BRIGHT GREEN FUTURE

Bright Green FutureWhat is involved?

If you are thinking about applying for a place on the programme here is some more information to help you decide. This booklet explains what it means to be a Bright Green Future participant and what kind of activities you will be taking part in.

What is it?

Bright Green Future is an exciting new programme for teenagers who are interested in the environment and want to get involved in order to make a difference. It is a unique opportunity for you to learn more about sustainable energy, environmental decision making, and how to run a project that will save energy and make a difference in your local area. By taking part we hope you'll be empowered to go on and help create a more sustainable future for our planet.

The programme is part of a much bigger forward-thinking social movement called Our Bright Future that supports young people to lead progressive change in their communities and local environment. There are over 30 projects that form Our Bright Future, working with hundreds of young people across the UK.

How will I benefit?

As a Bright Green Future participant we are asking you to make a two-year commitment to the programme. Activities will be carried out on top of your normal school/college work. It will be a challenge that we hope you will find rewarding and fun. You'll finish the programme with more knowledge, confidence and skills to be able to make a difference, both in your local community and by influencing the way important decisions affecting climate change are made.

You'll also be improving your career prospects and complementing your academic work with real insight into sustainability issues, project management and decision making.

You'll get a learning passport detailing all the training, projects and activities you've done, and what you achieved, which you can use to help you to apply for university courses or jobs. Plus you'll have all the know-how you need when it comes to interviews and applications. You'll get a reference from us, you'll be recognised as an official fellow of Bright Green Future, and you'll also join our alumni network.



Training

The training programme will help you to improve your knowledge and understanding of sustainability and energy, and how decisions on these issues are made. Training topics will cover:

- How to run a successful community project
- Energy efficiency and helping people to reduce their energy bills
- Renewable energy and deciding what is appropriate
- Community energy: what it means, local examples
- Making change happen
- Sustainable energy policy and making decisions

Training will include a mixture of online video webinars, face-to-face sessions and hands-on activities.

Much of the face-to-face training will take place at a summer school (more on that below). We'd expect you to take part in at least four online sessions over the two year period, as well as the summer school.

Each topic will suggest some follow up activities for you to try out, with help from your mentor, so you can put what you've learned into practice.

Local projects

As part of the programme we'll help you to set up and run at least one energy saving project in your local area, using one of our project ideas or by developing your own idea. This will provide you with a really valuable experience and help you to make a difference in your community.

We have some fantastic project ideas for you to try and you'll get a real feel for the difference that community action can make. The amount of time you'll need to run a project depends on what you choose to do and how you want to do it, but most would need a few hours of your time every week over the course of a few months.

We would expect you to try and complete at least one project during the two year programme. If you get on well with one, why not try another? You can work with friends to run your projects too - different people will bring different ideas and a broader range of skills.

We'd love to help you to come up with your own ideas, or see you put your own spin on one of these:

- Run an eco day or week in your school or community
- Perform an energy audit in a local building or school
- Make and show a short film on an energy or sustainability related issue
- Give home energy advice to local people
- Find out what renewable energy technologies are suitable in your area
- Run a local event to showcase energy saving improvements like draught proofing or lighting
- Plant trees or create a community garden
- Find ways to reduce water use in your community
- Run a community project to reduce waste
- Get people in your area travelling in more sustainable ways

Work placements

The programme involves work placements and shadowing professionals who work in environmental jobs influencing decisions about the future. You can really get to grips with what it's like to work in the sustainability sector and enhance your future career prospects.

There will be opportunities to undertake more than one placement over the two year period at the same or different organisations. Host organisations could include:

- Environmental charitable organisations
- National governmental agencies
- Landscape planning agencies
- Local councils, particularly environmental management or planning departments
- Town and parish councils

Work placements will usually take place over a week during school holidays, half-term breaks, or in time already allocated by your school or college so that they don't interfere with academic work. If you have permission from your school your placement could be over a longer period of time, for example one afternoon per week when you have free time.



Summer school

You'll take part in a four day summer school, jampacked with talks, discussions and practical activities. This is a great opportunity to meet other people who are taking part in Bright Green Future, learn lots more through hands-on activities, talk about your projects, and also to have fun!

The summer school is compulsory because it will be a really valuable part of the programme. It will take place at the end of your first year of Bright Green Future, during the school summer holidays.

Mentoring

Throughout the programme you'll be paired up with a member of the Bright Green Future team who will give you support and help you to get the most out of the

experience. Your mentor will also be on hand to provide ideas and direction for running your local project.

You will need to keep in regular contact with your mentor so that they know how you're getting on, and can give tips and guidance. This can be a phone call or email every fortnight or so, or more often while you are doing your local project or need some extra support.

Time commitment

To get the most out of Bright Green Future you will need to spend quite a lot of your spare time working on it. However we don't want it to compromise your school/college work so we'll try to ensure that most activities take place when you're not as busy with that.

We want the projects you do to be fun and for you to be able to fit them around the other brilliant extra-curricular things you already do.

This will give you a rough idea of what your time commitment across the two years might look like, though these dates can be flexible.

We're looking for young people who are ...

- motivated and reliable
- interested in sustainability and care for the environment
- enthusiastic about gaining new skills and knowledge
- able to participate in local projects
- willing to commit some of their spare time

Year Two Year One • Reflect on year 1 - chat with your mentor Confirm acceptance on programme September - Information to read Plan another project (optional) November • Plan and start your local project • Mentor Photo competition Online training introductions •Online training Local decision making activity • Face-to-face and online training Face-to-face and online training December - Work placement week Optional work placement week **February** Create some case studies • Finish your local project • Project evaluation Focus groups (optional) •Our Bright Future campaign activity (optional) March -School exam time (we know you'll be busy!) School exam time June Summer school Closing event July -• Preparation for year 2 with your mentor Receive learning passport and references **August** • Join Our Bright Future alumni

Your questions answered

Will I have to travel or can I do most of the work at home?

Most of what you do will be in your own area, so you can work at home, at school or wherever you prefer!

Some training sessions will be face-to-face so you'll need to travel if you want to come to one of those, but we'll cover your costs. You'll need to travel to go to the

summer school too. We'll let you know where that is as soon as we can. You might also need to travel for your work placement, though ideally we'll find an organisation in your local area so you don't need to go too far.

I've already finished school, can I still take part?

We are looking for people who are between the ages of 14 and 17 when they start the two year programme, and therefore no older than 19 when they finish.



The Bright Green Future team all work at the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) which is an established and respected energy charity that has been working to address climate change and fuel poverty for over 30 years. We have a lot of experience in delivering projects involving: supporting households to lower their energy use and reduce their bills, helping community energy projects to develop, influencing others to make a difference to their local area, influencing national energy policy, and much more. Read about the many things we do at www.cse.org.uk.

Signing up ...

There's a short application form to complete, downloadable from:

www.bright-green-future.org.uk/join

You need to fill it in, get it signed by a parent or guardian, and return it to us before the deadline advertised on the website.

You can either **email** it to **bgf@cse.org.uk** or **post** it to:

Bright Green Future Centre for Sustainable Energy 3 St Peter's Court Bedminster Parade Bristol BS3 4AQ

Got some more questions? Visit ... www.bright-green-future.org.uk

There's a section with lots of commonly asked questions and answers.

Or you can email us at bgf@cse.org.uk

Bright Green Future is run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (charity #298740) and is part of Our Bright Future, a forward-thinking social movement that supports young people to lead progressive change in their communities and local environment | www.ourbrightfuture.co.uk





