

GLOBAL DIRECTORY 2007/8

FUNDRAISING, CHARITY & SOCIAL ECONOMY

Everyone's a winner

SOFA Project helps furnish homes at affordable prices and stops goods going to landfill. Lucy Pitt explains

● Bristol-based charity SOFA Project (Shifting Old Furniture Around) was set up in 1980 to supply furniture to people in need. Servicing the south west for more than 20 years, it's now grown to provide a regular flow of low-cost furniture and domestic appliances to everyone, with further discounts available to those on low incomes.

England and Wales produce over 100 million tonnes of waste annually. That figure's growing by 3% each year, with waste from electronic and electrical equipment (WEEE) totalling around 4%, and forecast to grow by 3-5% per year. A re-use approach to home furnishings can be both cost-effective and environmentally protective.

"The word 'waste' is often misleading in this context," says SOFA's director Julian Williams. "We're also taking unwanted appliances from retailers and distributors and are finding that some very acceptable items are coming into our hands - 'graded' goods would be a better term than 'waste' in their case. Some of them have clearly never been used, so it's a little surprising that they've been discarded, but because of our not-for-profit status we're able to sell these at a half or even a third of the price of the same goods sold brand new on the high street. This is a significant benefit to



our mainstream customers, but we welcome all-comers, since any sale brings in funds which help us carry on the full breadth of SOFA Project's good work."

SOFA Project has a busy domestic appliance workshop, with skilled engineers to safety test, clean and refurbish washing machines, fridges, cookers and other white goods that are then sold in the West Street retail outlet - and items come with a range of warranty covers.

The environment wins, SOFA Project wins and the customer gets great value for money - so everyone's a winner.

Ffi: SOFA Project, 48-54 West St, Bristol BS2 0BL. Tel: 0117 954 3567, web: www.sofaproject.org.uk

KINGSWOOD FURNITURE PROJECT will collect useful items for sale to those on low incomes. **Contact:** Kingsgate House, Church Rd, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 4AU. Tel/fax: 0117 961 6226 Email: sue.haskins@btconnect.com

LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECYCLING INFORMATION Recycling services provided by your local council: **Bath & North East Somerset** Tel: 01225 394041 Text: 07797 806544 Email: waste_services@bathnes.gov.uk Web: www.bathnes.gov.uk (click on 'Recycling, Rubbish & Waste') **Bristol City Council** Helpline: 0117 903 1221 Email: recycling@bristol-city.gov.uk Web: www.bristol-city.gov.uk/recycling **North Somerset** Tel: 01934 888802 Email: streetsandopenspaces@n-somerset.gov.uk Web: www.n-somerset.gov.uk/waste **South Gloucestershire** Streetcare Helpdesk: 01454 868000 Web: www.southglos.gov.uk (click on 'Rubbish, Waste & Recycling')

OXFAM happily receives mobile phones, coins, foreign currency stamps, toner cartridges, clothes and gifts. Web: www.oxfam.org.uk/donate

RECYCLE MORE is the one-stop recycling information centre with help and advice on all aspects of recycling at home, at school and in the workplace. Web: www.recycle-more.co.uk

RECYCLE NOW CAMPAIGN wants you to recycle more stuff more often. Most people already recycle to some degree: this campaign is designed to encourage everyone to do a bit more. Recycling is easy and your efforts can make a real difference. Web: www.recyclenow.com

RECYCLE SOMERSET provides Somerset residents with information on reducing, reusing and recycling our household waste. **Contact:** Paul Chippen (Wake up to Waste coordinator). Web: www.recyclesomerset.info

RECYCLED PRODUCTS GUIDE Information resource designed to help you buy recycled goods. Contains details of over 1,000 companies in the UK who can supply you with a range of products, from recycled aggregates to kitchenware. Email: rpg@wrap.org.uk Web: www.recycledproducts.org.uk

RESOURCE FUTURES Non-profit distributing company promoting sustainable waste management in the UK through practical waste management projects and consultancy. Local initiatives include festival recycling, promoting reusable nappies, school education work and recycling in flats. **Contact:** CREATE Centre, Smeaton Rd, Bristol BS1 6XN Tel: 0117 930 4355 Fax: 0117 929 7283 Email: info@resourcefutures.co.uk Web: www.resourcefutures.co.uk, www.eventrecycling.co.uk

RESTORE: FURNITURE 4 ALL restores and recycles furniture in the south Bristol area. **Contact:** 17 Filwood Broadway, Knowle West, Bristol BS4 1JL. Tel: 0117 923 1970 Web: www.reworkltd.org.uk

SOFA PROJECT Furniture and electrical appliance re-use charity. Collects goods free of charge to provide to people on a low income. **Bristol store:** 48-54 West St, St Philips, Bristol BS2 0BL. Tel: 0117 954 3567 Web: www.sofaproject.org.uk

SWAPSHOP Website where you can swap unwanted possessions for things you want. Get points for the items you give away, and use the points to get whatever you like. Web: www.swapshop.co.uk

USED2BEE specialises in collecting materials for reuse, and recycling and manufacturing products. **Contact:** 49 Sherwell Valley Rd, Torquay, Devon TQ2 6EL. Tel: 01803 607009 Fax: 01803 607009 Email: used2bee@yahoo.co.uk Web: www.used2bee.co.uk

WASTE & RESOURCES ACTION PROGRAMME (WRAP) accelerates resource efficiency by creating efficient markets for recycled materials and products, while removing barriers to waste minimisation, re-use and recycling. **Helpline:** 0800 100 2040 Web: www.wrap.org.uk

WASTECONNECT Comprehensive reference for recycling points throughout the country. From CDs to office paper, from composting to ink cartridges... everything you ever wanted to know about recycling and more! Tel: 01743 343403 Email: info@wasteconnect.co.uk Web: www.wasteconnect.co.uk

WASTE WATCH Independent national charity supporting action on waste reduction, re-use and recycling. Provides educational projects, consultancy, publications, and training. **Contact:** 56-64 Leonard St, London EC2A 4JX. Tel: 020 7549 0300 Email: info@wastewatch.org.uk Web: www.wastewatch.org.uk

FUNDRAISING, CHARITY & SOCIAL ECONOMY SUPPORT

AURELIAN RESEARCH & PUBLISHING Business-to-business charity research and publishing specialists. Email: aurelian@dircon.co.uk Web: www.dircon.co.uk/aurelian

AVON CO-OPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY helps people set up and develop cooperatives, social firms and employee-owned businesses in the former Avon area, providing advice, training and practical support. **Contact:** c/o CDA, BRAVE Ltd, The Coach House, 2 Upper York St, Bristol BS2 8QN. Tel: 0117 989 2536 Email: info@avoncda.coop Web: www.avoncda.coop

BRAVE ENTERPRISE AGENCY offers information and advice to small businesses and the self-employed. **Contact:** The Coach House, 2 Upper York St, Bristol BS2 8QN. Tel: 0117 944 5330 Email: info@brave.org.uk Web: www.brave.org.uk

BRISTOL COMMUNITY ACCOUNTANCY PROJECT (BCAP) provides professional, accessible and affordable financial services for community and voluntary organisations, charities, credit unions, development trusts and community businesses in and around Bristol. **Contact:** Stephanie Batterbury, The Park, Davenry Rd, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1QD. Tel: 0117 377 3388 Email: steph@bcap.info

yahoo.com/group/freecyclebristol, (worldwide): www.freecycle.org

FURNITURE RE-USE NETWORK (FRN) promotes the re-use of unwanted furniture and household effects for the alleviation of need, hardship, distress and poverty. For a list of local providers, see website. **Contact:** FRN Head Office, 48-54 West St, St Philips, Bristol BS2 0BL. Tel: 0117 954 3571 Fax: 0117 954 3570 Email: info@frn.org.uk Web: www.frn.org.uk

GENESIS FURNITURE PROJECT Bath-based Christian charity seeking to support and help the most needy in our community, providing food and shelter for the homeless, low-cost furniture for those on benefit and work placements and training. **Contact:** 6 Green Park Rd, Bath BA1 1XE. Tel: 01225 421111 Email: furniture@genesistrust.org.uk Web: www.genesistrust.org.uk

GREENER SOLUTIONS services the end-to-end recycling process of mobile phones, batteries, accessories and all telecommunications equipment. **Contact:** Units 3&4, Boundary Business Court, 92-94 Church Rd, Mitcham CR4 3TD. Tel: 020 8274 4040 Email: info@greenersolutions.com Web: www.greenersolutions.com

GREENHOUSE SHOP sells recycled range of gifts and household items, reducing the amount of waste in landfill sites or incinerated. Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm, Sun 11am-4pm. **Contact:** 4 Shires Yard, Milsom St, Bath BA1 1BZ. Tel: 01225 471400 Email: info@greenhouseonline.co.uk Web: www.greenhouseonline.co.uk

JUNK MAIL Reduce the amount of junk mail sent to you by contacting the mailing preference service. **Contact:** Mailing Preference Service, Freepost 29 (LON20771), London W1E 0ZT. Tel: 0845 7304599 Web: www.mpsonline.org.uk Stop your postman delivering unaddressed mail posted on a regional basis to every household. Send or Email your name and address to opt out. **Contact:** FREEPOST RRB-T-ZB-XB-TTTS Royal Mail Door to Door Opt Outs, Kingsmead House, Oxpens Rd, Oxford OX1 1RX. Email: optout@royalmail.com