

Background Information

The Energy Academy

Volunteer Mentor 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 Academy

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

Volunteer Mentor Role

A Volunteer Mentor is a point of contact for volunteers in the local community. Volunteer Mentors are responsible for supporting local 'Volunteer Advocates' to engage with AfSL action groups and carry out their role of collecting pledges and Home Energy Checks. For example Volunteer Mentors may set up a pledge collecting event to action Volunteer Advocates in the local community.

In Practice

Volunteer Mentors volunteer for Action for Sustainable Living to represent The Energy Academy. Being a Volunteer Mentor involves meeting with local people and organisations and generally being active in the community to recruit and support as many 'Volunteer Advocates' as possible. It also involves regular contact with the Local Project Managers, who may need your help recruiting volunteers for certain events or projects.

At Present

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

What we are looking for in Volunteer Mentors

- Good communication skills- one to one and group situations
- Interest in sustainability and community issues
- Knowledge of local community
- Keen to make a difference
- Ability to commit a minimum of 6 hours per week
- Ability to be a self-starter and to work on own without day-to-day supervision
- Possessing basic admin and IT skills

Why be a Volunteer Mentor?

- Make a difference!
- Challenging and rewarding experience
- Engagement with your local community
- Skills development and experience in facilitation, supervision and communication
- Raised awareness of environmental and social issues
- A stepping stone into a career in the volunteering, environmental or community sector

Volunteer Mentor 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 online resources
- Networking events to help Volunteer Mentors learn from each other
- A comprehensive training programme
- Attendance at training sessions encouraged
- Reasonable expenses will be covered