



FOOD CO-OPS AND BUYING GROUPS

Information Update - March 2009

NEW FOOD CO-OPS FINDER WEBSITE



Sustain has just launched a new food co-ops finder website at www.foodcoops.org so that people can search for their nearest food co-op by putting in their postcode or clicking on the interactive map. However, so far the map only has details for a few food co-ops from around the country. To make sure your food co-op is listed go on-line now and add your details in the "Add your food co-op section".



CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

Despite the heaviest snow for 20 years our food co-ops conference was attended by over 50 stalwart participants from around the country. 79% of people who filled in evaluation form said the conference was excellent and many people said that, despite the circumstances, the conference was "fab", "fantastic" and well organised. 93% also said the all vegan menu was great. The most useful things about the day were networking, sharing information, and hearing from other groups, and attendees said they would take with them contacts, ideas, information, and enthusiasm to set up change. Thank you again to Suma and Infinity Foods who donated some tasty food for the goodie bags. The conference presentations and workshops can be downloaded from Sustain's website www.sustainweb.org/page.php?id=673.



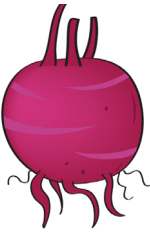
NEW FOOD MAGAZINE

As part of the Local Action on Food network Sustain is producing a new magazine called Rhubarb - with the first issue coming out next month. If you'd like to receive a copy and get other membership benefits you can sign up to the network by contacting Polly Tel: 020 7837 1228 E-mail: polly@sustainweb.org



REGIONAL EVENTS

This year we are going to be holding more regional events on setting up a food co-op. The first event will be in Brighton on Monday 27 April 11am - 3pm at the Brighthelm Centre. To book a place please e-mail maresa@sustainweb.org. We are also able to offer more in-depth 1:1 advice for groups that are setting up food co-ops or who have areas they need support with in their existing food co-ops. If you are interested in either 1:1 advice or having an event in your area please get in touch.



TRAINING ON LEGAL STRUCTURES

Co-operatives UK are running a series of free monthly workshops around England, the upcoming dates are: 24 March - Bristol, CREATE Centre 29 April - London, Friends Meeting House, Euston 27 May - Newcastle, Venue to be confirmed These will be full days from 10 am to 4 pm with lunch provided. This training course would be suitable for groups that are setting up a new food co-op and are not sure what legal structure they need, or existing food co-ops that need a more formal structure because they are taking on paid staff or applying for funding. To book a place contact Co-operatives UK Tel: 0161 246 2953 E-mail: mlfw@cooperatives-uk.coop



JOIN SKILL SHARE

Could you and your social enterprise benefit from mentoring support? This is an opportunity for you to increase your skills and knowledge and help your social enterprise succeed and grow. Skillshare provides free practical hands-on support and personal development for you and your project, in the form of experienced mentors. This support can be provided to staff, managers and board members through face-to-face contact, visits, telephone and email. Up to two days mentoring is available initially. To find out more contact Richard Snow Tel: 01993 814388 E-mail: richard.snow@plunkett.co.uk



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