

Adult Learners' Festival

Green Learning

Tuesday 21st February 2012

About

The idea of sustainable living has come to the fore in recent years. *Green Learning Day* takes place on Tuesday and highlights the role adult learning can play in creating green citizens and a green environment. Adult learning initiatives are encouraged to launch a community garden, hold a sustainable living workshop, hold a taster lesson in gardening, cookery or recycling or to take an outing to one of our many beautiful national wildlife parks.

Event & Activity Ideas

Waste Not Want Not

Hold this event on *Green Learning Day* and help learners to find out where rubbish goes once it goes in the bin. Learn how to make the most of household refuse by composting and other ways of recycling. Have a look at www.irishseedsavers.ie for more information .

On Your Bike!

Cycling is also the least polluting way of travelling after walking. Ten bikes can be parked in the space of one car and 2kg of carbon are saved for every short journey that is made using a bike instead of a car. As part of *Green Learning Day*, why not encourage cycling by offering a range of hands-on activities e.g. puncture repair, fitting a bell, fitting lights, putting the chain back on.

Get Gardening

Gardening is a way to relax, get exercise and grow your own food! To mark *Green Learning Day* you can hold a gardening demonstration, launch a community garden or start at the basics by planting a herb garden! You could even plant a window box with lettuce seeds and have fresh crispy lettuce all summer long. Why not inspire participants by holding a cooking demonstration using fresh produce from the garden! Contact www.giireland.com for information about the meetings in your area.

Green Up

Take an hour's walk in a green space such as one of our national wildlife parks or on one of the many Slí na Sláinte routes and use it to consider practical ideas for making even the smallest garden environmentally-friendly choosing suitable plants, composting, insect and hedgehog 'hotels', water features, organic alternatives and more! Ask a local garden designer or a local college if they have any garden tutors that would be happy to guide the walk. There may even be a green expert in your own organisation.

LeftoverChef

Food is an essential part of the world we live in, and in turn it can have a big impact on the environment around us. On *Green Learning Day* why not organize a left over evening and see what you can create. Look up www.leftoverchef.com or www.stopfoodwaste.ie for ideas.

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Distance Learning

Are you a distance learning provider? Take a leaf out of the Open University's book by celebrating the 'green friendly' elements of your distance learning course by holding a coffee morning and making tutors and staff available to discuss the distance learning options open to students.

Waste Audit

How green is your organisation? Hold a waste audit to calculate your waste and water output. You can start by separating your paper and cardboard for recycling, buying in bulk and encouraging electronic circulation of documents. Visit www.greenbusiness.ie to identify the amount of waste you produce and water you consume.

Quick Fixes

- **Hold a workshop on green upskilling courses in partnership with local organisations**
- **'Meet the Tutors' Set up an information stand in your local shopping centre or canteen to attract potential adult learners**
- **Include a crossword or information on green learning opportunities with staff payslips**
- **Organise a taster class or demonstration for potential learners**
- **Organise a behind the scenes tour....at a wildlife park/ at the library /at a botanic garden**
- **Launch adult learning research, statistics, booklets or exhibitions**
- **E-mail your local and national politicians about your concerns for the adult learning sector**
- **If you can't hold an event why not distribute the AONTAS FREE information booklet What Next? Contact us at mail@aontas.com for some copies**

Useful Contacts

The Cultivate Centre (www.cultivate.ie)
Grow it Yourself Ireland (www.giyireland.com)
ENFO (www.askaboutireland.ie)
Teagasc (www.teagasc.ie)
National Parks and Wildlife (www.npws.ie)
Slí na Sláinte (www.irishheart.ie)
Bike to Work (www.biketowork.ie)

AONTAS Can Help!

We understand that it's often difficult to find the time to hold an event or run an activity so AONTAS have put a number of resources in place to make it as easy as possible for your organisation to become involved in the Adult Learners' Festival 2012.

An Event in a Bag jam-packed with everything you need to promote your event

A local contact in each area to share their knowledge and experience

Activity and Event ideas on www.adultlearnersfestival.com

Calendar of Events at www.adultlearnersfestival.com

AONTAS staff on hand for any guidance and assistance you might need

Don't have the time to organise an event or activity from scratch? You can still be part of the Adult Learners' Festival by scheduling an existing event during the festival week.

Don't forget to keep AONTAS up to date on events or activities you have planned.

Register your event to take part at www.adultlearnersfestival.com

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