



28 April 2014
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To: All Branch Secretaries
CC: NEC Science, Environment, Sustainability Advisory Committee
Environment Representatives and Environment network

Dear Colleagues

Biodiversity: going green (literally)

The attached Prospect environment briefing is the first of four 2014 thematic briefings designed to inform and enable Branches, environment reps and members interested in environmental issues to actively promote Prospect's commitment to environmental and social justice. Equally this agenda can raise the profile of Branches, attract new members and enable member activity.

Throughout the year we will continue to:

1. **Envision:** cascade information of environment and climate change and it's impact on workplaces and wider society;
2. **Empower:** identify new environment representatives, provide training, coach and mentor groups to bring about individual and collective workplace activity; and
3. **Enable:** support new environment reps through briefings (like this one), resources, e-network, research and meetings/events.

In each briefing there will be guidance on corporate and individual activity with a focus on getting others involved. In the case of biodiversity, activities could include:

Workplace activities:

- Raising biodiversity (and ecosystems) with your organisation's Environment and/or Sustainability Committee
- Asking questions about your organisations biodiversity activity – for example:
 - Is there responsible land (estate) use and/or management?
 - What efforts are being made to encourage restoration of, or introduction of, ecosystems?
 - Is biodiversity part of your Environment Management System (EMS)?
 - Is the Organisation sourcing sustainably (e.g. timber, food, water, clothing)?
 - Advocate for the construction of a living wall and/or sedum roof!

Involving others at work:

This is an easy topic to speak to colleagues about and some of the suggestions below could also be used under the Prospect Branch banner to get groups of members involved – suggestions include:

- Identify a day (or week) to focus on biodiversity in the workplace

New Prospect House, 8 Leake Street, London SE1 7NN

- Agree this with your sustainability team/management
- Agree on activities, for example;
 - Lunch time talk by local gardeners
 - Local produce stall (or maybe promote "grow your own")
 - Seed exchange - share seeds and cuttings with colleagues.
http://bit.ly/garden_swap
 - Advertise widely (notice boards, intranet etc.)
- Promote and share successes (newsletters, emails, Facebook and Twitter)

Individual activity:

- Organise or take part in pond-clearances, river and beach clean-ups
- Take action on invasive non-native plant species
- Get your gardens buzzing with life. Plant for pollinators, bugs & low water usage
http://bit.ly/bug_life
- Support a local "green gym." <http://bit.ly/greengym>
- Establish community links for neglected areas, e.g. guerrilla gardening. http://bit.ly/g_garden
- Join your local community wildlife groups, such as Wildlife Trust or Conservation Volunteers
- Give nature a home this spring: The RSBP have an excellent webpage and free booklet on guidance ranging from balconies to large gardens with topics on building homes for bats to feeding garden birds. <http://homes.rspb.org.uk/page/projects>
- Consider ordering a "bee kit" and establishing a hive - don't forget, without bees to pollinate plants, we'd struggle to grow a lot of our fruit and veg, and many other plants would fail to set viable seeds and berries. http://bit.ly/FOE_bees



Other briefings this year

The other 2014 briefings (and activity guidance) will be on water (July/summer), energy efficiency (September/winter) and waste (November/Christmas)

What's possible?

Prospect environment rep Tom Proudfoot of the National Library of Scotland aims to reduce the carbon footprint and recently encouraged colleagues to get on their bikes. He sourced local funding and items for a cycling "goodie bag". The activity opened doors to speak to management about a range of related issues. The full story and example of the goodie bag may be viewed at <http://bit.ly/S1VvFX>

Yours sincerely

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