

Sprout - getting young people switched on to saving the planet

Sprout, an environmental volunteering project set up for young people in Nottingham, will be hosting a stall in the Future City Marquee on the 18th and 19th February, as part of Nottingham City Council's 'Young Nottingham' programme of events in the Old Market Square - giving young people the chance to find out how they can get involved in caring for the environment.

The Sprout stall will be open from 9.00am - 4pm and young people will be able to talk to the Sprout team and watch screenings highlighting Sprout's work - including why young people should be doing their bit for the environment now and in the future.

The project was set up by the Partnership Council charity based in Hyson Green in January 2008 - with the aim of helping young people aged 16 - 24 set up their own environmental projects.

For example, Sprout has recently helped May Bate, and the neighbourhood group she belongs to 'Transition Forest Fields', to plant fruit and nut trees in public green spaces around the NG7 area of Nottingham, so that local people will have access to free fruit and nuts in the near future.

To find out more visit www.fruitandnotts.weebly.com

Plus, Sprout has also set up several environmental projects of its own, including planting community gardens and allotments around the city.

Rachel Wicks from Sprout explains:

"Many young people are already very passionate about caring for the environment but without knowing how to get funding or recruit volunteers for example, it's difficult for individuals to get their projects off the ground. That's why we established Sprout, to give young people the support and advice they need to put their ideas into action."

Sprout also has a growing number of young volunteers who regularly help out around the city. For instance, Sprout volunteers transformed the garden outside the Hyson Green Library on Gregory Boulevard recently.

The Future City Marquee event coincides with the UK's first Core Cities Youth Summit, which will be looking at ways young people can shape urban policy-making in the eight cities that make up the Core Cities Group; Nottingham, Sheffield, Newcastle, Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Bristol and Birmingham.

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In Nottingham, the exhibitors and activities in the Future City marquee will give young people the chance to have their say about the city's future; including what the city will look like, what services will be provided for young people, and how they can get involved now to help shape the best possible future for Nottingham.

Rachel concludes:

"If you've got an idea which could help the environment, locally or otherwise, please get in touch with us. We'll do our best to help you get your idea off the ground and can give you everything from funding advice to volunteer support - we also have a limited number of small grants available to help fund young people's projects ourselves."

Sprout - Free Energy Saving Lightbulbs

Sprout volunteers will be delivering free energy saving lightbulbs to households in the NG7 area of the city during the week beginning Monday 23rd February.

Rachel explains:

"The majority of people are keen to save energy but the initial extra cost of buying energy saving lightbulbs can be a hurdle to those on low incomes.

By providing free energy saving lightbulbs we're hoping to get more and more people switched onto the advantages of going energy saving.

As well as producing less CO2, energy saving lightbulbs can save around £60 in electricity over their lifetime so they're good for people's pockets as well as for the environment!"

To find out more about Sprout please contact Rachel Wicks at the Partnership Council on 0115 970 8200 or email rachel@partnershipcouncil.co.uk