



Annual Report

2009 – 2010

*Enabling positive actions through
sustainable resource use*

Company Reg. No. 4552388

Registered Office:
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Background

Cornwall Waste Action (CWA) is a small community based civil society organisation, operating as an independent 'not for private profit' company limited by guarantee.

Significant CWA activities for the period 09-10 included environmental project development and delivery, community events and the provision of support services to a range of organisations.

The continuing aims and objectives of CWA are:

Aims

- Advance environmental actions and community managed initiatives that enable resource efficiency.
- Work in collaboration with other organisations, on activities that facilitate sustainability.
- Increase awareness of the social and environmental challenges of climate change and resource depletion.

Objectives

- Provide opportunities that enable communities to take practical actions to become more effective in their management of resources, through environmental initiatives.
- Develop project partnerships and collaborative work that supports a wide range of environmental activities through innovative outreach work
- Enable individuals, communities and businesses, to reduce their environmental impact through services and advice that support sustainable resource use.

Governance

CWA has maintained a dedicated and experienced Board of Directors for the period; they are responsible for the organisation's strategic direction and development. The current Board was elected at CWA's previous Annual General Meeting, from the membership of the CWA Network and partner organisations. The current board is made up of seven people with reputable backgrounds and knowledge with a familiarity of the wider voluntary sector.

The management of CWA operational activity is delegated to the Co-ordinator, Guy Doncaster; this includes the management of financial and administrative activity, project delivery, consultancy services and staff management.

The Board remains legally responsible for all activities of the organisation, including matters delegated to staff. The Board meets quarterly and receive reports from the Co-ordinator, to oversee that the aims and objectives of the organisation are being maintained within CWA activities.

CWA Personnel for 09-10

The Board

Claire Brown	
Guy Doncaster	Company Secretary
Charles Hall	Treasurer
Ian Jones	
Gary King	Chair
Dave Mildren	
Elizabeth White	

Staff

Guy Doncaster	Co-ordinator
Lally Henty	Finance & Admin Worker
Marie Libert	Compost Development Worker

Key Volunteers

Matthew Spittle, Marina Sala, Liz Jones and Sarah Barber

Community Volunteers

CWA operates with the support of a large casual volunteer base, whose support enables a range of community projects to be delivered.

Review of activities

Changing Communities

This key CWA project reached its second year in 09-10, funded through Capacity Builders, Improving Reach Programme.

This financial support has allowed CWA the capability to develop collaborations with a range of community organisations, to enable the creation of new environmental projects.

Our main focus has been to support mainly volunteer run community groups, or small voluntary sector organisations with little staff. By means of capacity building provision, which has included funding and enterprise proposals, additional project activity and increased volunteering opportunities.

Organisations supported include:

- Bugle Greenspace Community Group
- Barrack Lane Allotment Group
- Chyan Community Field
- Cornwall Scrapstore
- Falmouth Green Centre
- Lescudjack Centre
- Penwith Environment Network
- Plan-It Earth
- St Merryn Community Garden Trust
- Sustainable Trust
- Tamar Grow Local

Each organisation assisted has another partner organisation besides CWA, supporting the new project. The aim of Changing Communities is to create new sustainable enterprises or funded activities, through collaboration. CWA's role is to facilitate the partnerships, liaise with other support organisations, as well as provide mentoring, advice and information.

Throughout this programme, we have provided ongoing guidance and practical help that has improved both the governance and profile of participating community groups. These support services have enabled CWA to expand its range of activities and sustain infrastructure support for community groups. Importantly it has provided CWA with the competence to operate as a Second-tier organisation, as well as delivering frontline projects.

Compost Mentor Scheme

Started in 2009 and funded via the Big Lottery Fund's, Local Food programme, this scheme is the CWA component of the Cornwall Community Food and Composting Project, which is a partnership with Cornwall Neighbourhoods for Change and The Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens.

Through the scheme CWA offers free training and support to local people to become Compost Mentors: volunteers who encourage and help members of their community to compost. All volunteers attend a workshop and are provided with composting equipment. Once they have attended the training participants begin to mentor their friends, family, colleagues or neighbours. Households who receive mentoring and help from the volunteers to start composting, also receive free compost bins and kitchen caddies.

During 09-10 period this project successfully recruited nearly 60 compost mentors in West Cornwall, with training provided in Falmouth and Penzance. The funding for this scheme has enabled CWA to employ a Compost Development Worker and expand its range of home composting promotional activities.

CWA Network Bursary Scheme

Throughout 09-10, CWA were able to provide a bursary scheme for community members of the CWA network. This allowance funded through the Big Lottery's Awards for All programme, was taken up by individuals throughout the county engaged in community based environmental activities. Over 20 volunteers on the scheme took advantage of the bursary to cover training costs, including travel, to embark on a range of courses in Cornwall and beyond.

Penzance Wormery Project

Working in partnership with Penwith Environmental Network, CWA has been funded via the Cornwall Community Foundation to establish a pilot project to promote greater home composting through the use of wormeries. The project is based in Penzance and provides free training and equipment, to local people without gardens, the project delivery takes place during 10-11.

Small Funded projects

A number of small funded projects for this period were undertaken by CWA, enabling greater environmental awareness and community engagement. Events included beach cleans, litter picking, tree dressing, compost promotion activities and participation in a range of community events.

Consultancy Services

CWA has increased its income generation, through a range of consultancy services to community partners and other organisations including the public sector throughout 09-10.

Services provided for this period include Advisor and Assessor work for the Big Lottery, Project Management for community groups, Waste Audits and Feasibility studies for the public sector.

Supporters Membership

CWA have maintained its membership base of around 100 supporters, which consists of mainly community organisations. The membership are engaged through regular electronic communication and encouraged to create collaborative activity that supports the development of community projects and environmental awareness.

There has been no annual conference or major gathering for 09-10, due to the lack of funding available for such an event as well the time constraints on CWA, due to demands of increased project activity.

Developments

CWA continued to research for new project activity; this included the Feasibility Study, financed by Cornwall Council into Community based Waste Wood project, which unfortunately concluded that a Social Enterprise model was not achievable in Cornwall due to a range of external factors.

We are also keen to increase our involvement in beach clean activity throughout the county, working with hard to reach groups from disadvantaged communities. A number of funding avenues are being targeted for these project proposals.

CWA are hoping to expand its composting activities, through additional funding, as well as income generation through Compost Doctor services to the private and public sector.

In 09/10 CWA progressed to the Interlink Capability Model level 3, which has helped the organisation improve its governance further and create quality management systems.

CWA Financial Report

Is contained within the Company's Statement of Accounts, for this period and will be presented at the Annual General Meeting, otherwise is available on request.

Summary

The period of 09-10, has been a successful year due to good funding revenue and developing income generation streams, allowing the organisation to expand its range of activities.

Allowing the organisation to have a period of relative financial security, has enabled CWA, to review its operational activities and management systems, to position itself as a more professional body, capable of a wider range of activities.

However, we need to be cautious of self congratulation on our performance, as challenging times are ahead. It is clear that funding opportunities are declining and income generation in a recession may have its limitations, although the door may well open to other prospects. The organisation will have to pursue new opportunities with determination, such actions may result in change, with CWA becoming different to its current format and performing other services, that maintain its long-term existence.

Guy Doncaster
Co-ordinator

05/11/10