

## Sustainability Audits of Faith Owned Buildings A Faiths4Change Training Day

**Faiths4Change provides training to faith communities to help them learn how to make their community buildings more sustainable. The training will help improve environmental performance as well as reducing running costs for the building.**

### Key Points

- Available free of charge to faith communities across the Northwest.
- Training provided by professional trainers and accredited by Myerscough College to NVQ2 standard.
- Delivered to faith community members and other local people.
- Action Plan for the host building agreed on the day.
- Free lunch and energy saving products for all participants.
- Follow up support available from Faiths4Change Project Officers.

### Format of the Day

The day is tailored to suit individual circumstances but will usually include:

- Introduction
- What do we mean by Sustainability?
- Why is it important?
- Understanding & Measuring our Impact
- Discussion of how impacts can be reduced
- Tour of the host venue
- Agree an Action Plan

The training is kept very informal with a mix of presentations and discussions to ensure everyone is involved and any questions are answered.

All participants receive an information pack with copies of audit checklists and useful information including websites, contacts for further resources and potential funding sources to implement suggested improvements.



### Action Plan

During the day an Action Plan will be agreed to make the host building more sustainable. This will consider energy and water usage, procurement and usage of resources (eg paper), waste management and recycling.

The Action Plan must be realistic and achievable and consider the finances, time and expertise available. Each agreed action will include a timescale, resources required and a responsible person.

Simple measures will usually be prioritised. These include:

- Changing to low energy light bulbs.
- Improved management of heating.
- Awareness raising for building users.
- Draughtproofing

Longer term measures could include:

- Wall and roof insulation.
- Double or secondary glazing.
- Installation of renewable energy sources.

### What Participants Said:

*'One of the best training courses I've attended – and I've been on lots!'*

*'Could improve by splitting into a 2 day seminar – so very interesting!'*

*'Excellent leader who kept the group focused'*

## Facts & Figures

To date (October 2009) Faiths4Change has:

- Delivered 19 Sustainability Audit training Sessions
- Directly assisted with Action plans for 19 faith owned buildings which are also used by the wider local community
- Indirectly supported skills to create Action Plans for many more participating places of worship
- Delivered training to 125 individuals from at least 40 different faith communities.
- Distributed over 3,000 low energy light bulbs and 1,500 PowerDowns for PCs and Televisions.



Demand from faith communities to host this training session is ever increasing with five more sessions already booked for the coming months.

### Case Study - Cockermouth Friends Meeting House

**The Building** - Located in a Conservation Area in Cockermouth, Cumbria and built approximately 125 years ago. Accommodation comprises Meeting Room, Preschool Room, Committee Room, Library, Kitchen, Hallways and Toilets.

**Issues Identified** - rooms often too cold, rooms get damp, draughts around building, lack of insulation in some areas.

**Action Plan** - A number of potential improvements were identified which were grouped into low, medium and high cost options. This allowed measures to be prioritised as funds became available.

**Low or No Cost measures included:**

- Regular monitoring of gas and electricity usage and using information to educate building users.
- Negotiate lower tariffs for energy supply - this will not contribute to environmental sustainability but will make funds available for other measures.
- Replace fluorescent tubes with more energy efficient versions and investigate low energy alternatives for other lights (low energy bulbs already in use in much of building).
- Install reflective panels behind radiators - particularly those on external walls.
- Fit draught excluder strips to doors and windows.

**Medium Cost measures included:**

- Investigate potential to zone the heating system to reduce need to heat whole building when only one room is in use.
- Install further insulation in roof space and lag all central heating pipes.
- Consider installing lines curtains on windows which currently have no covering.

**High Cost measures included:**

- Reduce heat loss through installing double or secondary glazing in main hall
- Replace old metal window frames with timber or composite double glazed units.