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the business of giving

Latest news from the Trusts administered by Charis Grants

July 2010

**The British Gas
energy trust**

**The Scottish Gas
energy trust**

Trust Manager, Kirstie Berridge

The Trust's 2009 Annual Report is now available from the Trust's website.

**ADDITIONAL HELP AVAILABLE TO BRITISH GAS
CUSTOMERS**

British Gas is offering free energy assessments and energy efficiency measures to customers who are in receipt of income or disability related benefits or are over the age of 70. The free energy makeovers could cut energy bills by up to £300 per household.

To request a free home energy assessment call **0800 072 8217** (freephone from landlines) quoting the media code **VHEACG**.

www.britishgasenergytrust.org.uk

NEW FUND LAUNCHED!



Trust Manager, Allyson Broadhurst

On 1 April South East Water launched its 'Helping Hand' scheme. The scheme makes 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 are available to clear water and sewerage debts only i.e. no FAPs. [Application forms are now available on the website:](http://www.southeastwater.co.uk/helpinghand)

www.southeastwater.co.uk/helpinghand



The Foundation ceased operating on 1 April 2010 due to loss of funding from donating companies.

Help is still available for vulnerable customers of donating companies via other trusts and schemes (other than Bournemouth and West Hampshire Water and Portsmouth Water). See the Eos Foundation website for further details.

www.eosfoundation.org.uk

EDF ENERGY TRUST

Trust Manager, Kirstie Berridge

Applications are encouraged, as numbers to the Trust are currently low and funds are available.

On 1 May 2010 Denice Fennell replaced Peter Privett as Chair of the Trust. EDF Energy Trustees and Charis have extended their grateful thanks to Peter for his commitment to the Trust since June 2008. Denice joined the Board of Trustees in September 2008 bringing over 40 years experience working for a major energy company in the UK and in the last decade Denice has been involved with many agencies seeking to alleviate the issue of fuel poverty. Tim Cole appointed as trustee in October 2009 has taken the role of Vice Chair.

The Trust's 2009 Annual Report is available from the Trust's website.

Organisational Grants Programme

Trustees are currently considering applications for grants from organisations up to the value of £40,000 per annum to fund full time project workers for projects 2 years in length. Projects are expected to commence on 1 September 2010. The deadline for receipt of applications has already passed. Project Workers will be funded to assist in the provision of free, holistic and impartial money advice, to raise awareness of the Trust and submit quality applications.

www.edfenergytrust.org.uk

VEOLIA WATER TRUST

Trust Manager, Kirstie Berridge

Applications are encouraged, as numbers to the Trust are currently low and funds are available.

The Veolia Water Trust was launched on 1 April 2010, receiving donations from Veolia Water East, Veolia Water South East and Veolia Water Central and following the renaming of the Veolia Water Trust.

The Trust makes provisional awards which are confirmed if an applicant demonstrates during the 6 months post award that they can keep up to date with current payments. The Trust also offers FAPs.

Organisational Grants Programme

The Trust funds 3 part-time project workers to increase the provision of utility debt advice, raise awareness of the Trust and increase the number of successful applications to it, as follows:

Watford CAB: Karen Morton
moneyadvice2@watfordcab.cabnet.org.uk

Luton CAB: Rhianon Peck
tvwtrust@lutoncab.org.uk

Hillingdon & Ealing CAB: Celeste Lovis
tvw-help@hillingdoncab.org.uk

If your organisation is interested in receiving funding to deliver a similar project email Lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com explaining the need within your area by the end of July..

www.veoliawatertrust.org.uk

anglianwater assistance fund

Trust Manager, Allyson Broadhurst

The Fund continues to operate a 6 month provisional award scheme for vulnerable customers of Anglian Water and Hartlepool Water. Grants are available to clear water and sewerage debt only - the fund does not offer Further Assistance Payment's (FAPs).

Anglian Water also funds a full time debt advisor, Tanya Ramage at Peterborough CAB to carry out work directly related to the Anglian Water Assistance Fund and advise on wider financial issues. Tanya operates a telephone helpline - 01733 887924 or can be contacted via email: awdebtadvisor@peterboroughcab.org.uk

www.anglianwater.co.uk/awaf

UTILITY TRUSTS' SEMINAR 20 MAY 2010

Charis Grants held an Open Day for organisational grant recipients on 20 May. The event in Peterborough was well attended by organisations as far flung as North Liverpool, Wales and Devon. The main objective of the day was for attendees to gain an understanding of how to submit successful applications to the trusts administered by Charis. EDF Energy and British Gas presented on additional help available to vulnerable customers. Charis would like to extend their thanks to everyone who attended including the speakers; Cathie Sales from Bristol Debt Advice Centre, Suzanne Jespersen - Policy Advisor, EDF Energy, and Christine Tate - Head of Corporate Responsibility, British Gas. Please email Laura Goodwin to register interest in attending future events - lauragoodwin@charisgrants.com

APPLICATION FORMS: FINANCIAL INFORMATION SECTION 7

An applicants 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 (DLA) - Section 7

DLA is not taken into account when calculating an applicants total weekly income. However you are still required to put these figures in the income and expenditure columns. Informing us that your client receives this benefit helps us to confirm that their income is being maximised and confirms the client's health difficulties.

If your client receives DLA **Care Component**, please tell us how this allowance is used i.e. to pay carer's costs, for medication, heating etc...and then confirm how much is spent on each relevant item weekly.

If your client is in receipt of DLA **Mobility Component**, please explain how this income is spent i.e. for taxis, buses, travel etc...and then confirm how much is spent weekly.

WEEKLY Income/Expenditure Figures

Please note that applications cannot be assessed if financial information is provided in monthly rather than weekly figures. To convert monthly figures into weekly, multiply by 12, then divide by 52. Please be aware that some clients may be paid 4 weekly rather than monthly!

Water Rates Paid with Rent?

Finally, if any other bills such as water rates are included in the client's rent, please confirm this in the expenditure column of section 7, in the rent box or in the Comments section at the bottom of the page.

READING YOUR METER

We cannot begin to assess an application to clear energy debts until an **up-to-date meter** reading is given (unless a prepayment meter). This ensures accurate details of amounts outstanding. The Trust requires an **actual** reading and **cannot** accept estimated readings taken from a customer's bill.

NEW TRUSTEES WANTED

The British Gas Energy Trust and the Veolia Water Trust are currently searching for new trustees. British Gas are looking to appoint new trustees from across Great Britain and Veolia are looking for candidates from within the operating areas of Veolia Water - particularly Veolia Water East and South East. Trustees set policies for the Trusts and experience at a strategic level of the utilities, financial and/or charitable sectors would be helpful. If you are interested in applying to either Trust, or would like further information, please email stephaniebowler@charisgrants.com

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	All trusts accessible from the Charis Grants' website: www.charisgrants.com

Application form request line: 01733 421 060 Email: admin@charisgrants.com

Please ensure we have your email address for future newsletter mailings. Organisation details should be emailed to stephaniebowler@charisgrants.com