

# BEDFORDSHIRE GREEN BUSINESS *network news*

Autumn 2004

## *Local Companies could slash Energy Costs by 20% with BEET*

A new scheme to provide free training to business employees in energy efficiency has been launched in Bedfordshire. The Business Energy Efficiency Training (BEET) programme aims to raise awareness of energy efficiency at work and at home and is provided free of charge to small-to-medium sized businesses in Bedfordshire.

Companies participating in the scheme will initially receive an energy review of their premises and a report detailing what improvements and savings they can make. This will be followed by staff training on domestic energy efficiency and the outcomes of the company energy review.

The training includes meter reading, saving energy through behavioural changes and physical measures to increase energy efficiency. These energy efficient practices and measures can easily be transferred between home and the workplace,

helping reduce home energy bills and helping businesses to become more competitive and jobs more secure. Partly basing the training on the findings made during the company energy review makes the training directly relevant to the staff in their workplace. The trainees and the company will also be given advice and information on the grants, discounts and loans available to make energy efficiency improvements.

After the review and the training, participating companies will receive post-training support materials to help set up a staff awareness campaign and help to implement the recommended measures in the energy review report.

The training, funded by the European Social Fund and Bedfordshire County Council, is being delivered by MK Energy Agency, a local not-for-profit company.

Gary Cowell, chief executive of MK Energy Agency said:



*Pictured above: Janet Millar running energy efficiency training for smaller businesses*

"Improving energy efficiency not only saves companies money – typically 20% of their energy costs - it is good for the environment too. We are very pleased to be able to offer local companies this valuable opportunity to train their staff, save money and reduce their environmental impact."

BEET is available free of charge to small-to-medium

enterprises in the administrative area of Bedfordshire County Council. Outside of this area, the programme is available for a fee. For more information please contact Janet Millar at Milton Keynes Energy Agency. Tel: 01908 665566 or email: janet@mkea.org.uk.

MKEA ran an energy workshop for GBN last month - a full write-up is on page 4.

## *EMS Software free to GBN members who take part in BEMS trial*

The Business and Environment Management Scheme (BEMS), in partnership with GBN, is offering a limited number of members in Bedfordshire and Luton the chance to trial its environmental management CD ROM toolkit as part of a regional pilot project.

Aligned closely with phase 1 of BS 8555 – the environmental management systems standard for smaller companies - the CD ROM helps companies to start the process of implementing an Environmental Management System.

Participating companies will

receive a free interactive CD ROM, which will enable them to systematically assess, manage and reduce the environmental impact of their business activities.

The pilot is limited to just 15 companies, so you'll need to act quickly to take advantage of this opportunity. Those

# BeMS

interested in taking part should visit [www.bems.co.uk](http://www.bems.co.uk) or contact Antony Gough at [antony.gough@bems.co.uk](mailto:antony.gough@bems.co.uk).



# Big Splash Challenge could save £millions

Recently launched by Margaret Beckett, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is The Big Splash - a challenge set by Envirowise, which encourages industry to save money by reducing its water usage.

Businesses in the UK use 1300 million m<sup>3</sup> of water every year. Envirowise is committed to helping UK industry achieve cost savings of £10 million this year through water minimisation.

It has been shown that sites that have not previously had their water consumption examined can usually achieve around 30% savings on water and effluent bills immediately by implementing simple water management measures.



By signing up to The Big Splash challenge, companies will receive support from Envirowise including industry specific guidance and publications; regional workshops; help with implementation and measurement of success; and




an on-site water and waste review that includes up to a day's free advice on resource efficiency from an environmental expert.


The Big Splash will run until March 2005, when the results of the challenge will be compiled and the best performing companies in a number of categories will receive an award. The top 50 companies will receive Envirowise certificates for demonstrating excellence in environmental improvement.

To sign up to The Big Splash challenge and start saving money and water, call the free Energy and Environment Helpline on 0800 585794 or visit [envirowise.gov.uk/bigsplash](http://envirowise.gov.uk/bigsplash). Alternatively, you can call the regional agent Antony Gough on 01733 750882.

Here's proof that it works...

 **F Smales and Son (Fish Merchants) Ltd** implemented a low-cost programme of water minimisation and achieved cost savings of over £31,000 per year and a 44% reduction in water consumption

 **Field Packaging** improved water metering and control of water supplies to secure cost savings of £13,000 a year.

 **The Malcolm Group** reviewed its activities and made changes, such as improved housekeeping and better spray technology. As a result, the company successfully brought about a reduction in water and effluent charges of £32,500 a year.

# Waste Exchange Update

If you're producing waste materials that other companies may want to use as raw materials, or if you think others may have waste that you could use, why not check out the Bedfordshire Waste Exchange (BWE)?



That's exactly what happened when Goodies Enterprise Ltd and Purssonal Touch logged onto the website. Goodies was advertising pallet loads of waste flat-packed cardboard boxes, which Purssonal Touch would have had to buy, and Goodies would have had to pay to dispose of. However, Purssonal Touch now gets cardboard boxes free of charge and Goodies gets rid of one of its primary waste products.

## Featured Exchange

As always on the BWE website there are some excellent materials available for exchange or collection right away. Products on offer range from hardwood sawdust chippings to pallets to extract air ducting.



However, their featured best exchange at the moment is the listing for "miles" of irrigation piping. As you can see from the photo, there is a massive quantity of this piping available. And it's free!

## Materials required....

Members of the Exchange are also looking to get hold of a wide variety of materials for re-use and recycling including aluminium foil, IT/electronic hardware, ink cartridges, mobile phones, carpets, pallets and wooden crates. If you are able to provide any of the materials listed on the website, please let BWE know.

You can organise a site visit from a BWE representative, who will assess what they can do to help, including identifying waste that may be useful to others and how this could be used within the scheme. The representative may also take photographs, which could be used to show others what the waste looks like.

Many GBN members are already exchanging waste through BWE, and have benefitted from the advice and guidance on offer. Why not give it a try - it could save your business thousands.

For more information about the Bedfordshire Waste Exchange, visit [www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk), or contact Sam Griggs at: email: [sgriggs@linden-consulting.co.uk](mailto:sgriggs@linden-consulting.co.uk), tel: 01799 524328



# BETI course gets thumbs-up

The Woodside Industrial Estate in Dunstable saw the first in a new series of Business Environmental Training Initiative (BETI) courses take place. Senior managers from local manufacturing companies attended the one-day environmental awareness course, and gave it an enthusiastic reception.

One delegate said: "I found the course very fulfilling, well presented and timely. BETI has been an ideal first step as I didn't know where to turn. The training and on-going support will enable me to start reducing our environmental impacts and take a proactive approach to environmental management. Pound for pound, pollution prevention at source is cheaper than clean up!

"I would thoroughly recommend managers take this opportunity for free support and advice – it really is something you cannot miss out on".

In addition to covering

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Level 1 syllabus, case studies giving previous participants' achievements were presented, and delegates had the chance to listen to expert speakers from the EEF, Envirowise and the Environment Agency.

BETI training co-ordinator Garth McKenzie, said: "I am looking forward to working with managers over the coming months as they implement quick wins to save money, improve efficiency and motivate staff."

BETI is open to SMEs in Bedfordshire and starts with an initial one-day awareness training course, which helps companies to identify financial, PR and competitive benefits that can be realised by adopting greener business practices.

Support from a dedicated training co-ordinator enables managers to access free waste audits to implement cost saving activities.



*BETI training coordinator Garth McKenzie looks forward to working with companies to help them save money, improve efficiency and motivate staff.*

This is followed by ongoing support and further training opportunities. The Initiative is supported by funding from the European Social Fund and the Learning + Skills Council to make training free to qualifying businesses.

BETI courses for 2004 are fully booked, but you can register your interest for the

next round, which will run in February 2005, by using the Contact Us link on [www.beti.info](http://www.beti.info), or by calling the training coordinator – Garth McKenzie on 01234 228568.

BETI is only available to 80 companies in Bedfordshire and Luton, so book early to avoid disappointment.

## New Website launches Business Travel Initiative

A new website has just been launched ([www.btravel.info](http://www.btravel.info)) heralding the start of the Business Travel Initiative (BTI), which offers free Business Transport Planning training to Small to Medium sized businesses in Bedfordshire.

The BTI training scheme was requested by companies that took part in the Business Environmental Training Initiative (BETI) to help them

overcome the increasing issues of traffic congestion, overcrowded parking, pollution, and associated problems that are preventing them from conducting their business efficiently.

Bedfordshire County Council, with funding from the European Social Fund and working in partnership with the DTI's Transport Energy best practice unit, has responded by

establishing BTI to provide free one to one training to SMEs. On request, a trainer will work with a company (or a cluster of companies in an industrial estate) to explore the issues facing your business, and suggesting measures that will be beneficial to both your business and your employees.

BTI recognises that time is money to business, which is why there is no charge for this training, and your training will be held where it is relevant; in your workplace.

BTI is only available to 45 companies in Bedfordshire, so it's advisable to

register your interest early. As well as working one to one with companies, BTI will also be providing a full series of seminars throughout the year. The first of these will be a Transport Planning Workshop, held on 17 November, in association with GBN, when the focus will be on the benefits of Sustainable Transport and how to promote this idea. The Workshop will be hosted by 3M, Hudson Road, Elms Park Viking Estate, Bedford and will kick-off at 8.00am with bacon sandwiches (more details on page 4).

Visit our website at [www.btravel.info](http://www.btravel.info) or contact our training coordinator on 01234 228289 for details.



EUROPEAN UNION  
European Social Fund



# In Brief - Environment Update

## GBN Programme of Events

### 17 November Transport Planning

At: 3M, Hudson Road, Elms Park Viking Estate, Bedford

*Steve Macey of the Business Travel Initiative (BTI) will introduce this new project and offer advice and guidance on transport planning objectives, targets, monitoring and efficiency*

### 19 January - Staff Motivation

Venue to be announced

*This workshop will focus on how to gain and maintain staff commitment to environmental projects.*

Unless otherwise stated, all events start at 8.00am and finish between 10.30 and 11.00am. Each workshop focuses on an issue and provides guidance on setting objectives, targets and monitoring processes. All workshops feature a tutorial, interactive case study, a guest specialist speaker and a group exercise. For more information, or to book a place, please contact Ruth Sandifer: [ruth.sandifer@marstonvale.org](mailto:ruth.sandifer@marstonvale.org).

WORKSHOPS ARE VERY POPULAR AND SPACES ARE LIMITED, SO BOOK EARLY TO AVOID DISAPPOINTMENT.

### Workshop gives sound energy efficiency advice

Last month saw a good turn-out at the National Energy Centre in Milton Keynes for the GBN energy efficiency workshop.

Attendees were treated to a tour of the Milton Keynes Energy Agency (MKEA) and Energy Centre's flagship buildings, which were constructed and are lit, heated and run off environmentally friendly and energy efficient systems.



Neil Wickham, business manager at MKEA, then gave an entertaining and practical presentation on simple, low-cost measures businesses can take to monitor, measure and minimise energy costs. This was illustrated with examples that could apply to any business. One example was particularly telling – a major local company saved £100,000 per year just by switching computer equipment off in the evenings and at weekends!

Neil handed over to Janet Millar, project officer at MKEA, for the final presentation on the new Business Energy Efficiency Training initiative (BEET), which is designed to help small to medium sized businesses receive training on how to minimise energy costs. (For details about BEET see article on page 1.)


### On-line advice on hazardous waste management now available from Envirowise

Envirowise has recently made advice available on-line to companies who need to know more about the Hazardous Waste Regulations that recently came into force. The website also signposts other sites where practical and detailed guidance can be found. For more information, visit [www.envirowise.gov.uk/hazwaste](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk/hazwaste).

#### Disclaimer

\*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.\*

## Prosecutions

 Peter Henney of Hertfordshire was fined a total of £6,000

after pleading guilty to three charges of failing to exercise a proper duty of care regarding disposal of his building waste. He was also ordered to pay the Environment Agency's costs of £1196.70.


Mr Henney broke into premises, causing £250 worth of damage to the lock and gates, and dumped waste including brick and plaster rubble, old timber, carpet, and tiles. He was traced through papers found in the waste. The court heard that in and around the London area, the greatest volume of fly-tipped material is generated by the construction industry. The court stated fly-tipping was a serious problem and one which appeared to be getting worse. There are current proposals to raise Magistrate's fining levels for fly-tipping even further.

 Deery Construction Ltd's company director was fined £17,000 and

ordered to pay £10,000 in costs for illegally storing 160,000 cubic meters of waste – the equivalent of six Olympic sized swimming pools. He was also charged with illegally burning waste and failing to prevent potential seepage from oil tanks at his company's site. The company has since gone into liquidation.

 Thames Water Utilities Ltd was fined £22,500 for polluting a

Hampshire stream and lakes with raw sewage caused by a series of pumping failures at its sewage treatment plant in Arford. Thames Water paid a further £48,000 to restock the lakes with fish.

 Laurent Perrier (UK), the French champagne

producer with offices in Marlow, was fined £14,000 after failing to meet its waste recycling obligations.

## Useful Websites

[www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk](http://www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk)

[www.beti.info](http://www.beti.info)

[www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk)

[www.environment-agency.gov.uk](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk)

[www.edie.net](http://www.edie.net)

[www.envirowise.gov.uk](http://www.envirowise.gov.uk)

[www.detr.gov.uk](http://www.detr.gov.uk)

[www.energy-efficiency.gov.uk](http://www.energy-efficiency.gov.uk)

[www.envirolinkuk.org](http://www.envirolinkuk.org)

[www.netregs.gov.uk](http://www.netregs.gov.uk)

## GBN Contacts

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