

Background to the Post

The Energy Academy

Advocate Requirements

AFSL

Action for Sustainable Living supports individuals and their communities to make a difference. We believe that small steps lead to big changes.

Since 2003, Action for Sustainable Living has successfully connected people, shared resources and supported communities to live more sustainably. Our unique, tailored and holistic approach is a highly effective way for communities to respond to the challenge of climate change.

AfSL relies on volunteers to function; they play an essential role in our projects and core work. Volunteering is an important part of Action for Sustainable Living's activities and we try to find outlets for all skills and interests.

The Energy Academy

AfSL is working in partnership with Trafford Council, Manchester Knowledge Capital and the Energy Saving Trust to build a supported volunteer network to engage, enthuse, advise and support residents in maximising the energy efficiency of their homes.

Advocate Role

An Advocate acts as the face of the Academy in the community. Their role is to enthuse and inspire local residents to get involved with energy saving schemes and take steps towards adopting a more sustainable lifestyle. A main way of achieving this is by asking local people to sign pledges and carry out free and simple Home Energy Checks.

In Practice

Advocates volunteer for Action for Sustainable Living to represent The Energy Academy. Being an advocate involves meeting with local people and generally being active in the community to spread the energy saving message. This means Advocates encourage and engage local people to:

- sign pledges to live more sustainably
- carry out Home Energy Checks devised by the Energy Saving Trust

This may happen at specific events arranged by the Academy or amongst the Advocates own contacts in the community.

At Present

AfSL currently has volunteers in various Trafford and South Manchester wards. We would like to support new areas and are looking for Volunteer Advocates to help us to do this in Altrincham, Timperley, Broadheath, Hale, Bowden and Village.

What we are looking for in Advocates

Good communication skills- especially one to one
Interest in sustainability and community issues
Knowledge of local community
Keen to make a difference
Ability to commit a minimum of 4 hours per month

Why be an Advocate

- Make a difference!
- Rewarding experience
- Engagement with your local community
- Raised awareness of environmental and social issues
- A stepping stone in to a career in the volunteering, environmental or community sector

Advocate Support

- Ongoing support from AfSL staff, including inductions, mentoring, a set of support resources and a month by month action plan to guide you through the resources and give you achievable structured targets for each month.
- AfSL Website access
- Networking events to help volunteers learn from each other
- A comprehensive training programme
- Attendance at training sessions encouraged
- Reasonable expenses will be covered