

Tree planting recognises Jack Bradley Award winners

John Martindale, Facilities Manager at Milton Keynes based Degussa Goldschmidt, has just been presented with the prestigious Jack Bradley Award for the encouragement of improved corporate environmental responsibility. At the award ceremony, John received a certificate, planted his own tree in the Forest of Marston Vale in his honour, and will have a ceremonial spade bearing his name on public display in the Forest Centre at Marston Moretaine in Bedfordshire.

The award was established by GBN in memory of Jack Bradley, an enthusiastic founder member, who played a substantial and significant role in improving the environmental performance of local businesses. Some years after Jack died, he posthumously became the first award winner.

On receiving his certificate, John said, "I'm very honoured to receive this award but I would like to stress that credit also goes to all other members of the team including Gary Phillips and Ken Walsh."

John's ability to adopt a cradle to grave approach to environmental impacts and a genuine social responsibility to the environment and people impressed the GBN panel of judges.

In addition, John has introduced several initiatives at Degussa Goldschmidt, including assessing contractors' environmental impacts before granting them a permit to work; installing more efficient lighting, which has saved the company in bills and disposal costs; and introducing simple signage that employees can follow with ease.



Main: John Martindale plants the tree in the Forest of Marston Vale, which recognises his environmental achievements. Inset: Amanda Harrison, formerly of Mid Beds District Council and last year's winner, gets stuck in with the ceremonial spade

Donate your old PCs to East African schools

If you've upgraded your old PC systems, or have any that are unused, Nazir Jessa would like to hear from you. He is shipping PCs to poorer areas of Tanzania and Kenya for use by school children.

An employee at computer company Watford Electronics in Luton, Nazir is in a position to refurbish older systems and

has five twenty foot containers waiting to ship the equipment to Africa. With landfill taxes increasing, and Hazardous Waste Regulations coming into force, this is an excellent way to reuse your older equipment.

The Tanzanian High Commissioner in the UK has given Nazir assurances that any containers loaded with

second-hand PCs arriving at Daressalaam will be given special clearance without any hindrance from the tax collectors. All transportation costs of the containers to Africa will be paid for by Watford Electronics.

Computers will be distributed to various schools in Tanzania that have mains electricity available as a gift from private

businesses in the UK. Please note, 386-processor computers or those beyond repair cannot be sent or used.

If you have any equipment you wish to donate, you should email: nazir.jessa@watford.co.uk.



The GBN Interview

Godwin Kuwadoo, Health Safety and Environment Manager, Arenson Group Ltd talks to Sarah Williams about GBN, BETI and ISO 14001

It was in January 2004 that Arenson Group's Health, Safety & Environment Manager, Godwin Kudawoo, first attended a GBN business support seminar.

According to Godwin, "Our directors had recognised that environmental considerations were coming to the forefront and that whole life cycle issues would be an increasing part of the agenda for our customers. The company therefore made the decision to commit to achieving environmental management standard ISO 14001 as a framework for these business improvements.

"My first approach was to 'install' a system using consultants but, as a traditional company, we like to do things ourselves and I quickly realised that I needed to be able to 'own' the work. In order that I, the directors, managers and staff could be genuinely involved. I was sign-posted towards GBN by our local authority officer and we've made tremendous progress since then – being accredited to ISO 14001 in July 2004!"

In addition to on-going peer support and training through GBN, Godwin signed up for the Business Environmental Training Initiative (BETI). Godwin said: "BETI is about taking as much or as little help as you need. The level 1 day really opened my eyes and helped me realise why environmental issues are so important to us all and why this is an issue for business. I then attended the Train the Trainer day and used my new tools, knowledge and skills to develop a series of tool box training sessions for each of our teams as well as material for inducting new employees.

"We soon started implementing changes within the business and noticing benefits to the bottom line.

"I continued attending the GBN monthly EMS Support Seminars and found they supported me every step of the way. Every time I hit upon a new issue there was someone there who had already experienced this and could share with me their experience and knowledge. In particular, fellow member, Ratna Morjaria from Degussa Goldschmidt, helped me in the run up to accreditation which also helped her develop her own auditing skills."

By the end of the summer, all Arenson's staff had received environmental awareness training and Godwin achieved the CIEH Level 3 Environmental Management certificate through BETI which meant he was a 'legally competent person' in the eyes of ISO 14001 assessors.

He said: "Apart from being a requirement of ISO 14001, staff involvement has been invaluable. No one knows the work better than the people doing it and, once they were aware



of the issues, they identified many opportunities for business improvements".

So far, Godwin's team has instigated a major energy reduction programme which is saving over £2,500 per month; all waste is segregated for recycling - reducing the amount going to landfill from 28 tonnes per month to just 18 - and there have been significant savings in water consumption. All these changes not only add to the overall efficiency of the business, but reduce the environmental impacts and improve competitiveness and profitability.

Environmental Benefits:

21% reduction in energy use
45% reduction in waste to landfill
30% reduction in water use

Bottom Line:

Savings of £35,000 per year

In closing, Godwin said; "Incorporating sound environmental management into the running of your business is inevitable and here to stay. It is not nearly as difficult as it first appears and the benefits are real. Anyone can be cynical but if you embrace the opportunities you will achieve so much more. But don't try reinventing the wheel! There is a lot of support out there and by bringing your questions to the forum, you can both help yourself and stimulate the thinking of those who are more experienced".

Company Profile:

The Arenson Group's product portfolio includes leading brand desks, screens and storage. From their base at the Arenson Centre, Woodside, Dunstable, the company employs 150 staff and has a turnover of £15m per year

Environment Agency offers help to local businesses

Jeremy Hay of the Environment Agency (EA) was on hand to show the approachable face of the Agency at the latest of Bedfordshire Green Business Network's (GBN) environmental management seminars in association with NQA.

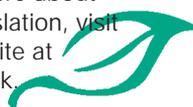
Following a lively presentation by NQA's Catherine Summerfield on how companies can best develop environmental management systems to meet and continue to meet environmental legislation, Jeremy delivered a fascinating workshop-style talk on environmental hazards and how to avoid them.

He outlined the basic laws that companies have to abide by, with discussions covering waste, air and groundwater pollution, and hazardous substances. Jeremy stressed that the EA is not just the enforcing body for environmental legislation, but is also delighted to carry out an advisory role.

He said, "The Agency would much rather come to your site and give you advice about identifying and dealing with potential environmental hazards, than have to visit you after an incident has occurred." He also said that if an incident does occur, companies must contact the EA immediately (Emergency Number: 0800 807060).

To spark some lively and illuminating discussion, Jeremy used photographs of poor and dangerous practice and asked the audience to identify "what's wrong with this picture?" The session concluded with a look at Netregs – the Agency's online environmental legislation "bible" for small businesses.

To arrange a visit from the Environment Agency, or to get advice call 08708 506 506. To find out more about environmental legislation, visit the Agency's website at www.netregs.gov.uk



WEEE Implementation delayed



In the first of a series of articles, John Morrell looks into the impact of the WEEE Directive on business.

The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive (WEEE) came into effect on 13 August 2004. Put simply, the Directive covers the disposal of all electrical and electronic equipment to reduce the amount going into landfill. This is important, not just to reduce volumes of waste, but also to prevent pollutants such as lead, cadmium and mercury (which this equipment contains) leaching into the water table.

Although it was made law last year, equipment providers (manufacturers and importers of equipment into the EU) initially had a year to implement the Directive. However, the complex issues involved have resulted in a number of EU countries, UK included, delaying the compliance date until next January next year.

In practice, the Directive will mean that equipment will have to be collected separately for processing to remove all pollutants before landfilling. Equipment providers will have to meet the cost of processing. This

will not include domestic premises, but will cover the cost of pick up from either the retail outlet or local council site.

The fine detail of the practical methods have not been finalised and the DTI/DEFRA have not issued the final implementation rules. But the basic outline is:

- Producers are responsible for the cost of disposal. Producers are defined as manufacturers who sell their own brand, resell under own brand or import into the EU
- There are 10 categories of equipment covered in the Directive. These cover nearly everything that has a 13amp plug or battery used at home or work, and includes some battery-operated toys.
- Before the equipment can be landfilled, all hazardous material must be removed i.e. the larger circuit boards, batteries etc.
- The Directive is retrospective, which means if a manufacturer sold equipment 20 years ago they still have to pay for its disposal.

This is a very brief outline of the Directive that affects every household and business throughout Europe. It will cost the industry between £217-£455 million pa (based on the DTI Regulatory Impact Assessment) and will affect all our lives.

Useful information on the Directive can be found on the DTI's website (www.dti.gov.uk/sustainability) or you can email me with any questions you have.

John Morrell
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Office World fined for excessive packaging on Internet mail order goods

Northamptonshire Trading Standards service has prosecuted stationery company Office World for using an excessive amount of packaging on mail order goods ordered via the Internet. Three test purchases were found to have excessive packaging with the products only filling a small part of the packaging (19%, 7% and 29%). Office World was fined £2,000 plus £550 costs.

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Environmental review avoids potential local river pollution

Hydrochloric Acid pollution of a local river was avoided thanks to the thoroughness of the Initial Environmental Review carried out by Terinex when they moved onto their new site in Bedford.

Speaking at the recent GBN EMS Support Seminar in association with NQA, Richard Hawke, Quality and Technical Manager of Terinex and Director of GBN explained how carrying out the Initial Environmental Review helped him to prevent a potentially serious pollution incident.

The Initial Environmental Review is a tool to help managers get started on the road to sound environmental best practice. Richard explained to delegates how, as part of the review at Terinex, they looked at all the materials they use on site, how they are made, how they are disposed of and what might happen to them in the case of an emergency – such as a fire.

He said, "We started off talking to the landlords and builders and obtained the site plans. Through this we discovered that a small brook ran close to us that feeds directly into the main river. Like many companies, we have plastics on site, which, if they caught fire, would give off Hydrogen Chloride. We asked a lot of 'what if' questions and realised that in



Terinex's local brook - saved from a pollution incident

the event of a fire, when mixed with water, they would make a dilute Hydrochloric Acid which, if allowed to run into the surface water drains, would end up in the brook and in the main river. And before you know it, we could have a major pollution event on our hands! Special provisions were made as part of the site design and procedures were implemented to limit the risk of uncontrolled discharges.

"The point is that by carrying out a thorough review, we were able to look at the big picture of what happens on our site and review the impact on the environment both on site and off site. The Initial Environmental Review is a tool for opening your eyes about what actually happens and can happen as a result of your business processes".

Packaging waste deadline extended

The Government has passed an emergency law to extend the deadline for applications from packaging waste reprocessors and exporters. This allows the Environment Agency (EA) to grant further applications for the rest of the year.

To comply with the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste)

Regulations 1997, reprocessors and exporters need to be accredited by the Environment Agency, which enables them to issue Packaging Waste Recovery Notes (PRNs) and Packaging Waste Export Recovery Notes (PERNs). These help to demonstrate compliance with recycling obligations under the Regulations.



In Brief - Environment Update

GBN Programme of Events

GBN EMS Support Seminars in Association with NQA

Whether you are new to environmental management or have experience and knowledge to share, the GBN EMS Support Seminars in association with NQA are here for you.

Free to GBN members, the seminars provide you with the opportunity to access first class professional training in an atmosphere that encourages peer support and the sharing of practical, best practice.

All seminars start promptly at 8.30 with networking and refreshments available from 8.00. Places are limited to 30 for each session. Please contact Ruth Sandifer at the address shown at the bottom of this page to book.

Wednesday May 18th

Aspects & Impacts

Venue: RAF Henlow, Henlow, Bedfordshire SG16 6DN

How can you avoid the confusion many managers experience with this area? This session will help you understand what needs to be done in a straightforward no-nonsense way!

Wednesday June 15th

Management Programmes

Venue: Degussa Goldschmidt, Tego House, Chippenham Drive, Kingston, Milton Keynes MK10 0AF

There's loads of support out there to help you on your route to continuous improvement and improved environmental efficiency. How do you create an effective management programme? We'll help you access what's right for you.

Wednesday July 20th

Staff Awareness & Strategic Support

Venue: Forest Centre, Marston Vale Millennium Country Park, Station Road, Marston Moretaine, MK43 0PR

Without appropriate staff training and the support and involvement of staff and senior directors, your efforts are likely to come to nothing. It's a tricky area – come and find out what you need to do and the approaches taken by fellow members.

Major Boost to Envirowise Funding

Envirowise has just revealed that it is to receive over £14 million in extra funding in 2005-6.

This increased funding means that, from 1 April, Envirowise will be able to offer waste minimisation and resource efficiency services to more UK companies, and in more

sectors. It will also be able to extend its existing services.

This forms part of the Government's commitment to return additional Landfill Tax receipts to business in a way that supports improving resource efficiency and waste management.

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

 Kenneth Cresswell of Cresswell Constructions in

Goring-on-Thames was ordered to pay almost £8000 in fines and costs of £1,046.04, after being found guilty of illegally storing and burning waste on his premises and failing to be registered as a carrier of waste. The Environment Agency warned Mr Cresswell that he was illegally carrying, storing and burning waste, but he continued to commit these offences. He admitted that he had not taken the earlier instructions and warnings of the Agency officers seriously enough.

 Joywheel Ltd, a registered waste carrier, and John Woodley, a

farmer, were heavily fined for their involvement in the large-scale, unlawful dumping of excavation waste on an Amersham farm. Around 2,000 tons of excavation waste from works on the A41 Aston Clinton by-pass, were

illegally dumped on Woodley's farm. Both pleaded guilty to offences under the Environment Protection Act 1990, Joywheel for depositing waste soil and Woodley for allowing it to be deposited on his land. Despite removing the waste and restoring the natural contours of the field, Joywheel was fined £10,000 and ordered to pay £716.20 costs, and Woodley was fined £1,200 and ordered to pay £716.20 in costs.

 Hertfordshire builder Peter Henney was

ordered to pay more than £7,000 in fines and costs, when his building waste ended up being fly-tipped in a St Albans company's car park. Henney pleaded guilty to three charges of failing to exercise a proper duty of care regarding his building waste. Mr Henney said he used another man to remove the waste, but the Agency has been unable to trace the person he named.

Useful Websites

www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk

www.blsbp.co.uk

www.beti.info

www.btravel.info

www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

www.edie.net

www.envirowise.gov.uk

www.detr.gov.uk

www.netregs.gov.uk

GBN Contacts

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