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.

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 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) runs a number of specific programmes which are very practical and measurable. 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 is 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 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 all the programmes have become wider than just Devon, and I am 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 are available from:

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The opportunity to incorporate both road-safety and greener transport into the curriculum, was perfectly timed.

Exmouth Community College is the first school in the country to take on the Global Action Plan (GAP) module Action at School on Transport. Their major aim is to reduce the amount of cars used by staff and students in 2000 by 10%, through the implementation offered by the framework within the GAP ‘Action on Transport’ module.

Aim

Exmouth’s long-term aim is three-pronged:
- to achieve a reduction in car use
- to assimilate their work into a Green Travel Plan
- to integrate travel and green issues across the school curriculum.

For many years Anne Gough, Head of Year 8, had been involved in running the cycle-safety courses at the College’s feeder primary schools. These had taken place during the summer-term evenings with Year 6 students. Due to size of this task, it often meant that this training extended into the new school year as the children arrived as Year 7 students. Thus the opportunity to incorporate both road-safety and greener transport into the curriculum, was perfectly timed.

‘TravelWise’

In 1997, Anne had been involved in a ‘TravelWise’ survey (see page 63) which was funded by Devon County Council and supported by the Schools Health Education Unit.

Unknowingly at this stage, the data from the survey went to prove a key feature in Action at School On Transport launched by GAP’s Regional Development Manager for the South West, Alison McGregor in 1999. While setting up the early structure of the project. Ben Findel-Hawkins, Deputy Head of Year 8, also became involved. Ben is a P.E. teacher who provided a natural link with the health aspect of the project.

Step 1

The GAP project at Exmouth CC commenced during the month of May, 1999. GAP recommended a number of steps (see www.globalactionplan.org.uk行动学校.htm) for Exmouth CC to follow, as outlined below:

- ‘Action at School’ – Planning the campaign!
- Setting up ‘Action on Transport’
- ‘TravelWise’ activities
- Linking to other projects
- Action on Transport
- TravelWise
- Curriculum Activities
- Assessment and Evaluation
- Developing a plan

Anne Wise

‘Action at School’ at Exmouth Community College

The main aim is to reduce the amount of cars used by staff and students in 2000 by 10%