Wild about the Wensum

Go Green at Gressenhall

Empowering Me, Empowering You

It's a Women's World Don't Waste It





Educational Centres Association

0844 2495594 info@e-c-a.ac.uk www.e-c-a.ac.uk



The Educational Centres Association 'ECA' is a national adult learning organisation funded by DIUS. It was founded as the Educational Settlements Association in 1920 and is in reciprocal membership with NIACE. Its traditional territory has been 'liberal' adult education with a strong emphasis on learner engagement; it has places at board level for student representation. The Association is a founder member of the Community Sector Coalition where it most clearly represents the voice of adult learning in the third sector.

Over the past two years, as part of the Coalition's sustainability actions, the ECA has played a strong role in the DEFRA funded 'Every Action Counts' initiative promoting 5 themes (save energy, travel wisely, shop ethically, save our resources, care for your area) of environmental sustainability within third sector organisations.

Wildlife Gardening Manifesto

The ECA is involved in 'The Forum for Gardening with Wildlife in Mind' which has produced a document called 'Let our gardens live! A manifesto for gardens, people and nature' launched on the 18th May 2007.

Bringing together a wide variety of organisations which have interests in gardens and gardening, including horticultural, nature conservation and scientific bodies, it hopes to draw public attention to the importance of gardens for wildlife, for people and for the urban environment generally and the threats that gardens face. It sets out an agenda for future joint action.

Third Sector Declaration on Climate Change

In July we joined other Every Action Counts Consortium members at a meeting with David and Ed Milliband, then Ministers for the Environment and Third Sector, for the launch of the Third Sector Declaration on Climate Change. This statement of intent commits signatories to tackling the issue of climate change by taking action within their organisations and communities.

The ECA then signed the Declaration and urges all other Third Sector organisations to sign up themselves and to start to make changes. The Declaration can be found on our website at www.e-c-a.ac.uk



BBC Breathing Places Campaign

We are very pleased to welcome Sophie Duncan Project Executive for Breathing Places as a Speaker at our 'The Environment as an Informal Adult Learning Issue' Conference on May 6th 2008. Breathing Places is a major BBC Learning campaign to inspire and motivate you to create and care for nature-friendly green spaces where you live.

Along with other organisations such as The Wildlife Trusts, BTCV, RSPB and Natural England the ECA attends the Breathing Places England Advisory Group's community workstreams meetings.

ECA Membership

The benefits of becoming a member of the ECA include

It is a well established organisation with an extended network of colleagues who are actively engaged in adult learning as participants, teachers and/or providers.

- Members have the opportunity to contribute to policy as the ECA has contact with Government departments and Ministers.
- It gives access to seats on regional committees which influence regional policies
- It is a practice based organisation which allows members the opportunity to contribute directly to projects or work collaboratively on joint initiatives
- Increased membership builds a stronger base for these actions

Conference - 'The Environment as an Informal Adult Learning Issue'

The 6th May Conference at Central Hall, Westminster addresses making climate change and sustainable lifestyles core issues in national policy for adult education. A mixture of delegates from post-16 education, third and environmental sectors will use points addressed at the event to inform their responses to the DIUS consultation.

The Peel Project

This project is a joint initiative of the national Educational Centres Association (ECA) and the Norfolk charity Family First. Its focus is on learning; to support young families, with particular reference to the needs of parents, concerning environmental issues that affect them and their children's wellbeing – and where their actions in turn affect the environment.

The choices we offer our children, the decisions they see us make and the way we talk with them, not only define their present day lives, they shape their futures.

This project will explore with parents their own learning strategies for sustainable, healthy living and develop whole-family approaches to these crucial issues.

Support is now sought for collaboration in this project in terms of identifying good practise, effective materials and participation in joint planning of activities.

New website launch



Our website now includes regularly updated pages and information. These include upcoming events, archived news stories, updated every action counts pages including the gardening with wildlife manifesto, Norfolk green directory, and new features such as the monthly wildlife tip. Please visit <http://www.e-c-a.ac.uk>

