

'Action at Home', 'Action at Work' and 'Action at School' are three programmes which aim to support, guide and advise people to make small lifestyle changes and make a difference to the environment.

Alison McGregor is Regional Development Manager for Global Action Plan

Alison McGregor talks to Anne Wise

Global Action Plan

A unique organisation that believes that people will make small changes to their daily lifestyles to help protect the environment

The aim is to encourage people to take action to reduce their impact on the environment and to improve their quality of life.

Could you provide a background to the work of Global Action Plan?

We are a National Charity started in 1993 with the aim of encouraging people to take action to reduce their impact on the environment and to improve their quality of life. The main areas of practical interest are energy, water, waste, transport and greener purchasing (e.g. organics, recycling, and low energy). Our philosophy is that everyone can do something and we try and work with people at home, at school and in the workplace.

To deliver these aims Global Action Plan (GAP) run a number of specific programmes which are very structured and measured. However, we don't usually produce a lot of materials and information packs, but focus on enabling and training people to take action. We work with people through training workshops and through action teams which are about practical, simple steps which are very action based.

How many people are involved?

Trewin Restorick is the Director and there are 17 paid full-time staff plus many other volunteer workers, and we are growing rapidly across the country. GAP employs locally-based agents to help deliver the programmes for specific schools or businesses. People are trained so they have the skills to deliver our programmes.

Could you give an example of the programmes GAP runs?

There are a number of programmes, for example, 'Action at Home', 'Action at Work' and 'Action at School'. There is also a programme called 'Action in the Community', and 'Environment Champions', which is specifically for smaller/medium enterprises across the county. We invite employees of the smaller/medium

enterprises and of larger businesses to the 'Action at Work' scheme to join the 'Action at Home' scheme. Similarly with the schools programme we invite the parents of the students to join the 'Action at Home' scheme, so that the programmes are community based.

What is your role at GAP?

I was employed as the first Devon worker and it was the first time the charity had moved out of the London area. It is working well, having someone on the ground, so it is now being replicated in other parts of the country.

I now have the title of Regional Development Manager, as the programmes have become wider than just Devon, and I'm also responsible for managing the office and dealing with the strategic side (together with the Regional Manager).

For details of Alison's work with 'Action at School' see page 67.

Further details about the work of

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

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