Setting up a Local Area Group
e.g. in a village, neighbourhood or part of town

Congratulations on forming a neighbourhood or village transition group, or at least considering it if you are reading this! These guidelines aim to give you some ideas about how to get started. We’d like to offer as much support as possible, so do get in touch if you’d like more information (transitioncambridge@googlemail.com).

Firstly, we recommend you read the **Transition Primer**, which has been prepared by the Transition Network, and is freely available on-line here:  
http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/Primer.
This will help you to familiarise yourself with the movement that we are a part of. We also highly recommend reading the **Transition Handbook** by Rob Hopkins, and we may be able to donate one of these to your group (if we have enough money; otherwise we can sell you one for £12). You can also attend Transition Cambridge events, film showings, training events and conferences to get a feeling for how other Transition groups work and what they do.

A great way to get started is to attend the **Transition Training weekend** – these happen regularly around the country, and we are organizing one in September 2009. The training is a 2-day "fundamentals" course for those wishing to know how to set up, run, and maintain a successful transition initiative. It is packed with imaginative and inspiring ways to delve into both the theory and practice of Transition. For more information about the training and to book, see our web-site:  
http://www.transitioncambridge.org/training.

The primer recommends starting with film showings of **Transition films**, with time afterwards for people to discuss the film and meet each other over a cup of tea or meal. This is how we started in Transition Cambridge. We can lend you a projector (we'll need a deposit as it was expensive!) and some of the films on DVD (we hope to develop a DVD library over time). For more information, contact us at transitioncambridge@googlemail.com.

Other resources that we can offer to help you get started include:

- advertising your meetings in the **Transition Cambridge bulletin**, which goes out to almost 900 people and includes people from quite far afield
- **web-space** on our web-site – it’s a wiki, so all you need is a password and then you can add to it yourself (it’s easy, and we can show you how to do this, or alternatively we can help find someone who can help you)
- **advertising your group** at our stalls, including our meetings and events
- use of the **Transition café** for a special ‘your area’ meeting (probably only once as the café is getting quite booked up)
- the benefit of our experience (though we are still learning ourselves!).

The **Transition Network** also offers lots of help and advice for new Transition Initiatives – have a look here:  
http://transitiontowns.org/TransitionNetwork/TransitionNetworkOfferings,  
and the Transition conferences are a great way of meeting others doing the same thing. There is also the Transition East network:  
http://transitioneast.net with a map of all the transition initiatives in this area, so let them know when you are set up so they can add you in to it.

**Good luck with setting up your group**! Let us know how you get on, and we'll offer as much support as we can!