

Bedfordshire

Green Business Network NEWS

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Beds CC supports GBN in bid to drive down business costs

Resource efficiency and carbon reduction project given green light until March 09

Thanks to generous funding from Bedfordshire County Council, GBN is able to continue its work with companies to identify areas in which action can be taken by businesses to combat the rising costs of gas, electricity, water, transport and waste.

Through the Resource Efficiency Club (REC) or REAP project, help is available for local businesses to identify areas where significant cost and carbon savings can be made by:

- Reducing waste, energy, water and transport costs
- Investing in emerging technologies to improve resource use
- Sourcing products and services from companies that offer a better or environmentally friendly option.

Help will range from setting up mentoring schemes between businesses, organizing brief meetings between specialists and groups of businesses, providing help to analyse current bills and looking at how to



get the best deal out of suppliers, and providing on-site specialist help for companies that have already taken initial steps to cut their resource usage.

It doesn't matter whether you believe in climate change or global warming, resource scarcity is a fact - this has been amply demonstrated by the rising costs of diesel, electricity, gas and water, and also the rising costs of waste collection. If you don't take action to reduce these costs, you could be missing out on cost reductions of up to 4% of your turnover.

To date, GBN's Resource Efficiency Club has saved local businesses more than £1.5 million. It's easy for you to join our savers and in the long run, it could save your business.

For more information about how the resource efficiency programme can provide support to your business, please visit our website and look under REAP. To book an initial on-site review, either call us on 01234 241411 or 07792 480986 or email us at info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk.



Still time to enter Rising Star Green Business Awards

It's not too late to enter the Rising Stars Awards. Many GBN member businesses (and GBN itself) have been Award winners in the past. This is a great opportunity for you to shout about your achievements over the last few years, either as a Greener or a more efficient business.

The Green Business Award, sponsored by Bedfordshire County Council, is open to entries from any business who can show they have made significant efforts and impacts in addressing their environmental impact through improved recycling, resource efficiency and process improvement as well as working to raise

awareness and support community involvement.

The deadline for entries is 8th October. All the information needed, including entry forms, is on the awards website - <http://www2.lutontoday.co.uk/risingstars08/home.htm>



Smaller businesses can benefit from Eastex Waste Exchange says Bedfordshire branch

According to local Eastex coordinator, Clare Boddy, materials exchanges do not have to be large scale to provide benefits.

For example, Bumblebees Playgroup took several pieces of furniture from Hanover Consulting saving the playgroup £1,600 and Hanover £87. Buckets from a food manufacturer were passed onto a Bird Rescue Charity, saving the company disposal costs and the charity £400. Wood shavings collected from a Stafford Bridge Doors are now being used as horse bedding, saving the company £780 a year..

Clare says, "These are fantastic examples of how reusing materials can be a financial & environmental benefit."

The Eastex Materials Exchange actively exploits the principle that one company's waste is another's raw material. By automatically matching these parties via the internet, unwanted materials can be efficiently passed on or source. It delivers real financial savings for businesses, organisations and individuals and keeps useful materials in circulation.

Visit www.eastex.org.uk/beds or call your Clare Boddy on 01799 524 328 or email: clare.boddy@eastex.org.uk

Last chance to sign up for free water saving advice

Envirowise is offering businesses free advice on cutting their water consumption and is asking companies to sign up to its Rippleffect scheme.

Rippleffect aims to provide support to cut consumption and protect against spiralling water costs. According to Envirowise, corporate water bills are likely to rise by over 20% between 2010 and 2015.

The organisation predicts saving of up to 30% on water and effluent bills for companies looking at water saving for the first time. Mary Leonard, a director at Envirowise, said: "water is still considered by many as a cheap and limitless resource. The reality is that costs are rising and we are using far too much of it putting pressure on existing supplies.

Visit www.envirowise.gov.uk/rippleffect

New legislation to introduce stricter controls on Batteries

Stricter rules on batteries and accumulators for UK businesses are likely to be introduced in October through the implementation of the Batteries Directive.



The new legal obligations will mean:

- stricter rules on recovery and recycling
- improvements to the environmental performance of all new batteries on the market.

This will apply to all batteries, regardless of their shape, weight, use or chemical composition.

Any business that produces, supplies, or disposes of batteries and accumulators will be affected. Specifically the proposals will affect manufacturers, importers, distributors, end-users, businesses involved in treating and recycling waste batteries and accumulators, and vehicle sales and maintenance businesses.

In addition, if you manufacture or design battery powered products, you will need to ensure that the batteries can be removed from the products and supply instructions on how to remove them.

Even if your business only uses battery-powered equipment, you will still need to dispose of the waste batteries at collection points.

For more information, visit www.netregs.gov.uk



WRAP research shows four main barriers to domestic recycling - businesses can also use lessons learnt to improve their own performance

New research from the Waste & Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has found four main barriers which stop people recycling more. The study outlines a series of simple steps to help overcome these.

In the last ten years recycling rates have increased from 7% to 33% and two thirds of English households are now committed recyclers but this study shows there is great potential for those numbers to go higher if barriers can be overcome.

The study found that the barriers are:

1. **Physical** – when containers for collecting recycling are unsuitable; when there is no space for storage, when collections are unreliable; when people have no way of getting to recycling sites
2. **Behavioural** – if people are too busy; if they struggle with establishing a routine for sorting out recycling; if they forget to put it out
3. **Lack of knowledge** – not knowing which materials can be recycled; not understanding how their local scheme works

4. **Attitudes and perceptions** – not believing recycling is good for the environment; not wanting to sort waste; not feeling personally rewarded for recycling.

These lessons could equally be applied to business recycling rates and environmental managers take note. It's not rocket science and may help to reduce your waste to landfill (and cut taxes).



Kate Moore of The Customer Experience shows the way on office recycling

Community Waste offers recycling for all plastics



Community Waste based at Milton Keynes Council's Materials Recycling Facility in Wolverton is extending its services to include recycling for all types of plastic generated by businesses. This could help you to reduce landfill taxes, increase recycling rates, save waste disposal costs, and potentially generate an income.

If you are currently paying for disposal of your plastic waste, it may be worth another look. Some types of plastic (if you have sufficient quantities, separated properly and stored in a clean condition) can generate an income and be taken away free of charge.

Alternatively, if you have smaller quantities of plastic that have been separated and you wish to drop them off at the MRF, this can also be arranged – free of charge.

Examples of plastic that can be recycled include: acrylic, PVC, PC casings, plastic sheeting, coat hangers, plastic bottles and containers – in fact, almost any type of plastic.

If you want more information about whether your plastic waste is worth money, please contact Duncan Eyles on 07791 106308, or call Community Waste direct on 01908 225000 or email duncan.eyles@cwmrf.co.uk



BETI+ could deliver ISO 14001 from start to finish for £3000

GBN is relaunching its highly successful Business Environmental Training Initiative Plus (BETI+) training and support scheme for businesses wanting to implement an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System. While government support for this scheme has now ended, we are still able to offer businesses the opportunity to take advantage of extremely competitive rates to help implement management systems.

Many of you are experiencing mounting supply chain pressure to tangibly demonstrate that you have an environmental management system in place, and the BETI+ programme will support you in doing just that.

You can choose as much or as little of the training and support as you need. On offer is:

- A one-day Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) Waste Awareness Certificate course, which leads to a nationally recognised qualification
- A five-day Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH) Level 3 Environmental Management course, which also leads to a nationally recognised qualification
- On-site help and advice to gain certification to ISO 14001
- Integrating your quality management and health and safety systems to



avoid duplication of effort.

If you're not sure how much of the support and training you'll require, we can carry out a preliminary visit and set up a support programme that is tailored to meet the needs of your organisation.

Six businesses have now achieved ISO 14001 certification under the BETI+ programme, with several more expecting to achieve formal registration to the standard later in the year.

We can spread payments for the full BETI+ package over one year if this helps its affordability, or you can pay as you use the training and services on offer.

Following BETI+, GBN can also offer subsidised or free advice to businesses in Bedfordshire through its resource efficiency club.

If you're interested in taking advantage of any of the BETI+ package of training and support, or need further information about the programme and what's on offer, email Jane Varley at: info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk or call 01234 241411 or 07792 480986.



Larger organisations to come under Carbon Reduction Commitment by 2010

Coming in January 2010 is the the carbon reduction commitment (CRC), a compulsory UK-wide scheme to make larger organisations reduce their carbon emissions or pay for them. However, action now could mitigate its effects on your business.

The CRC will mainly affect large private and public sector organisations whose 70 kVA electricity use is above 6,000MWh in 2008. An organisation can be made up of many businesses. If it applies to your company, you will have to trade carbon allowances and cut carbon emissions. The CRC will cover both electricity use and

direct emissions from energy use, including gas and fuel oil.

If you exceed the 6,000MWh limit, you will have to comply with the CRC. In early 2009 you will have to confirm to Defra that you are covered by the scheme.

You will need to measure and report on all of your energy use (ie electricity, gas, fuel oil, coal, liquefied petroleum gas, etc) from 1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009.

If you need to check what the implications of CRC are for your business, or to see whether it will apply to you, visit www.netreg.gov.uk for more information.



Events and Training

Environmental Management Seminars

GBN's Environmental Management Seminars are funded by Bedfordshire County Council and are free to GBN members. Guests are welcome to attend one seminar free of charge, and thereafter will be charged £25.00+VAT per delegate, per seminar.

Unless otherwise stated, all seminars are held at The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine, and start promptly at 08.30 with networking and breakfast available from 08.00. We aim to finish between 10.30 and 11.00. Please fill in the form on the GBN website (www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk) to book your place.

29 October 2008

Resource Efficiency

With gas and electricity prices set to rise by as much as 40% over the coming months, continual rises in the cost of petrol and diesel and waste disposal costs reaching an all time high, businesses are facing tough times.

In this seminar we will be offering help to businesses to prioritise those areas in which savings should be made; reading utility and waste bills and learning how to analyse them; looking at simple measures that can be taken to reduce costs, and explaining the variety of help that's on offer - including the GBN Resource Efficiency Club - from a variety of sources.

Speakers from a variety of organisations will be outlining some of the options on offer to businesses, and also introducing some of the more innovative solutions now being developed.

19 November 2008

Greener Transport

It's an area many people have been shy about tackling - transport. While some brave souls have made tentative moves to improve travel planning and encourage car sharing, most have ignored the subject. We're taking the bull by the horns and making some suggestions as to how you can improve transport in your business without alienating your workforce.

CIEH L2 Award in Health & Safety in the Workplace

GBN is pleased to offer for the first time the CIEH Level 2 Award in Health and Safety in the Workplace on 4 December 2008.

This is a nationally recognised certificate course that is suitable for all employees and promotes a sound understanding of health and safety issues.

The qualification covers the following topics: Legislation, Health, Safety, Welfare, The workplace and workplace equipment, Risk assessment, Manual handling, Hazardous substances, Ergonomics and workstation design, Transport and vehicles, Noise and vibration.

The course will take place on 4 December at The Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine. The cost to members is £150 +VAT, and non-members £220 +VAT. This includes all course materials, lunch and refreshments. You can book through the GBN Website.

CIEH L3 Environmental Management Course

Starting in February 2009, GBN will be running a CIEH Level 3 Environmental Management Course, which is a must for anyone responsible for implementing or running an Environmental Management System to ISO 14001.

The five-day course, which leads to a nationally recognised qualification on successfully passing the examination, covers all the topics you'll need to understand, implement and run an EMS.

Dates and venues will be announced nearer the time but venues will be in Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. Dates are as follows: 3, 10, 24 February, 3, 10, 24 March.

CIEH Level 3 certificate holders are recognised as being "legally competent" under the ISO 14001 and BS 8555 environmental management standards.

The cost to members per delegate will be £550 +VAT, non-members £700 +VAT.

You can book by calling 01234 241411, email: info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk, or by visiting the GBN website at: www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk.

£40K awards on offer for green SMEs

Small businesses are being offered the chance to win awards of up to £40,000 to help fund innovative ideas to tackle climate change.

The Shell Springboard programme, now in its fourth year, is offering up to six awards in each of three UK regions - north, central and south.

Last year, oil and gas giant Shell handed out maximum £40,000 awards to five businesses for their projects, which had to prove they can lead to greenhouse gas reductions and be commercially viable.

Are you a small business, based in the UK, who sees reducing greenhouse gases as a business opportunity, not just a cost or compliance? Do you have a good idea that just needs a financial boost? Then why not apply and inspire us?

The closing date for applications is 7 November 2008. Visit <http://www.shellspringboard.org/>

Useful Websites

www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk
www.blsbp.co.uk
www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk
www.carbontrust.co.uk
www.environment-agency.gov.uk
www.edie.net
www.envirowise.gov.uk
www.netregs.gov.uk

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"These updates are for guidance only. GBN is not in a position to give definitive advice on matters concerning the law and you should always consult your legal advisors on these matters. GBN does not accept liability for any errors, omissions or misleading information."

To book, visit GBN's website at www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk or email info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk

