



Bedfordshire

# Green Business Network

## NEWS

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## GBN's REAP initiative aims to save local businesses £250,000

**GBN members in Bedfordshire, Luton and neighbouring areas are aiming for £250,000 resource efficiency savings this year. Funding from Envirowise will give GBN the chance to provide members with the dedicated support needed to make these savings.**

With less than one year for local companies to prove they can rise to the challenge in order to apply for longer term support, Sarah Williams, senior economic development officer and project manager of the award winning Business Environmental Training Initiative (BETI), has been appointed chief executive to bring the project to fruition.

Charles Neame, chair of GBN, says; "With so little time to get this project up and running and results coming in, we are enormously grateful to Bedfordshire County Council for releasing Sarah on secondment to us for the year. Sarah brings with her a wealth of business experience and a clear understanding of the competitive advantages businesses can gain from improved resource efficiency."

The GBN Resource Efficiency and Action Programme (REAP) will help members realise significant benefits.

Sarah says, "Most managers are looking at cost reduction programmes. Smart saving is about cutting costs across the board without reducing your ability to flourish in the future.

"Rather than laying off trained staff – which reduces future capacity and adds costs in the long term – resource

efficiency looks at inputs, processes and outputs and takes out waste across the board."

The Business Environmental Training Initiative (BETI) has proved that local companies can save up to £35,000 using low and no cost resource efficiency approaches. With the focus now clearly on resource efficiency, GBN is confident that local businesses involved will regularly demonstrate similar improvements.

**Sarah says, "Every company, regardless of size, or area of activity that has yet to address resource efficiency is throwing away profit – on average 4.5% of turnover but sometimes as much as 10%. This level of waste will make it increasingly difficult for them to grow and invest."**

Even before REAP is formally launched, businesses new to the Network are coming forward to get involved – but all managers have a role to play and opportunities to get involved.

Sarah says, "GBN's greatest strength is the support that members give to each other. Within the membership we have an incredible wealth of skills, expertise and experience. My role is that of facilitator – not expert. The managers are expert in their own business and we will be helping them achieve more by using less".

The project will help managers to see where the opportunities for savings are within their business through free on-site consultancy, and will also offer free



*Pictured above: Sarah Williams, chief executive of GBN with Charles Neame, chairperson*

nationally accredited training in the form of the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) Waste Awareness certificate as a one-day introduction, and the more advanced IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management & Assessment) Resource Efficiency course.

As always, managers will be able to take as much or as little of the support offered as they need and, more importantly, will help to influence the focus and direction the project takes.

The GBN Resource Efficiency and Action Programme will be launched at the Luton Business Environment Event in October. Managers who would like to find out more are welcome to make contact now.

In addition, managers who are already undertaking resource efficiency projects are asked to make contact to share their experience and savings with the project.

Contact Sarah on 07791 697103 or email [sarah@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk](mailto:sarah@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk)



## Last chances to take part in BETI courses



**Businesses in Bedfordshire & Luton looking to take advantage of the Business Environmental Training Initiative (BETI) need to book up soon.**

The final training sessions of this award winning business support project are scheduled for 23 November and 19 January 2006.

After four years, BETI has enabled nearly 200 business managers to achieve the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Level I Environmental Awareness Certificate and gain support through Bedfordshire Green Business Network to address environmental issues facing their business.

**Training co-ordinator Garth McKenzie says, "BETI has helped managers reduce costs, improve legislative compliance, meet supply chain pressures, train staff and improve motivation and skills. I am delighted that we have helped so many managers improve their competitiveness. They have won awards, increased profits, diversified their business and saved tens of thousands of pounds as a result of this project."**

Managers interested in taking advantage of BETI before it's too late, can find out more at [www.beti.info](http://www.beti.info) or contact Garth Mackenzie on 01234 228568.



## NQA offers BS 8555 Inspection

Many GBN members will be familiar with NQA from the monthly environmental management seminars that the organisation runs with us. Now, recognising that smaller companies don't necessarily want to implement a full ISO 14001 environmental management system, NQA is offering an inspection scheme to BS 8555: 2003/the Acorn Scheme. This British Standard allows companies to introduce environmental management systems in manageable chunks or "phases".

While the phases are introduced gradually, each is in line with the requirements of ISO 14001 and EMAS so that companies can eventually transfer to registration to these schemes. BS 8555 also offers guidance on the development of environmental performance indicators (EPIs). EPIs can be used to reflect the environmental aspects of the activities, products or services of the organisation and as a part of the evaluation of environmental performance.

There are six phases within the standard; the first five cover the implementation of the EMS; phase 6 allows the organisation to progress to the stage of seeking certification to ISO 14001 or registering under EMAS.

The 6 phases are:

- 1 Commitment and establishing the baseline
- 2 Identifying and ensuring compliance with legal and other requirements
- 3 Developing objectives, targets and programmes
- 4 Implementation and operation of the environmental management system
- 5 Checking, audit and review
- 6 Environmental management system acknowledgement

Each phase is then further sub-divided into a number of 'stages'. An organisation works towards achievement criteria, which are defined within each stage.

To become registered to BS 8555/the Acorn Scheme, a recognised Acorn Inspection body such as NQA will inspect your organisation's environmental management system against the stage profiles within the relevant phases of BS 8555 to ensure you meet the achievement criteria. The EMS Seminars, run with NQA, are designed to help companies to both meet the requirements of BS 8555/the Acorn Scheme and ISO 14001.

For more information, contact NQA on 08000 522424 or email: [ems@nqa.com](mailto:ems@nqa.com).



### Woodland Trust offers free mobile phone recycling scheme

**If you're thinking of upgrading your mobile phone, the message is Don't Bin It, Bag It. The Woodland Trust is now distributing bags for mobile phone recycling. All you have to do is place your old phone in the bag and drop it into a post box - all postage is paid.**

What's more, for every mobile the Trust receives, up to £10 will be donated to protect native UK woodland.

Sarah Williams has stocks of the bags, which she will be distributing at events and seminars, but you can also order bags direct from the Trust on 0800 9705097 quoting "Woodland Trust Bag", or email: [WTbags@answerthecall.co.uk](mailto:WTbags@answerthecall.co.uk).



### WEEE Directive Amendment

**The current situation regarding the WEEE Directive means that the following amendments to the article published in the last GBN newsletter now need to be taken into account:**

1) The article stated that the directive was made law on 13 August 2004 with a compliance date of one year later. The compliance date has been moved twice and is now 1 June 2006, and the directive has yet to pass into law, putting the UK in breach of EU law.

2) The article stated that the directive is retrospective & that manufacturers have to pay for the disposal of equipment they sold in past years. This was the original intention, but article 9 has been amended to require producers only to take back historical items for which they are supplying a replacement.



# Final Oil Storage Regs now in force

**The Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001 came into force on 1 September.**

The Regulations mean that those who store more than 200 litres of oil in tanks and containers, outside and above ground, must meet new strict requirements. Failure to comply could result in a fine of up to £5000 and, if oil pollution is caused, the polluter could be fined up to £20,000.

Oil stores installed from 1 March 2002 and existing oil stores posing “a significant risk” should have already complied with the Regulations. All remaining, existing oil stores **must** now comply. The main requirements are:

- Tanks, drums and other oil storage containers must be strong enough to store oil without leaking or bursting
- Some form of secondary containment, which is impermeable to oil and water, such as a bund or drip tray, must be provided to catch any oil leaking from the container or its ancillary pipe work and equipment
- For containers other than drums, the secondary container must be of sufficient capacity to contain 110% of the maximum contents of the container.
- For drums, the secondary containment should be able to contain 25% of the capacity of the drum(s).
- Where possible, the oil container must be positioned to avoid damage from impact or collision. If not possible, the container must be provided with some form of protection, such as a barrier or bollards.
- The secondary containment must not have any outlet, valve or drain to remove rainwater or spilt oil. All valves, the sight gauge, vent pipe and other ancillary equipment must be kept inside the secondary container.

There are several more detailed requirements that apply to underground pipe work, gauges, valves and so on.

For more information, visit [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/oilcare](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/oilcare).

Article courtesy of EEF

# Companies save £200,000+ using waste exchange



**Bedfordshire Waste Exchange (BWE) has just confirmed that in the last two years alone local businesses have benefited from savings in excess of £200,000 by offering their waste to other companies for use as raw materials. This also translates to around 4,500 tonnes of waste being diverted from landfill. Estimates suggest that companies using the waste as raw materials have also saved £100,000.**

These successful results have prompted Bedfordshire County Council to continue BWE's funding for a further twelve months. BWE is a free service, managed by Linden Consulting Partnership, which operates on the basis that waste material from one company may be raw material for another.

Any business or group in Bedfordshire and beyond (including charities) can register as members of BWE, which

enables them to use the organisation's web-based database to search for opportunities to exchange materials, or highlight materials that are wanted or available.

If a company is interested in putting materials on the website, Linden makes an initial contact to confirm material availability and the interested parties then arrange between themselves how the material is to be exchanged. Site visits can also be made to help companies to manage waste effectively, and to suggest other opportunities for improvements in resource efficiency.

BWE is supported by Bedfordshire and Luton Sustainable Business Partnership (BLSBP) and works closely with the Green Business Network. To find out more and register as a member visit [www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk](http://www.bedfordshire-waste-exchange.co.uk) or contact Phil Kingston at [pkingston@linden-consulting.co.uk](mailto:pkingston@linden-consulting.co.uk)



## Phil Kingston takes over at Bedfordshire Waste Exchange



**Phil Kingston has just taken over from Sam Griggs as manager of the Bedfordshire Waste Exchange (BWE).**

With an MSc and a degree in Engineering with Environmental Studies, together with a background in project management within the manufacturing sector, Phil is well-placed to understand some of the problems faced by companies needing to reduce waste.

“My aim is to build on the success of the BWE, which has had over fifty new users in the last few months alone”, he says.

While significant amounts of paper, clothing and wood continued to be exchanged, BWE is now starting to see oils, plastics and office equipment exchange on its website. Current items now available include school desks and metal drums.



## Milton Keynes Chamber invites GBN to exhibition

**Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce is to stage a business exhibition on 14 October, and, after talks with GBN, has welcomed us to provide a table to spread the word about greener business practices.**

The exhibition will be open from 11.00 to 3pm and will be held at The National Hockey Stadium in Central Milton Keynes.

Milton Keynes currently doesn't have an active green business network and managers addressing environmental issues within their business are increasingly looking to GBN for the support they need.



# Events and Training

## 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 fill in the form on the GBN website to book your place in advance.

### Wednesday 19th October

#### Completing Internal Audits

*Venue: Woburn Safari Park, Woburn Park, Bedfordshire, MK17 9QN*

This session will help you understand both the theory and practice of internal and reciprocal auditing. The initial classroom session will be followed by a practical 'walkabout' on site to help managers get the most from learning on the job.

### Wednesday 16th November

#### Emergency Preparedness

*Venue: Balzers Ltd, Bradbourne Drive, Tilbrook, Milton Keynes MK7 8AT (includes site tour)*

Have you taken account of all the possible emergencies that could arise, including flood, fire, vandalism, power and water cuts, spills and explosions? As these should be reviewed at regular intervals, this session is a prime opportunity for new and experienced managers to understand what is required and test plans.

### Wednesday 18th January

#### Putting It All Together!

*Venue: Grundfos Pumps Ltd, Grovebury Road, Leighton Buzzard LU7 4TL*

Using case studies, this session will help managers realise how much they have learnt by consolidating knowledge using holistic and practical experience. If you are new – the session will act as an introduction and help you appreciate what you have to look forward to next year!

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



## Useful Websites

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

[www.blsbp.co.uk](http://www.blsbp.co.uk)

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

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

## GBN Contacts



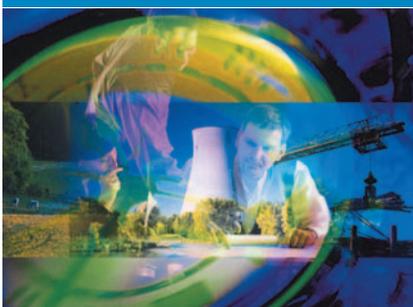
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## The Luton Business Environment Event



A half day conference for business

13 October 2005

The Innovation Centre, Adelaide Street, Luton

09.00 to 12.00

## The Environment - Business benefit or Business burden?

The region's leading environmental business forum - Green Business Network – invites you to find out how to stay within the law and make the most of opportunities in an atmosphere of open discussion and debate

To reserve a place, go to [www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk](http://www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk)

*The Environment - it's your business*



Event Funded by EEDA and Luton Borough Council

## GBN members provide support for Computers for Africa appeal

In the last issue of *GBN News*, we published an article asking for members to donate old computers to the **Computers for Africa** appeal, run by Nazir Jessa. As usual, you, the members, came up trumps with several companies and individuals donating computer equipment.

Nazir has written to GBN to say thank you to everyone who donated equipment and reports that a 20' container has now been shipped out for use in African schools.



### 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."