Making the leap from being an activist to training other activists is not difficult as long as you consider the matter as fully as you would any well-planned piece of nonviolent direct action. Like all planning the place, time, people, supporters, money, transport and health and safety issues have to be addressed.

As within any affinity group, different training skills are needed. There are several roles: the “glamorous”, one of the trainers; the venue organiser; the people who publicise the training, ensure it is well attended, support participants and people who are nervous and network for people who have a disability or no transport etc.

Sometimes if you have room for 15 people it is sensible to have 16 people booked because almost invariably one person at least is unable to attend on the day.

Equal opportunities need to be considered, does there need to be a crèche? Mobility/access needs? Educational ability? For instance our courses although interactive has an expectation that people can read and write.

Health and Safety issues are part of the decision on venue.

Changing the size and configuration of the group helps keep energy high and avoids people getting stuck with one other person.

Food organisation.

**STYLE**

Experienced Activists bring a wealth of real experience to any training. Although there are pitfalls.

- These might include a lack of patience with people’s anxiety about being involved in nonviolent activities - either direct action, demonstrating or civil disobedience in another form.
- Their experience might be so impressive that participants feel it is an impossible standard to live up to.
- Their style of delivery might not model nonviolent values especially with potential spoilers. (Potential spoilers are participants who either deliberately or subconsciously attempts to disrupt the workshop.)
- Managing a group might be out with their experience
- The trainers attitude to possible damage to property or personal safety

Partnership Working can resolve some of these difficulties through utilising different people’s skills in one group. The facilitator/trainers might include one organiser and detail person, one activist, one person with good experience of working with groups. Together they can form a fine team by planning and ensuring each contributes on and to the day.

See next page for checklist.
CHECKLIST FOR POTENTIAL TRAINERS TO CONSIDER

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Consideration should be given to the following.

The Training
- Number of Trainers
- Content
- Style of Training
- Appropriateness of Activities

The Venue
- Transport
- Maps
- Space
- Access and Mobility issues
- Temperature and noise
- Health and Safety

Administration and Booking
- Delegates Lists (contact details if needed)
- Badges
- Booking Venue
- Booking Crèche
- Food

Materials and Equipment
- Setting up
- What do we need?
- Troubleshooting

Marketing the Course
- Targeting
- Pre-course publicity
- Mailing Lists
- Supporting people to come
- Contact with the media

Feedback
- How will it be evaluated?