

# CAMBRIDGE CARBON FOOTPRINT

## REPORT August 2006

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

Cambridge Carbon Footprint is a local, not-for-profit organisation which has been set up with three inter-linked aims:

- a) To provide information, education and advice about climate change to people in Cambridge and the surrounding area
- b) To encourage and support people in Cambridge and the surrounding area to take personal responsibility for their contribution to climate change
- c) To promote and organise co-operation with bodies having similar or sympathetic aims.

### ORIGINS AND HISTORY

Cambridge Carbon Footprint grew out of the concerns of its founder members Andy Brown and Rosemary Randall that messages about climate change were neither reaching the majority of the population nor were framed in such a way that they took account of the psychological barriers to attitude and behaviour change. Our belief is that by starting from the bottom up with personal contact and a facilitating, non-judgmental approach, people can be encouraged to embrace the necessary changes.

Since our initial 'Carbon Footprint Stall' for the local street party in July 2005 we have run a further 12 'footprinting' events, where we have engaged people in conversations about the issues and discussed their concerns. Responses from people have generally been favourable – regardless of the size of their footprints! We have calculated over 400 individual footprints and involved 75 children in a children's quiz. We use soft-ware donated by the Centre for Alternative Technology and in addition to the Cambridge Sustainable City grant have received support in the form of donations of light-bulbs and literature from the City Council, CRed, and the Energy Savings Trust and donations from local businesses for prizes in the competitions run at the events.

### Recent developments

**1) 'Carbon Challenge groups'.** These are small discussion groups for people interested in reducing their footprints. Each group has four or five meetings at intervals of about a month based on the themes of 'Climate Change – What is it and why should I bother?' 'Energy in the home' 'Transport' 'Food and Water' and 'Waste and Consumption'. The first group met in the early part of 2006. Three more groups are due to begin Sept 2006 and we have produced learning materials to support these groups.

**2) Website and mailing list.** We have created a website [www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org](http://www.cambridgecarbonfootprint.org) which carries information about our activities and about climate change. We also have a mailing list of over 200 people to whom we send occasional emails about climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> reduction.

**3) Incorporation.** In March 2006 we registered as a not-for profit company, (Company Limited by Guarantee.)

**4) 'Akashi' and 'Asian Voice' projects.** We were successful in applying for funding from DEFRA's climate challenge fund for two projects. The 'Akashi' project is a joint venture with Cambridge Ethnic Community Forum and Cambridge Architectural Research whose aim is 'Promoting climate change awareness amongst Black and Minority Ethnic Communities and Faith Groups in Cambridge and region'. The 'Asian Voice' project is a joint venture with Asian Voice newspaper and involves the production of articles on Climate Change for the newspaper. Shilpa Shah was appointed as project co-ordinator for both projects and started work in July 2006.

**5) Publicity.** We have had publicity for Cambridge Carbon Footprint's work and for the Akashi project on local radio, community radio, local TV and in the press.

**6) Cambridge Evening News/City Council Environment Award.** We were delighted to receive this award in June 2006.

### **Future plans**

**1) Continuing with footprint stalls** We now have a group of about 10 active volunteers and intend to continue to run footprint stalls and events at the rate of about one a month.

**2) Carbon Challenge groups** We hope to develop a network of these groups, upping the number we run as we train more volunteer facilitators.

**3) Workplace carbon challenge groups.** We are exploring the possibilities of running carbon challenge groups in workplaces. This would require additional funding and we are looking into this.

### **FINANCES AND ACCOUNTS**

Most of our work is dependent on volunteer time rather than on money and we have been fortunate in attracting generous donations in kind.

Our bank account is held with The Co-operative Bank, Burleigh St, Cambridge. Accounts for the period to the end of August 2006 are attached.

Andy Brown and Rosemary Randall

Sept 9th 2006

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ACCOUNTS August 2005 – August 2006

## Income

Sustainable City grant	925	
Evening News Award	2000	
Total		2925

## Expenditure

laptop computer	299.00	
company registration	80.50	
Domain name + website	41.12	
exhibition stand	170.38	
trestle table	55.94	
Invertor & battery	62.47	
Gazebo	49.89	
Stall expenses (posters, postage, prizes, materials, books, booking fees etc)	176.32	
Materials for groups	64.43	
Books for reference and for groups	140.81	
Total		1119.88

Balance: 1805.12