



Bedfordshire

Green Business Network

NEWS

Issue 19 Spring 2007

New Environmental Support Package for Bedfordshire firms

Thanks to generous funding from Bedfordshire County Council, GBN is once again able to provide a series of seminars that will help businesses in the county to reduce their environmental impact, save money by reducing waste in all its forms, meet relevant legislation, and benefit from networking with like-minded companies to share best practice.

This year, we are also able to extend our services to businesses by offering more online, telephone and on-site advice and guidance to help with more specific environmental enquiries and issues.

The environmental management support programme complements GBN's Resource Efficiency Action Programme (REAP), which enables companies to benefit from training and help to make savings by reducing electricity, gas and water use, and by cutting waste.

The REAP project has yielded impressive results for local businesses, for example, local company Wells and Young's Brewing Company saved more than £78,000 last year alone.

For more information about the seminars or bookings, please visit www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk. Any queries or other



Bedfordshire
county council

requests should be sent to info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk.

A similar programme of events, in partnership with Milton Keynes Council, under the MK **Green Alert!** banner has also now been granted funding. Subject to maximum numbers for venues not being exceeded, GBN members should be able to attend events and seminars on offer in both areas, particularly  where topics are duplicated.

Climate Change is theme for World Environment Day

The Environment Agency, championing World Environment Day on 5 June in the UK, has announced that this year's theme is Climate Change.

For 2007, the Agency is challenging everyone to ask:

What's the number one thing you are doing to help tackle climate change?

What one extra thing could you do to help tackle climate change?

What's stopping you?

If you're interested in getting involved - visit the Mend of the World website at <http://www.mendoftheworld.org/>

Please email us to let us know if you are undertaking any initiatives, and we'll do our best to publicise your efforts.



Introducing.... Mayur Morjaria



Mayur Morjaria has been appointed interim business manager at GBN. Mayur has been drafted in initially on a short-term contract to deal with the day to day running of the Network, while Claire Atkins concentrates on technical projects, such as the Resource Efficiency Action Programme and BETI+.

He will also be looking into ways in which GBN can improve the services it already provides to bring an even greater benefit to local businesses. To do this, he will be talking to a variety of members for their feedback and suggestions.

In the meantime, if you would like to contact Mayur with any requests or ideas as to how we can improve what we do for you, please feel free to send him an email mayur@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk.

For all other enquiries, bookings, etc, please continue to use info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk.



GBN helps Companies Realise CSR Opportunities

GBN, working in partnership with Groundwork East of England, and the Forest of Marston Vale, recently held a packed morning seminar on the importance of Corporate Social Responsibility led by Groundwork regional development manager Sarah Williams.

The seminar helped GBN members understand what CSR is, why it is important and how it can make a difference to all businesses – including SMEs.

Sarah said: "Most businesses think of CSR as about being seen to be doing something good. While genuine community investment and partnership does make an enormous difference to the prospects of people living and working in deprived communities, CSR is about more. Businesses need to look at a range of internal and external issues including environmental management, governance, transparency and workforce development."



Sarah Williams chats with delegates during the workshop

In addition to helping business broaden their understanding of CSR and see it as a



Groundwork East of England's Sarah Williams speaking at the CSR event

tool for improving competitiveness and sustainability, the seminar introduced the new ISO 26000 (2008). The new standard will develop a consensus on what CSR means and what issues need to be addressed and is expected to result in even greater interest in CSR from business – making it the defining competitive issue for this century.

As part of the morning, managers were consulted on the help they would need to embed best practice within their businesses. The results will help inform a partnership project between Groundwork East of England and GBN to provide support to businesses.

The seminar was so popular that GBN had to turn some delegates away. For these people and anyone else who is interested in attending, GBN will be repeating the event in September 2007.

Details will be published on the website once these have been confirmed. If you would like to pre-register your interest, email info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk

Remade East Promotes Secure Recycling with £10,000 grant to Datashredders

Peterborough-based initiative Remade East has awarded a £10,000 grant to Datashredders Ltd, an environmentally-friendly data shredding and waste paper recycling business based in March.

The small business development grant has enabled Datashredders to invest in a new, more efficient baling press. The new press has increased baling capacity five-fold, freeing up manpower and time to focus on growing the business further and expanding its existing operations in Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire.

The new baler has meant that in January 2007 alone Datashredders secured 23

new customers and increased the amount of material recycled by 46.4%. It has taken on an additional member of staff to deal with the extra capacity.

Simon Chiva, programme director for Remade East, says: "One of the aims of our small capital grants scheme is to enable businesses to develop. In this case, we have been able to take some of the risk out of business expansion and assisted in the development of an efficient business capable of diverting more waste from landfill."

Over the last two years the company has achieved significant growth as awareness of the benefits and cost savings of recycling has grown, resulting in an

investment in 2006 alone of over £175,000. The company now runs a fleet of three trucks and employs six staff.

Remade East is funded by the East of England Development Agency. It works to encourage and develop the market in recycled materials in the East of England. Its small business grants programme is aimed at helping businesses to divert waste from landfill and improving efficiencies in the waste management supply chain, safeguarding the local environment and supporting businesses to be more environmentally friendly.

For more information, contact Jennifer Deane at Remade East on 01733 312280 or email jdeane@ukceed.org



Waste Contractors and Treatment Plants Invited to Exhibit at GBN Event

GBN intends to hold an event on Wednesday 19 September at which GBN members and other local companies will be able to talk directly to companies that can help them dispose of their waste legally, safely and in the most environmentally sound way possible.

To enable this to take place, we would like to invite all waste contractors and treatment plants to take part in a small exhibition. We would be looking to impose a small charge (£25 +VAT for GBN members, £50 +VAT for non-members) to cover our costs. Space is limited and will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

Companies that are interested should email us at info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk.

Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations start to come into force

The Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007 were enacted on 23 March.

These regulations will enter into force in stages. They implement a range of initiatives from the Energy Performance of Buildings Directive, relating to energy performance certificates, air-conditioning system inspections and energy assessors.

The Regulations require energy performance certificates to be produced when buildings are constructed, sold or rented out. To view the regulations, visit www.opsi.gov.uk

On-site help to Identify Ways to Cut Waste

Bedfordshire Waste Exchange has received funding from Beds County Council to make visits to Waste Exchange members in Bedfordshire to help them identify ways in which they can minimise waste, and re-use and recycle a variety of items, and also to catalogue materials for advertising on the Materials Exchange website.

This service is free of charge to companies in Bedfordshire. Please email Clare Boddy at cboddy@linden-consulting.co.uk for more information or to book a visit.

Environment Agency issues guidance for pre-treatment of non-hazardous landfill waste

From 30 October 2007, non-hazardous waste must be treated before it can be landfilled. This requirement stems from the Landfill Directive, which aims to reduce the reliance of both business and the public on landfill as a waste management option and minimise the environmental impact of landfill sites.

To meet this aim, it is important that waste producers find better ways to manage their waste. Now is a good time for waste producers to review how they manage their waste, including whether it needs to be produced at all and whether what they do produce needs to be landfilled.

What the Agency expects from industry

The Environment Agency wants waste producers to take responsibility for their waste and make simple improvements in resource and waste management to deliver a better environment. Many wastes currently landfilled are already treated beforehand and therefore already comply with the law. Even in these cases it is still good practice to consider if there are cost-effective ways to increase the amount of waste that is recovered and hence not sent for landfill.

There are many straightforward ways to treat waste that give real environmental benefits; for example, by collecting waste



streams separately and recycling one or more of the separated components. Alternatively, waste management companies can treat the waste on behalf of waste producers before it is sent to landfill. Again, for many wastes, a suitable treatment might be to sort the waste at a transfer station with a proportion of the sorted waste being recycled.

For waste that is sent to landfill, we consider it good practice for a written declaration to be given to landfill operators confirming that treatment has taken place.

A pdf of the guidance document can be emailed to you by contacting info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk

Court fines Business £24,000 for burning waste furniture

Commercial removals and clearance company PAL Carriers Ltd of Radwell, near Baldock, Hertfordshire has been fined £21,000 and ordered to pay costs of £3,023 for illegally burning waste office furniture instead of disposing of it correctly.

Following an Agency visit to the company in 2005, officers found that the company was disposing of waste office furniture by burning it in a metal container. Managing director Phillip Long received a warning letter. However, the company was found to be continuing its illegal practices on three separate occasions in 2006, and again in 2007.

Commenting after the case Environment Agency officer Jeremy Hay said: "The open burning of waste is entirely unacceptable. This company has shown a complete disregard for legislation which is in place to protect us and our environment. They continued to illegally burn waste despite several warnings and polluted the air with potentially carcinogenic substances.

"The fine today shows that even though they may have saved money in the short term, the long term cost to the business is higher.. Any business considering using an incinerator to dispose of waste should contact the Environment Agency on 08708 506506 for advice."

Events and Training

East of England Waste Summit

The East of England RTAB and the Resources and Waste Group has organized a major event for those interested in the future of waste and resource management. It will be held on Tuesday 10th July 2007 Millennium Conference Centre, Newmarket Racecourse.

The conference aims to answer questions such as: How can the waste planning system work for you? How can you get planning permission in 13 weeks? How can you turn your waste into a valuable resource?

To reserve a place, please contact Sue Houlder email: sue.houlder@eera.gov.uk, tel: 01284 729421.

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.enviowise.gov.uk

www.detr.gov.uk

www.netregs.gov.uk

GBN Contacts



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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."

Environmental Management Seminar Programme

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.

23 May 2007

Process Mapping

This seminar is aimed at all companies, but particularly those who are looking at ISO 14001, and resource efficiency issues.

It will focus on how you can achieve savings in terms of waste, energy, raw materials, and packaging reductions by looking at the production process of your business with a "new pair of eyes", whether you operate a manufacturing plant or a service.

We'll be kicking the session off with a short formal presentation, followed by some examples of how process mapping works in practice. Then, you'll be asked to spend time in a workshop looking at your own processes so that you have practical knowledge to take back to work with you.

A workshop will help you plan how to put energy saving measures in place, and how to monitor the savings you make. Delegates should bring utility bills with them for workshoping.

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



27 June 2007

Staff and Management Participation

Making environmental changes is almost impossible without the commitment of everyone in your organisation - from the managing director to the office cleaners. In this seminar, we will look at how you can approach management and how to get staff to buy-into changes you're trying to make. A brief presentation will be followed by a workshop that will enable delegates to share experiences and best practice.

18 July 2007

Environmental Legislation

At: Cranfield University

In this seminar, Jeremy Hay of the Environment Agency will provide an introduction to Environmental Legislation in general, and will focus more specifically on newer Regulations and how you should go about meeting them. Catherine Golds of NQA will offer the ISO 14001 assessors' guide to meeting legislation and how this should be incorporated into your environmental management systems. The two presentations will be followed by a practical workshop.

18 September 2007

What a Waste! Event and Exhibition

Time: 08.30 to 12.00

This event will start with a brief introduction to waste - what kinds of waste there are, how to deal with them, and suggestions as to how we can reduce waste. Afterwards, we are inviting waste contractors and treatment plants throughout the area to set up a mini exhibition so that you can talk to them directly about your needs.



CSR is key factor in determining world's top brands

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) is one of the three recurring factors that determines how much a company's brand is worth, according to consulting firm Millward Brown's latest yearly survey into the world's top brands.

Millward Brown picked out three trends in the league table this year: the rise of the east, the ability to mix and match different services - voice, data, GPS, music, internet, email, etc - and deliver them over different devices, and delivering on CSR.

