

Jan McHarry – Overview

Jan McHarry is co-director (with Chris Church) of Community Environment Associates (CEA). Much of CEA's work is with a diverse range of local organisations and national policy groups. It has a good track record on enabling, advising and evaluating local activity that contributes towards developing more sustainable communities. A major focus is building work with communities around the environmental and ethical agenda of climate change and behaviour change.

Jan is an independent consultant focusing on broad issues linked to sustainable development, local environment, neighbourhood liveability and community engagement. She has a diverse breadth of experience and contacts within this field and is an experienced researcher with skills ranging from feasibility studies, project development, evaluation, assessment and monitoring through to case studies, information gathering, signposting, community engagement and communications work.

Jan has a BA (Hons) Geography, Environmental Science & English (Oxford Polytechnic, 1979) and an MSc in Rural and Regional Resources Planning (Aberdeen 1982). She is the Buddhist Trustee of the Faith Based Regeneration Network (national network for community development, community regeneration and social action). Jan sits on the Steering Group of the Chartered Institute of Water and Environmental Management's Faiths and Environment Network and is a long-standing representative on London Borough of Tower Hamlet's Interfaith Forum. She is an Associate of the Community Development Foundation and Project Associate for Capacity Global. She is a contributor, co-author and author to a number of commercially available publications, as well as many reports and materials for non-governmental organisations.

Prior to self-employment, Jan worked for several NGO's including Friends of the Earth UK as Information Officer (1985-1990). She lived in the London Borough of Hackney for 24 years before moving to Oxford in Spring 2012.

Project evaluation and assessment includes:

- Independent Project Assessor and evaluation work for **DECC Local Energy Assessment Fund** (LEAF) Spring 2012.
- Independent Project Assessor for national grant schemes including: **Big Lottery 'Local Food' programme** (2008-to date). Assessments involved face-to-face contact with applicants, as well as documents review; **Faith in Action** (CLG funds, co-ordinated by Community Development Foundation, with emphasis on social action, community engagement and capacity building (2009-11); **Lottery CRED** (Community Recycling and Economic Development Programme) 2003-2005; **Faith Communities Capacity Building Fund** (Home Office, Round 1, 2006), administered by CDF, and to **Defra**, Environmental Action Fund, pre 2005).
- Project Consultant, CEA's evaluation of **Groundwork UK** Whitbread Community Action UK volunteer empowerment scheme (2005-2007), evaluation of Groundwork UK's 'Balfour Beatty Building Better Communities', evaluation of Groundwork 'Marks and

Spencer Green-Space/Public Space Improvement' pilot programme and Millennium Volunteers Programme (2004).

- Project Associate, **Community Development Foundation**. Assessments contributing to 1) Evaluation of Barclay's SiteSavers Programme, for Groundwork UK (2003) and 2) Evaluation of the SEED Programme, New Opportunities Fund for **Royal Society for Nature Conservation (RSNC)** (2004).
- Project consultant, **CEA**. A review of all London Boroughs Local Strategic Partnerships and Community Strategies (2003-2005) appraising content and how embedded environment/sustainability issues were within mainstream policy. Jan co-managed both pieces of research for the **Government Office for London** and other partners.
- Other evaluation experience includes a national review of local sustainability work for central government **DEFRA's** work on the UK's first Sustainable Development Strategy and identification/preparation of case study material for **local government Improvement and Development Agency** (2003-2005).

Recent project work includes:

- **Low Carbon Communities Network:** project support for Communities and Climate Action Alliance national conference (London 2011) and Low Carbon Communities Network annual conference 2012, managing conference arrangements/ overseeing administration systems with LCCN staff;
- Research support for **Community Environment Associates'** commissioned work (**2012**);
- **LB Waltham Forest:** Climate Change awareness work, with Capacity Global, with faith-based groups (2010). This was one of 4 pilot projects assessing appropriate means of community outreach for LB Waltham Forest (2010). Included authoring a resource guide;
- **LB Waltham Forest:** Undertaking recycling community engagement and outreach work with community-based groups from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities and faith-based organizations to increase resident participation (2006-8);
- Organising a seminar for the **Environment Agency** on engaging with Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Refugee groups (Hackney-based) and improving communications, linked to climate change and resilience. November, 2009;
- **Tower Hamlets NHS (PCT):** Tower Hamlets *End of Life Care Interfaith Directory* & accompanying information on culturally appropriate and faith-sensitive end-of-life care, lead author and researcher on behalf of PCT & Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum;
- Consultant, assisting **LB Tower Hamlets Scrutiny & Equalities** team on community and faiths engagement in the development of their Religion and Belief Equality Strategy maintaining their Level 5 Equality status (2008-9);
- **Co-organising** the 4th London Multi-Cultural Environment Fair & Conference: Opportunities & Issues for Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic and Refugee Environmental Participation (2008);

Research and information includes:

- **BTCV**, 'Green Spaces for Faith' project. Practical green space improvement work, fundraising and author of *'Stepping Forward Together, A Quick Resource Guide 2011*, a partnership project between BTCV and Tower Hamlets Interfaith Forum, funded by Faiths in Action.

- **Every Action Counts (Defra-funded initiative)**. Co-authoring '*Changing the way we work - Green Office Guide 2008*' and involvement in EAC developmental work.
- Research for **Defra's Sustainable Procurement Task Force** on social sustainability issues & procurement case studies for Sustainable Procurement National Action Plan (2006);
- Research and final report for the **Sustainable Development Commission and WWF** on the engagement of faith groups & secular agencies in sustainable development initiatives across the UK. (2004-5);
- Project Consultant and Co-author with the **Commonwealth Secretariat** on a *Plain Language Guide to the UN Johannesburg Plan of Implementation from the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development*. (Earthscan Books, 2005);
- **Co-author and Editor** (with Chris Church) of *One Small Step – A Guide to Sustainable Development in the UK*. This was the first national overview of work in this field. Published by Community Development Foundation, 1999.

Past community procurement experience also includes Buy Recycled Programme Co-ordinator (**National Recycling Forum/Waste Watch**) & Co-Author (1995-8) *UK Recycled Products Guide* and *Buy Recycled* website (1998)

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