

Outer Hebrides Business Gateway e-bulletin

TRAINING OPPORTUNITES

Business Skills Workshops

Business Gateway, Free Workshop Programme for September
We are pleased to announce that our workshop provider Consentia hopes to run the following courses in September:

Wednesday 28th September 9:30–12:30 **Business & Personal Planning**

Wednesday 28th September 1:30-4:30 **Introduction to Business Finance**

Thursday 29th September 9:30-12:30 **Business Structures & Tax, NI, VAT**

Thursday 29th September 1:30-4:30 **Market Research & Setting Realistic**

Targets

Friday 30th September 9:30-12:30 **DIY Websites, Getting Prepared**

Friday 30th September 1:30-4:30 **DIY Websites, Doing it for Real**

(DIY Websites is one workshop split into two sessions, to gain full benefit it is strongly recommended that participants attend both sessions)

All workshops will take place at Third Sector Hebrides, 30 Francis Street,

Who are we and what do we do?

Business Gateway provides expertise in every aspect of business start-up and growth ranging from, but not limited to:

Business Planning

Recruitment

Exporting

Marketing

Health & Safety

Online Trading

Sourcing Premises

Stornoway.

Workshop sessions in Uist & Barra are planned for October, further information will be published as available.

To find out more or to book a place please contact:
consentia@keycs.com 01863 766 905 or call the local Business Gateway office on 01851 822 775.

Free Mentally Healthy Workplace Training for Managers & Supervisors, Stornoway

This free training gives participants the knowledge, understanding and skills to address a wide range of issues relating to employment and mental health. It aims to reduce barriers to employment by addressing stigma, discrimination and negativity around mental health in the workplace. The training will take place in the Bayhead Bridge Centre, Stornoway on Thursday 29th and Friday 30th September. If you would like more information or wish to book a place please contact Norma Macleod, Healthy Working Lives Advisor 01851 708 925 norma.macleod1@nhs.net

Harris Tweed Weaving Course Planned for Lewis

Preparations are currently under way for a weaving course to take place in Lewis, anyone interested in finding out more should contact:
Dolina Nicholson, Training Officer (SQA), St Lennan's Centre, Point Street, Stornoway: 01851 822 715

Micro Renewable Energy Installation Courses

Finding Funding

Our Location:

Stornoway:

Business Gateway
Development Department
Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar
James Square
9 James Street
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2QN
Tel: +44 (0)1851 822775

Uist:

Business Gateway
Development Department
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Taigh Cheann a'Locha
Lionacleit
Isle of Benbecula
HS7 5PJ
Tel: +44 (0)1870 604917

Daliburgh:

Business Gateway
Development Department

SEAM (Sustainable Energy & Micro Renewables) Centre is a new renewable energy training centre at Inverness College. It has modern classroom space, up to date practical teaching facilities and fully qualified teaching staff. The SEAM Centre is now offering the following courses: Solar PV / Heat Pumps / Solar Domestic Hot Water / Biomass Heating Systems – various dates are available for these courses, running from late August to December. More information on the course content, costs and availability of places can be obtained from: Peter Dennis – 01463 273 650

Skills Development Scotland

Businesses from sole traders to those employing up to 149 employees are reminded that they can access up to 50% assistance with training costs (up to a maximum £500 per course). Up to 10 courses will be covered so businesses can claim a maximum £5,000 of training costs back per employee, subject to eligibility for more information visit the SDS website:

<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/our-services/services-for-employers/encourage-employees-to-develop-new-skills.aspx>

Through the Employer Recruitment Incentive, SDS can also provide a financial incentive to offer a Modern Apprenticeship or general employment to some young people, with up to £2,000 available to employers who offer such opportunities:

<http://www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk/our-services/services-for-employers/engage-in-industry-recognised-training/employer-recruitment-incentive.aspx>

For more information please contact Skills Development Scotland on:01851 708 908 or 0800 783 6000

Carbon Coaching, Energy Efficiency Event, Inverness

The Carbon Trust, in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, is hosting a series of carbon coaching workshops across Scotland. The aim of the workshops is to

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Gleus House
Isle of South uist
HS8 5ss
Tel: +44 (0)1870 604989

Email: businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk

Office hours

9am - 5pm, Monday to Friday

General Links

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - Business Gateway website

For loan and business advice and information.
www.cne-siar.gov.uk/eds/business/index.asp

Business Gateway

enable businesses to put together their own strategy for energy efficient practices in the workplace – including raising awareness amongst staff; carrying out your own energy audit; drawing up an energy action plan; identifying and implementing energy saving measures and mapping your carbon footprint. The nearest one to the Outer Hebrides is in Inverness on 15th November but there are also a number of other locations to choose from. For more information contact 0141 222 2040 or email carboncoaching@smarts.co.uk

Intellectual Assets Centre, Creative Industries Seminar, Glasgow

On 22nd November the Intellectual Assets Centre are hosting an introductory seminar specifically aimed at those working in the Creative Industries sector. The seminar will introduce the 'HAVE' principle 'Hidden Assets Value Exploitation' and will outline further training opportunities in this field. For more information visit:
http://www.ia-centre.org.uk/news_and_events/events/viewer.cfm?intItemId=286

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Social Enterprise Academy:

An Outer Hebrides Leadership & Management Programme, delivered at no cost to participants will take place in the islands this autumn - the course is for support workers, staff, volunteers and directors involved with third sector organisations, will be run by the Social Enterprise Academy. Beginning in September this accredited 12 day programme will be rolled out over 6 blocks of 2 day training. For further information please contact Kate McArdle, kate@theacademy-ssea.org

Well worth a visit for a range of information, advice and ideas on starting and running a business.
www.bgateway.com

The Princes Scottish Youth Business Trust

Offers start-up and development funding and advice to young people aged between 18 and 30 with a business idea.
www.psybt.org.uk/Regions/WesternIsles

Outer Hebrides Business Directory

The most complete local online listing of businesses and organisations in the Outer Hebrides. Please contact us if you would like to have your business listed – it FREE!
www.businesshebrides.co.uk

Highlands & Islands Enterprise

Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) is the economic and community development agency for the Highlands and Islands, with its Outer Hebrides offices located in Stornoway and Benbecula. HIE's

01463 238 088.

The Academy have also recently launched a Highlands and Islands e-newsletter, to subscribe contact handi@theacademy-ssea.org

LIVE UnLtd, An Opportunity for 11 to 21 Year Olds

First Port, the leading organisation in Scotland geared towards helping social entrepreneurs has recently launched LIVE unLTD which provides young people aged 11-21 with the opportunity to create positive change in their communities. This is done by offering awards of up to £5,000 to allow individuals to develop ideas and offering non-financial support from a dedicated Live UnLtd team member. Non-financial support can include budgeting advice, networking opportunities and working with volunteers.

For 16-21 year olds, the average award size is £1,500 - with a maximum award size of £5,000. Applications above the average award size are rare and very competitive so please encourage applicants to think carefully about what they really need when applying for an award. Those aged 11-15 can apply for awards of up to £500 in addition to support from a Live UnLtd team member.

Applicants under 18 require parental consent to undertake their project and a designated advisor to support them with the development and running of their project should their application be successful. For more information see the Live UnLtd website: www.liveunltd.com or contact Gina Headden 0131 220 0511 ginaheadden@unltd.org.uk

Social Enterprise Support Announced via “Just Enterprise” & “The Enterprise Growth Fund”

The Scottish Government have recently announced significant investment in the third sector in Scotland by launching a dedicated social enterprise development

focuses its support around four priorities:

Supporting businesses and social enterprises to shape and realise their growth aspirations
Strengthening communities in fragile areas
Developing key sectors, particularly distinctive regional opportunities
Creating the conditions for a competitive and low-carbon region.

Useful information and links for growing businesses and community organisations on HIE website at www.hie.co.uk

Skills Development Scotland

30 Francis Street
Stornoway
Isle of Lewis
HS1 2ND
01851 708908
www.skillsdevelopmentscotland.co.uk

Cultural Enterprise Office

The Cultural Enterprise Office offer a range of support services to those working in the creative industries across Scotland. They offer free one to one advice sessions on a wide range of specialisms, a telephone enquiry line and a very informative regular e-bulletin

programme aimed at giving more than profit trading entities the opportunity to benefit from a range of business support assistance 'Just Enterprise' will function around an online hub which can be accessed at www.justenterprise.org and is being delivered by CEiS (Community Enterprise in Scotland). To complement the benefits of the 'Just Enterprise' support service is the 'Enterprise Growth Fund' which is being delivered by a consortium headed by the Wise Group. The 'Enterprise Growth Fund' will deliver investment of between £25,000 and £200,000 to social enterprises with ambitious and sustainable business plans. Business Gateway welcome this enhanced support to this unique sector of the business community and we look forward to combining our support to local organisations in the future.

SUPPORT FOR KEY SECTORS

Tourism Intelligence Scotland

Free Support Resource for Visitor Industry Businesses

Tourism Intelligence Scotland is a free web based resource for businesses in Scotland's visitor industry – it offers regular market information updates, support and advice, networking opportunities with other businesses and a monthly newsletter 'Ear to the Ground'. To access this information you can register online for free at: www.tourism-intelligence.co.uk

£1.1m Package Announced to Help Grow Scotland's Food & Drink Sector

New funding to help boost Scotland's food & drink industry has been announced by Rural Affairs Secretary Richard Lockhead. The package which is supported by The Scottish Government, Scottish Enterprise and Highlands & Islands

amongst many other useful functions.

For more information visit their website:
www.culturalenterpriseoffice.co.uk

Outer Hebrides Chamber of Commerce

For information relating to issues facing island businesses, networking and related opportunities.
www.hebrideschamber.com

The Business IT Guide

Operated by e-skills UK and assisted by Highlands & Islands Enterprise offering useful hints and tips on IT solutions for small businesses as they have found that small businesses in the UK are losing millions of pounds from lost revenue due to not being adequately IT literate. Please visit them at:
www.scotland.businessitguide.com

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar - 'Socio Economic Update'

Enterprise will see £120,000 used to support events such as Scottish Food & Drink Fortnight, £260,000 to improve access to markets and £730,000 to support the Scotland's Food & Drink programme. The Food & Drink sector is one of the strongest areas of Scotland's economy with 5% of the workforce now employed in the sector and exports worth £4.5billion in 2010.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/06/22111222>

NEWS, COMPETITIONS & AWARDS

Comhairle's Business Gateway Service Delighted to Support Single Turbine Wind Project on Barra

Barra & Vatersay Wind Energy Ltd's project will involve the construction and operation of a single turbine wind farm with an installed capacity of 900 kW. It will create a sustainable revenue stream for community-led projects on Barra and Vatersay and will be of significant benefit to the area. Archie Campbell, chair of the Sustainable Development Committee at Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, said: "It has long been an aim of the Comhairle's to look at ways in which communities can invest and play a direct role in the renewables industry, and the support offered under the Small Business Assistance Scheme to this project is an example of how this can be achieved. Over the course of the last decade the Comhairle has invested some £1.1 million in micro-generation in community facilities, and we are now supporting this next stage in a community renewables development.

Gold Stars for Uig Food Business

Congratulations to Uig Lodge Smoked Salmon who were recently awarded a prestigious 3 Gold Stars award at the Guild of Fine Food Great Taste Awards.

Regularly published, contains useful information on the local economy

www.cne-siar.gov.uk/factfile

Environmental Health Information

Any businesses in the islands looking for information on how Environmental Health relates to their activities are encouraged to contact the Comhairle's Environmental Health Team. The EH team can give advice and information to businesses on a range of issues and legislation compliance, this is especially important for those in the retail, hotel, catering and office sectors.

For further assistance please contact:

eh@cne-siar.gov.uk 01851 822 694

Aim-Hi

An online forum for the Creative Industries sector - please feel free to register your interest and visit the site at <http://s4.invisionfree.com/aimhi/>.

www.aim-hi.org

The product was the only smoked salmon to achieve the accolade and it has now been shortlisted for the national award of 'Best Speciality From Scotland'. Uig Lodge were one of only 114 producers to have been awarded 3 Gold Stars out of the 7,482 products entered, they are also one of only 35 who were subsequently nominated for a national award, on Monday 5th September at the Royal Garden Hotel in London the brand went on to compete against 3 other companies and narrowly missed out on the title of 'Best Speciality From Scotland'.

European Small Business Portal

http://ec.europa.eu/small-business/index_en.htm

Women of the Future Awards

In association with Shell, the search for the 2011 Women of the Future is now on. The awards celebrate the sparkling, successful next generation of talent in British life; women who are shaping the country's future with immense energy, dedication and flair – women who will become role models for future generations. The awards also acknowledge the mentors behind young stars as well as the corporate organisations best supporting and nurturing young women in business.

Nominations close on 21st September 2011 , for further information please contact Sophie Bay on 020 7368 7126 or sophie.bay@caspiamedia.com or visit www.wof.realbusiness.co.uk

Shell Competition

Shell Competition for Latest Carbon Cutting Technologies Opens for the Seventh Year

Since 2005 the Shell Springboard programme has awarded £2 million to 53 business to assist them in developing new ways of cutting carbon emissions. The awards are designed to provide a springboard for businesses by giving them a financial boost as well as raising their profile to help them secure investment. To apply eligible businesses must:

- Be based in the UK
- Be a SME by the European definition
- Have been in business at least three months by 4th November 2011
- Have never previously won a Shell Springboard award
- Have an innovative, commercially viable product or service which will reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

If you, or a business you know could benefit from these awards please visit the website www.shellspringboard.co.uk, all applications must be received by 4th November 2011.

Outer Hebrides Business Gateway on Twitter

You can now follow what's happening of interest in the local Business Gateway team office by following us on Twitter @BGOuterHebrides.

If you have any feedback or suggestions for us to make this service more relevant please e-mail your comments to businessgateway@cne-siar.gov.uk.

Remember that we guarantee never to sell or give your e-mail address to anyone else.

Bye for now,

The Business Gateway team

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