

Bedfordshire

Green Business Network NEWS

Issue 21 Autumn 2007

GBN company wins CIWM national award for recycling

Hain Celestial Group was recently announced the winner of the Recycling Performance of the Year Award at the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management (CIWM) Awards for Environmental Excellence. The award is designed to recognise excellent performance in recycling across all industries, which can be demonstrated in a number of ways, such as recycling of a new material, finding a market for a waste material, or improving the sustainability of the product or process.

The winners were announced at an event held at the Dorchester Hotel on London's Park Lane. On presenting the Award, Steve Lee, chief executive of CIWM, said: "If we are going to see real change in the way we manage our resources, including waste, every part of society has to be engaged. These awards recognise the efforts being made by public and private sector organisations across a range of industries to implement a more sustainable approach to waste and resource management, to reduce the environmental impact of their operations

and to develop new products and practices that deliver a better environmental performance."

Hain Celestial specialises in organic and natural products, producing around 30 million sandwiches every year for Marks & Spencer from its site in Luton.

Hain Celestial has made great strides in its recycling of food and packaging waste. Less than a year ago, it recycled just nine percent of on-site waste but with help received under GBN's Resource Efficiency Action Programme (REAP) and the BETI+ project, it is now set to achieve its target



left to right: Richard Rees, Ashley Taylor, Sophie Rayworth, Maureen Raphael and Graham Trevor.

of reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill by 85 percent before the end of 2007.

In December 2006, the company began segregating its food waste and sending it to a biogas site in Bedfordshire, reducing the number of compactor lifts on site from six to just one per week.

Environment Agency and WRAP - working to make it easier to use waste vegetable oil for biodiesel

With almost 75,000 tonnes of waste vegetable oil being transformed into biodiesel each year, a Quality Protocol consultation launched today by the Environment Agency and WRAP (Waste & Resources

Action Programme) aims to cut regulatory red-tape so that waste vegetable oil from places such as chip shops can be processed and used in engines more easily.

Firbank Chiltern achieves ISO 14001 Certification

Congratulations go to long-standing GBN members and waste contractors Firbank Chiltern who have recently achieved registration to ISO 14001 - the internationally recognised environmental management systems standard.

New Environment Agency Guidance aims to increase wood recycling

The Environment Agency has announced new guidance for the timber industry which effectively removes existing controls on the recovery of virgin timber.

Clean non-virgin timber will remain regulated, normally through exemptions, while treated timber will still be considered a waste and will be regulated in the normal way.

The idea is to make putting untreated wood back into productive use as easy as possible.

"Virgin timber has not been oiled, painted, preserved or chemically treated in any way and doesn't pose a risk to human health or the environment," said Martin Brocklehurst, head of external programmes for the Environment Agency.

"As a result, producers can recover and sell-on virgin waste wood such as off-cuts, shavings or sawdust from sawmills, free from regulatory control."

This decision came about as a result of work undertaken by the Waste Protocols Project.

The regulatory position statement for wood can be found on the Environment Agency website at www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

CONSTRUCTION SPECIAL CIWM WASTE AWARENESS CERTIFICATE COURSE

GBN will be running a Construction Special CIWM Waste Awareness Certificate course on 4 February 2008, venue to be confirmed. This course focuses on waste in the construction industry and will be looking in particular at Site Waste Management Plans.

A limited number of fully subsidised places are available. Otherwise, the cost will be £80 +VAT to GBN members, and £120 +VAT to non-members.

For bookings and details visit our www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk.

New Construction Waste Laws soon to come into operation



Are you aware of the new site waste management plan legislation?

If you work in the construction industry in England, it is likely that you will need to produce a site waste management plan (SWMP) by April 2008.

The Environment Agency NetRegs site has produced a practical guide guidance to

help you build your own SWMP, and will also show you how it could save you money. There is also a short quiz on the site which will enable you to check if your business complies with environmental law.

Visit the Environment Agency's small business website at www.netregs.gov.uk for more information.



Small construction firms' lack of awareness of legislation is cause for concern says Survey

According to a recent NetRegs survey, levels of environmental awareness in smaller construction companies are a cause for concern.

When surveyed, 85% of UK construction businesses did not think that they undertook activities that could cause harm to the environment. However, when prompted with a list of activities that are potentially harmful to the environment, 39% stated they undertook at least one of them. The most common were producing or importing packaging (41%) and storing waste (33%).

In addition, more than half the businesses admitted they hadn't introduced any practical measures to reduce environmental harm, and of those that had, only 17% had looked at waste minimisation.

Alan Parnell, NetRegs advisor at SEPA said: "By better understanding what constitutes waste, by taking the correct

steps to improve environmental practice, construction businesses can avoid prosecution and could benefit commercially.

"Good environmental practice is good business practice and can improve customer relations. Many larger companies and local councils may ask for Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) in tenders.

"Waste materials produced by business or within the workplace are already regulated by law through Duty of Care requirements. It is important that construction businesses understand their legal obligations with regard to the management and handling of site waste."

Businesses that are concerned about whether they meet legislation can visit the NetRegs site and undertake a short quiz to find out what they should be doing to meet forthcoming and current legislation. (See above for website address.)

SDC Construction wins Eastex Waste Award



Susannah Bacon of SDC receives the award from Will Pope

Bedford based SDC Construction scooped the award for Most Tonnes Exchanged 2007 at the first Eastex Annual Conference, which took place in October. Eastex is the unique free materials exchange scheme for the East of England, which aims to reduce the amount of business waste sent to landfill by

allowing the waste materials of one business to be exchanged and reused by another business.

The conference provided the chance to award members who have made an outstanding contribution to waste reuse and reduction. Another GBN member – Combisafe International Ltd - was a runner up for the Most Innovative



Clare Boddy presents Combisafe's John Impey with his runner-up certificate

Exchange for giving their unwanted Construction Safety Nets to MK Play Association Scrap Store for education equipment to be used by local children.

County Coordinator Clare Boddy says: 'Eastex has achieved fantastic success in the region since it began 2 years ago saving saved local organisations over £750,000 on waste disposal and procurement costs, over 4,500 tonnes of goods have been diverted from landfill and around 7,000 tonnes of Carbon Dioxide saved. This conference aimed to showcase success stories, as well as build upon this success for the future of the scheme.

For more information on how Eastex can help your business reduce waste and costs, please contact Clare Boddy, clare.boddy@eastex.org.uk or call 01799 524 328.



Social Enterprise offers can and foil recycling collection service



EcoTrash is a newly formed social enterprise, where people with disabilities collect aluminium cans and foil for recycling from organisations in Bedfordshire and Luton.

The Dunstable-based enterprise aims to offer this service to clubs, pubs, schools, businesses or any community outlet. Contact eddie.costello@bedscc.gov.uk or call 01582 660261 for details.

Ethical Food Company supports Willen Hospice

GBN member The Ethical Food Company is supporting local charity Willen Hospice by offering special "Willen" Christmas hampers.

All the contents are sourced from local producers, and a donation of £2.00 for every hamper ordered will go to Willen Hospice.

Contact Ethical Foods on 01296 733737 or visit www.ethicalfoods.co.uk.

Terrapin Wins Green Award

Terrapin's impressive environmental record has won the offsite construction company a Business Excellence Award from the Milton Keynes and North Bucks Chamber of Commerce.

The Environment

Award recognises achievements in recycling, waste reduction and green initiatives.

Terrapin has implemented an Environmental Management System during the past year, which includes a Waste Management Policy, to minimise the environmental impact of its Buckinghamshire factory and offices and site operations.

Entries for the Award had to include strategies for reducing waste, the types and quantities of materials being recycled and how companies planned to further reduce their carbon footprint. Managing director Patrick Howlett White says: "Our future depends on businesses and individuals working together for a cleaner, greener environment. Terrapin is



Left to right: Jon Cawley, MD of Cawleys Ltd; Rita Spada, chief exec, Milton Keynes Chamber of Commerce, Paul Robinson, process improvement manager, Terrapin Ltd; The Rt Hon. Kenneth Clarke QC, MP.

committed to the principles of sustainability in its products and practices and winning this Award acknowledges the success of our efforts to date and our progress towards ISO 14001 certification."

Terrapin has received support from GBN under the BETI+ and REAP programmes and has taken advantage of the subsidised training courses and workshops to help move environmental initiatives forward.

Terrapin may have just scooped an award for being green, but the company is not resting on its laurels. Patrick Howlett White says: "Working strategically and with like minded partners, Terrapin will continue to make environmental improvements from the board room through to the shop floor to ensure that our business is fit for the future."



Events and Training

Local food supplier fights back with Wine Offer

Bedford based buy-local.net is now offering consumers and businesses an alternative to the major supermarket chains, together with the chance to have locally or ethically produced groceries delivered to their doorsteps, and is tempting customers with a free bottle of locally produced wine with every order.

Buy-local.net is giving away a bottle of 2006 Warden Abbey wine with every order placed. A second opportunity to receive a free bottle of this wine is by having a friend place an order. If the friend puts the words "Introduced by....." and insert your name, you'll receive a bottle of wine. For more information, visit www.buy-local.net

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.detr.gov.uk
www.netregs.gov.uk

GBN Contacts



The Forest Centre
Station Road
Marston Moretaine,
Bedford MK43 OPR

www.gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk

General enquiries:
email: info@gbn-bedfordshire.org.uk

Jane Varley tel: 01234 241411 or 07792 480986 email: janevarley@btconnect.com

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 January 2008

Renewable Energy

Our guest speaker, James Beal, managing director of Renewables East, will give an overview of how you could deploy renewable energy and the support that is on offer. For instance, the BioRegen project that can invest in early stage project risk for bioenergy projects that

divert material from landfill – waste wood, food waste and so on.


There will also be an explanation of how companies should look at getting involved in the growing renewable energy industry. At least £8 billion pounds of new market in the offshore wind industry is available around the region.

For those that are interested, there is the chance to schedule one to one meetings after the presentations for a more in-depth discussion.

29 January 2008

The Green Office and Getting Staff Support

The National Badminton Centre, Milton Keynes

Every business has an office function. It is often here that the easiest rewards can be realised for the least possible cost and effort. We will be looking at ways in which you can reduce costs and your environmental impact by addressing office-based issues. We will also be dealing with how to involve staff and achieve their support for environmental initiatives 

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

Green Buying Website to go live in December

A website dealing with issues relating to sustainable purchasing is to go live in December. The site is the initiative of Matthew Roper of Green Buying Ltd, who delivered the GBN seminar on greening the supply chain in November.

He aims to bring information, education, advice and products relating to sustainable purchasing together on one website to enable businesses to learn more about how sustainable purchasing can be achieved, whilst giving purchasers and buyers the opportunity to make contact via an online trading service with genuinely green companies selling genuinely green business goods&services.

The site will offer:

- Online Green Business Goods Shopping cart

- Green Business Services Directory
- Environmental business news stories
- Sustainable Procurement Case studies.

Tim Smit, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Eden Project has this to say about Green Buying: "Green Buying is an ambitious and well timed service which builds on the growing demand for green services and products in a market place which is in chaos and without leadership. I salute this initiative and support entirely the proposition that communities of green providers should gather together in a virtual and real market in the way that they are doing here. I wish you every success and look forward to working with you in the future."

For more information, visit www.greenbuying.co.uk but not until late December when the site goes fully live.

GBN would like to thank its members for their support in 2007 and wish everyone a happy Christmas and New Year.