



Food Co-ops and Buying Groups News Update



Issue 7 - September 2009

Due to popular demand we are now sending out our e-newsletter as a text document in the body of the e-mail. But we'll still put a PDF version up on our website for those of you who prefer to print it off and read it on the train home <http://www.sustainweb.org/foodcoops/newsletter/>

Jobs: Regional food co-op advisers

Sustain is currently recruiting eight part-time freelance regional food co-ops advisers as part of the Making Local Food Work programme. The main role of the workers will be to provide support and advice for new and existing food co-ops, to raise awareness of food co-ops through a range of activities and to help local producers and suppliers to connect with food co-ops. To apply for this position, please send your CV and a covering letter telling us about your experience and what you think you could bring to Sustain, and also your availability / flexibility of work hours, to Maresa Bossano at: maresa@sustainweb.org, or to Sustain, 94 White Lion St, London N1 9PF to arrive by 5pm on 16th September 2009. Also please state which region you would be interested in working in. To find out more and download a job description visit www.sustainweb.org/jobs

Potential suppliers: Real bread

The Real Bread Campaign www.realbreadcampaign.org works to bring together bakers, consumers and everyone else who values the taste, nutritional quality and sustainability of bread. Its key aims are to encourage and promote the consumption and production of all-natural Real Bread that is better for our health, our communities and our planet. Access to Real Bread is a key concern for the campaign. Competition from ever larger, out of town supermarkets and shopping complexes continues to contribute to the closure of high street bakeries and many other local businesses. Food co-ops can offer routes for Real Bread into communities, where a fresh loaf will make a valuable contribution to a healthy yet economical food basket. If you would like help in finding a baker of Real Bread to supply your co-op or have one already you'd like to share with others, please contact Chris Young realbread@sustainweb.org



Events: Community Food Hubs: exploring ideas and practice

The Food Hubs strand of Making Local Food Work is holding a conference Monday 9th November 2009 at Luther King House, Brighton Grove, Manchester M14 5JP. The conference will be covering areas such as accessing supply and small-scale distribution, analysing food hubs, exploring the tension between social and commercial work, managing costs and using IT systems and influencing food policy. The Food Hubs strand is also looking for more food projects to trial IT web-based software for free. The aim of the software is to help small projects to manage their orders, invoices, stock, etc. through one system. To find out more about the conference and IT project contact: clare@sustainweb.org

New food co-ops: The People's Supermarket



The People's Supermarket is currently being set up by innovative and forward-thinking chef Arthur Potts Dawson. This is a supermarket that is run by the people, for the people, selling the best food at the lowest possible prices. The People's Supermarket is designed to offer an alternative use for the thousands of empty retail units on our high streets and counter the belief that you can only have either cheap or good food - and never both. The supermarket is inspired by the Park Slope Food Coop in Brooklyn that was started in 1973 and now has 17,000 members, offers them a saving of 20%-40% off their weekly grocery bill and enjoys a turnover of \$32m. To find out more and register your interest visit www.peopllessupermarket.org

Funding: Empty shops

The Government has made £3m available to help areas hit hardest by the recession find creative ways to reduce the negative impact empty shops are having on the high street. Many high streets in areas of high deprivation are seeing empty shops boarded up because of the downturn, which is impacting on consumer and business confidence. The Government is determined to help ensure town centres remain vibrant places for people to meet and shop. Funding has been awarded to the 57 most deprived local authority areas to find creative ways to use their empty shops and re-open them as facilities for communities. Each council will receive a grant of more than £50,000 to use as they see fit on ideas to boost town centres and transform empty shops into something useful such as a meeting place, a learning centre or a even a showroom for local artists. If you are interested in opening a community-run shop you may be able to access some of this funding. To find out more and see if your area is covered visit <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/1311364>

Can you help?

Over the summer we have been visiting food co-ops around England to find out what advice and support they need. We have received lots of requests, some of which we can help with straightaway, and others which are a bit more complicated. However, it is always useful to hear how other food co-ops have dealt with these issues or if they can offer any useful advice or support to others. If you can help with any of the following please get in touch: free or reduced cost design or accountancy services, insurance for small food co-ops, advice on volunteer rotas, sources of funding for feasibility studies. Also if anyone has just purchased a new van or laptop and has old ones they may be interested in selling or donating to another group please let us know.

Add a link: If you have a website please add a link to ours: www.foodcoops.org and don't forget to add your outlets to the food co-ops finder www.sustainweb.org/foodcoops/add/

