

Granted use extensive experience in renewable technologies coupled with expertise in funding opportunities to create innovative revenue streams, reduce energy costs and cut CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for forward thinking organisations.

#### The Brief

Granted is actively approached and commissioned by educational institutions across the region to design renewable technology solutions, tailored to their individual needs. These projects could be anything from a straightforward energy saving brief, to a more creative solution.

College's management team engaged Granted in December 2009 to create a project which would reposition the College into the sustainable arena in South West. The brief was to specify a project that would modernise the College's reputation, bring new revenue and attract funding from grant bodies.

Aware of the lack of training facilities dedicated to renewable technologies in South West England, Granted realised a real opportunity to specify a project design which met the needs of the region, the college and that would be attractive to funding bodies.



The Bicton EaRTH Centre, conceptualised and coordinated by Granted, aimed to offer a ground breaking and off-grid venue for training in renewable technologies. The centre is expected to play an important role in filling a skills gap as demand for micro-generation technology grows.

# Renewable Training Provision

Granted identified an overwhelming need for a renewable training centre, due to a sharp rise in demand for renewable technologies such as solar PV panels, solar thermal panels, biomass boilers and heat pumps. In order to meet this demand, the South West needs to train 500 renewable energy installers every year for the next ten years.

This exciting venture is an emphatic response to the region's need for a progressive training facility in support of the low carbon economy.

The importance of Bicton EaRTH is demonstrated by increasing opportunities for job creation in the green sector which already generates £3 trillion worldwide, and with the advent of the Feed in Tariff (FIT) in April 2010 and the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) in April 2011, the UK green jobs sector is set to boom.

Similarly, reflecting the Government's Skills Strategy and the Association of College's strategy paper 'The Journey to Sustainable Colleges 2009', which both emphasise the importance of skills development in sustainable technologies as well as the need to promote practical initiatives to establish best practice methodologies.

Not only will EaRTH provide the region's employers with access to dedicated training resources in renewable technologies, it will also ensure that the right skills are readily available in the region to meet the expected boom in the green sector.

"In the teeth of a recession, and with youth unemployment at its highest level since records began, we need to train young people in a sector where there is a massive jobs demand and committed long-term investment."

(greenwisebusiness.co.uk, 2010)

# The Role of Granted

Initially setup as a specialist grant finding and writing consultancy for renewable projects, Granted has grown to offer a variety of services from conceptualising projects and co-ordinating their delivery, to offering Microgeneration Certification Scheme (MCS) training and renewable systems design.

Typically, clients approach Granted through recommendations, standing testament to the expanding portfolio of Granted coordinated projects.

A free initial consultation is a valuable experience, allowing both parties to gain a good understanding of what is required and for the client to share their current needs and future aspirations. A tour of the site allowed Granted to ascertain the scope of the project.

Our experience of working in the education sector has allowed Granted to develop a niche range of services, working alongside you to harmoniously fulfil your needs and future aspirations.

The Bicton EaRTH Centre's primary goal was to equip a fledging workforce with the appropriate skills and experience so that they are able to take advantage of job opportunities in the growing green sector. With the assistance of Granted, Bicton College were able to:



## Creative Solutions

We work hard to understand your organisation by personally conducting onsite consultations, so that the solutions we create are harmonious with your current operations and future aspirations. Sustainable practice is at the heart of everything we do.

## Funding Experts

We get renewable energy projects off the drawing board by helping our clients raise the finance to afford the initial capital outlay. A range of financial incentives exist, our knowledge will help you take full advantage of them.

## Industry Expertise

If you call a solar installer, you get a solar project; if you call a wind energy installer, you get a wind turbine; if you call Granted, you get advice on a plethora of renewable technologies that are appropriate to your landscape and individual energy demands.

# The Granted Design Solution

Granted was commissioned by Bicton College to specify an innovative and modern renewable training venue which would be an asset to the College, the local community and key stakeholders.

In order to secure the financial capital to get the EaRTH building off the drawing board, the design had to stand out from multiple grant applicants.

Developed from a conceptual programme originally prepared by Granted, with input from Bicton College and a local architect firm, the building had to be sustainable, feature the most up to date renewable technologies and provide a hub for local communities and businesses right across the region.

The build process itself included the installation of solar PV panels, solar thermal panels, a biomass boiler, an air source heat pump and a rain water harvesting system. Specifying the construction phase to include training gave the grant application one of numerous USP's to make it above and beyond its competition.

*“To create such a dedicated training facility is a major leap forward that will bring together students, schools, businesses and communities to learn about and implement renewable energies and other sustainable initiatives.”* David Henley, Bicton College Principal

For Bicton College, the EaRTH initiative will see sustainable practices established in all areas of the curriculum and will maximise the potential for the College to access further funding opportunities for renewable energy projects elsewhere across the campus.

The Granted design solution utilised the teams extensive experience and industry sector understanding to conceptualise an innovative, forward thinking project design:

- The EaRTH building was designed as a retrofit, utilising and transforming Bicton College's redundant building space.
- Designed to be low energy and zero carbon which will allow Bicton College to cut utility costs and create new revenue streams through FIT and potentially RHI.
- Granted ensured that the renewable technologies were positioned in the public eye and designed to take the mystery out of renewable technology, whilst clearly demonstrate Bicton Colleges green credentials.

**Granted solutions are harmonious with your current operations and future aspirations. Bicton College commissioned Granted to develop a flagship, off-grid renewable energy training centre and to identify and source grant funding opportunities for the project.**