

Exploring alternative approaches to developing sustainable communities

One of the University of Gloucestershire's **Essentials of Community Development (ECD)** series

There are many alternative approaches for developing sustainable communities being discussed in and outside the UK. Though sometimes appearing radical, some of these approaches may offer insights into how we solve today's problems. What appears impossible today may become standard practice in the future. Being aware of different approaches offers a wider range of alternatives that can help you 'think outside the box' - especially useful for creating solutions to problems that appear insoluble. What are the strengths and weaknesses of these ideas?

This course offers the opportunity to be at the cutting edge of new ideas on community development and have the advantage of knowing about the success and failure of alternative approaches. Awareness of the weaknesses and costs of radical approaches as well as the benefits (trumpeted by interest/ lobby groups) puts you in the vanguard of new ideas that can bring benefits for funding for piloting alternative approaches.

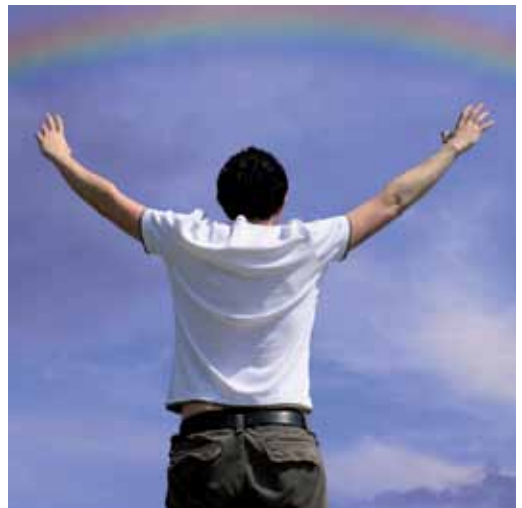
For those in policy or decision making situations, it is especially important to understand the arguments and counter-arguments associated with alternative development approaches.

This is a stand-alone one day course, but can be taken as part of the ECD programme (4 x 1 day courses).

What is this course about?

The aim of this course is to explore a range of alternative approaches to developing sustainable communities, including alternative economic systems, service delivery, managing shared resources - their relative strengths and weaknesses. It also looks at adding value to local resources, such as:

- Food and farming
- Forestry and wildlife
- Alternative energy sources
- Recreation and leisure
- Energy and water



Who is this for?

- Managers and decision makers in local and regional levels of government, NGOs, local authorities, regional bodies
- Professionals involved in: local government, community service delivery, health, education, recreation, natural resources management, rural or urban service delivery and sustainability

What are the learning objectives?

At the end of this course participants will be able to:

- Describe alternative forms of sustainable development in the UK and abroad
- Explain alternative approaches to managing local economy-society relationships
- Define the factors and conditions that make approaches succeed
- Discuss the relative strengths and weaknesses of alternative forms of community development in relation to their own situations
- Conduct a basic assessment of a range of alternative options for their own community, and identify what might work
- Present arguments for and against alternative approaches in relation to their own communities

How will participants benefit?

- Increases awareness of a wide range of alternative development scenarios

- Develops capacity to identify and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of new approaches in relation to their own communities
- Builds confidence in exploring new approaches and ideas with others in their community
- Improves capability to explore innovative solutions and know where to go for more information

Follow up activity could include:

- Community Engagement and Governance (Foundation Degree)
- European Rural Development (Postgraduate Certificate/ Diploma, Masters Degree)
- Essentials of Community Development (ECD) programme (short courses)

About the Countryside and Community Research Institute (CCRI)

The CCRI is a partnership between the University of Gloucestershire, the University of the West of England, the Royal Agricultural College and Hartpury College. The CCRI undertakes research and teaching on a wide range of issues relating to the economy, society, environment and governance in the UK and Europe emphasising sustainable development, economic regeneration, sustainable environments, local distinctiveness and inclusive participatory processes.

Exploring alternative approaches to developing sustainable communities

1 day course (one of 4x1 day courses making the ECD programme)

How to book

To book please visit:
www.glos.ac.uk/shortcourses

Duration

1 day

Course Fee (per person)

£175 per 1 day course
£600 full 4 day programme

Time

9am - 4.30pm

Date

Visit our website for the latest dates

Location

Park Campus
University of Gloucestershire

For directions go to:

www.glos.ac.uk/travel

Tutor

Dr John Powell
(Supporting academics)

Contact us

To discuss the course in more detail call the University of Gloucestershire's Centre for Enterprise and Innovation, tel: **01242 714104** or email shortcourses@glos.ac.uk

The University of Gloucestershire's Short Course Programme is supported by Knowledge Escalator.

The Knowledge Escalator project is part financed by the European Union's ERDF Competitiveness and Employment Programme 2007-13 securing £1,833,000 of ERDF investment through the South West Regional Development Agency (SWRDA).



1116 8/2011.pdf