

Saving water in the Black Isle? Really?



- Only 1% of Scotland’s rainfall ends up where Scottish Water can use it.
- Scottish Water uses more electricity than any other company in Scotland – particularly treating and pumping water.
- The average person uses 154 litres of water every day – over 50,000 litres per year.
- A previous study showed that only 20% of people make a connection between the use of hot water and their energy bill

How much could a householder save?

43,800 litres of water, £110 per year in reduced energy bills and 744kg of CO₂

Based on a four-person family in an average gas heated house installing an aerated shower head, taking 1 min off each shower, fitting a cistern displacement device and using a universal plug.

Project Background

Over the last year, Home Energy Scotland has been working with Scottish Water to distribute water saving packs. The packs include an information brochure; promotional materials like a tea towel and cloth bag; with optional water saving devices such as aerated shower heads and toilet “Hippos”. Some of the most successful aspects of this programme have been the community based campaigns where feedback from householders showed that they were motivated to take action because it is part of a community campaign.

Building on this initial success we would be keen to work with other community groups to help distribute packs in their areas as part of the 2018/19 programme.

There are various ways in which we could work in partnership to distribute the packs so that we deliver against our mutual objectives. Recognising that resources might be a challenge, one option would be a **fully funded student placement** for 8 to 12 weeks during the summer 2018, organised through Bright Green Placements. Funding would also be provided to cover any direct costs of the project such as venue hire or other event costs.

Potential Student Placement

The key objectives of the student placement would be to deliver a local water advice project which would:

- Engage and provide water advice to individuals in the community,
- Provide households with a **free water saving brochure** and appropriate **free water saving devices** (aerated showerheads, shower timers, kitchen and bathroom tap aerators, “Hippo” cistern displacement devices, universal plugs, and trigger-guns for hoses), or else ordering free devices and recording details of who received / ordered what.

There may also be opportunities to distribute **water butts** providing suitable delivery, storage and transport logistics can be identified.

The student would work 35 hours per week with a primary focus on helping with the delivery of the water saving project. They would also be able to help with other activities as agreed with the host organisation.

As well as the option of a student placement, there are various other ways in which we could work with you to help distribute the packs and would welcome the opportunity to discuss these, should a student placement not be of interest or if a suitable candidate could not be identified.

As far as the student placement option is concerned, the preferred option would be for the community group to be the host organisation, responsible for inducting and supporting the student; agreeing day to day activities; their health and safety; and making sure the student completes a weekly timesheet which is submitted to Bright Green Placements. Home Energy Scotland and Scottish Water would also provide guidance and support where necessary.

As far as the financial arrangements for a student placement are concerned:

- **Bright Green Placements** would issue a contract to the community group and an invoice for the cost of the student placement at the start of the placement. This is expected to be approximately £4,000 depending on the length of the placement.
- The community group would then invoice **Energy Saving Trust** for the same amount who would ensure there were no cashflow issues for the group.
- **Bright Green Placements** would pay the student their weekly allowance which would be at least the living wage.

It is structured in this way, so that the student is not regarded as an employee of the host organisation.

The community group would also invoice any direct costs of the project (e.g. any interview expenses, venue hire for events, student travel costs delivering project, catering at events, adverts, phone costs) to **Changeworks** providing receipts to substantiate claim who will reimburse them within 30 days.

If you would like to pursue the student placement option, we would need to work together to undertake a recruitment exercise to find a suitable student – developing a project description to advertise the role and then conducting interviews.

NB there is no requirement to take a student should a suitable candidate not be found