

# charis

the business of giving

Latest news from the Trusts administered by Charis Grants

March 2010

**The British Gas energy trust**    **The Scottish Gas energy trust**

Trust Manager, Kirstie Berridge

On 1 March 2010 Tom Wright CBE, Chief Executive of Age UK replaced Mike Lake CBE as Chairman of the Trust. Phil Bentley, the Managing Director of British Gas, fellow Trustees and Charis Grants have all extended their grateful thanks to Mike for his commitment to the Trust since its launch in 2004.

In 2009 the Trust made over 5,000 grants to individuals and families totalling £2,579,830. The Trust has a similar level of funding available for granting in 2010.

An Impact Report on the Trust has revealed that 87% of applicants awarded grant remained utility debt free post award during the research period of January 2007 to August 2009 inclusive.

[www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk](http://www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk)

**EDF ENERGY TRUST**

Trust Manager, Kirstie Berridge

138 organisations applied to the Trust's Small Grants Programme for one-off grants for small capital items / activities to assist in the provision of 'energy debt' advice and submission of online applications to the EDF Energy Trust. Grants were available up to a maximum value of £3,000. At the beginning of March Trustees confirmed awards to 42 organisations.

Applications are now being accepted for the Trust's next organisational grant round. For guidelines and an application form visit [www.edfenergytrust.org.uk](http://www.edfenergytrust.org.uk).

Deadline for receipt of applications is midday

**Wednesday 28 April 2010.**

[www.edfenergytrust.org.uk](http://www.edfenergytrust.org.uk)

**anglianwater assistance fund**

Trust Manager, Claire Watt

The Anglian Water Assistance Fund, which replaced the Anglian Water Trust Fund, has now been in operation for 12 months. From April 2010 Tanya Ramage of Peterborough Citizens Advice Bureau, will be funded by Anglian Water to carry out work directly related to the Anglian Water Assistance Fund including offering debt advice and help in the completion of application forms to customers of Anglian Water.

[www.anglianwater.co.uk/awaf](http://www.anglianwater.co.uk/awaf)

**VEOLIA WATER TRUST**

Trust Manager, Fiayyaz Qayyum

**Three Valleys Water Trust renamed to Veolia Water Trust**

On 1 April the Veolia Water Trust will launch, receiving donations from Veolia Water East and Veolia Water Southeast, in addition to Veolia Water Central (formerly Three Valleys Water).

The Trust will make provisional awards which will be confirmed if an applicant demonstrates during the 6 months post award that they can keep up to date with current payments. The Trust will also offer Further Assistance Payments to clear other household debts and for the purchase of essential household items.

The Trust is pleased to announce expansion of its Organisational Grants Programme, awarding a third grant for a part time project worker at Watford CAB. The project worker will promote awareness of the Trust and help in the submission of applications.

[www.veoliawatertrust.org.uk](http://www.veoliawatertrust.org.uk)



Trust Manager, Claire Watt

Due to a number of donors pursuing alternative methods of help for their vulnerable customers and no longer donating to the Eos Foundation, Trustees have taken the difficult decision to cease the operation of the Foundation from 31 March 2010. This will be the last date for receipt of applications to the Foundation.

From 1 April, **South East Water** will start to operate their '**Helping Hand**' scheme. The scheme will make provisional awards which will be confirmed if an applicant demonstrates during the 6 months post award that they can keep up to date with current payments. Grants will be available to clear water and sewerage debts only, i.e. no FAPs. Please check the Eos Foundation's website for details of availability of application forms. Eos Foundation application forms will be accepted for a short period following 1 April, however applicants will be requested to provide additional information.

**Veolia Water East** and **Veolia Water Southeast** will continue to donate to a charitable trust together with **Veolia Water Central** (formerly Three Valleys Water) from 1 April 2010. The current Three Valleys Water Trust has been renamed to the **Veolia Water Trust** (see left).

Please refer to the Eos Foundation website for updates.

[www.eosfoundation.org.uk](http://www.eosfoundation.org.uk)

## UTILITY TRUST SEMINAR 20 MAY 2010 - PETERBOROUGH

Charis Grants is holding a seminar on how to apply to the trusts on behalf of clients. In addition representatives of both British Gas and EDF Energy will present on additional help for vulnerable customers. To express an interest in attending Email: [Lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com](mailto:Lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com)

### APPLICATION FORMS: FINANCIAL INFORMATION SECTION 7

An applicant's financial situation should be explained fully in section 7 of the application form. The only alternative to completing section 7 is to submit the income and expenditure budget sheets of the MAT/BBA Common Financial Statement (version 3 or 4 only).

#### Disability Living Allowance - Section 7

Please note that we do not take DLA into account when calculating an applicant's total weekly income. However please let us know if your client is in receipt of DLA as this helps us to confirm that their income is being maximised and confirms the client's health difficulties. You should then tell us about related health needs expenditure in the 'Special needs/Expenses for disability' box under the Weekly Expenditure column in section 7.

Applications cannot be assessed if monthly financial information is provided.

#### TIP

#### To change monthly figures to weekly:

- 1) Multiply by 12 to give annual payment
- 2) Divide the total by 52

Please be aware that some clients may be paid four weekly rather than monthly.

### ANGLIAN WATER ASSISTANCE FUND: OUT OF DATE APPLICATION FORMS

The Fund will no longer accept old Anglian Water Trust Fund application forms. Please ensure you have the correct form which can be obtained by calling the application form request line: 01733 421 060 or by emailing [admin@charisgrants.com](mailto:admin@charisgrants.com)

### GUIDANCE ON COMPLETING APPLICATION FORMS

To help increase the quality of applications to the Trust, a Powerpoint presentation has been produced providing guidance on how to correctly complete applications. If you would like a copy of this document please email [lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com](mailto:lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com)

### USEFUL LINK

Moneymadeclear is an impartial, sales and jargon-free service providing clients with information and guidance on how to manage their money now and in the future. The service, set up by the FSA, is available over the telephone, in face-to-face sessions or via the Moneymadeclear website. Moneymadeclear can be contacted on 0300 500 5000 or online at [www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk](http://www.moneymadeclear.fsa.gov.uk)

## READING YOUR METER

If applying for energy arrears the Trust needs an up-to-date meter reading. This will ensure we obtain accurate details of amounts outstanding to the energy company. The Trust requires an actual reading and cannot accept estimated readings taken from customer's bill. If meter readings are not supplied with an application this may cause a delay in processing the application until it is obtained.

## TRUST CONTACT DETAILS

FREEPOST RRZJ-XBSY-GYRG

British Gas/Scottish Gas Energy Trust

PO BOX 42, Peterborough

PE3 8XH **NO STAMP REQUIRED**

Anglian Water Assistance Fund

PO BOX 42, Peterborough

PE3 8XH

FREEPOST RSHH-JKZA-HAUY

Veolia Water Trust

PO BOX 42, Peterborough

PE3 8XH **NO STAMP REQUIRED**

FREEPOST RLXG-RBYJ-USXE

EDF Energy Trust

PO BOX 42, Peterborough

PE3 8XH **NO STAMP REQUIRED**

FREEPOST RSHE-ARTT-AAUE

South East Water's Helping Hand

PO BOX 42, Peterborough

PE3 8XH **NO STAMP REQUIRED**

**Application form request line: 01733 421 060 Email: [admin@charisgrants.com](mailto:admin@charisgrants.com)**

**Please ensure we have your email address for future newsletter mailings. Organisation details should be emailed to [lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com](mailto:lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com)**