



Green Business Network NEWS

Issue 1 Spring 2007

MK Green Alert! - Environmental Support for MK Businesses

Green Business Network (GBN), in partnership with Milton Keynes Council, is now able to offer MK Green Alert! - a programme of environmental training and support to companies in Milton Keynes.

Seven breakfast seminars led by experts in their field will form the foundations of **MK Green Alert!** These will include a brief formal presentation, followed by a practical workshop. Issues identified by companies can then be followed up with support from GBN provided either on-line, via telephone, or on-site.

Seminar topics will focus on cutting waste in all its forms, preventing prosecution, and increasing awareness of environmental issues. We will be kicking off with Cutting Waste to Save Money on

28 June at Milton Keynes Council's Materials Recycling Facility in Wolverton (see back page).

Similar initiatives undertaken with companies in Bedfordshire have yielded impressive results for business - some have achieved up to £30,000 a year savings just by taking simple low or no-cost measures.

MK Green Alert! complements GBN's existing 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 even more impressive results for businesses, for example, local company Degussa Goldschmidt saved £108,000

last year alone.

Seminars are free to GBN members (from £25.00 +VAT to maximum £100 +VAT depending on company size), or are available at £25.00 +VAT to non-members. You can book seminars and join the Network via the GBN website (www.gbn-mk.org) or by sending an email to: info@gbn-mk.org.

A similar programme of events, in partnership with Bedfordshire County Council, has also now been granted funding. 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/>



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 use info@gbn-mk.org



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-mk.org



MK KickStart programme achieves successful results with Milton Keynes business community

GBN's recent pilot project MK KickStart, undertaken with SEEDA funding, was completed at the end of March, and achieved some successful results with local businesses.

The project aimed to help at least 15 businesses in MK to move their environmental improvement programmes forward.

In the end, GBN actually worked with nearer twenty businesses, fifteen of which took a fully subsidised CIEH Level 1 Environmental Awareness course, and a further eleven companies benefitted from

free on-site and on-line help.

Some of the most successful results of these visits were to MK Pressings in Bletchley, and Traka Ltd in Olney.

Following the GBN visit, MK Pressings has taken delivery of two compacting machines for its landfill waste, which will have a significant impact on the cost of disposing of its waste as the weight will subsequently go down. The company has also met with a waste contractor and will also be sending cardboard, plastic wrapping, paper and tin cans for recycling rather than putting it in the landfill skip.

Meanwhile, Traka Ltd has just moved into larger premises and, following supplementary advice from GBN, has managed to install a number of energy efficient and imaginative solutions in its new factory that will ensure its utility bills don't become excessive.

As a result of gaining benefits from the MK KickStart programme, most of the companies involved have also now joined GBN as members.


To become a member of GBN, please visit <http://www.gbn-mk.org>, or email: info@gbn-mk.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-mk.org 

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 

Work from Home Day

In a bid to encourage employers to help ease traffic congestion and pollution, Work Wise UK is calling on companies to take part in National Work From Home Day on Friday May 18.

Many people can easily do their jobs from home, and even working from home for just one day a week will have a profound environmental impact.

Work Wise Week is being staged by Work Wise UK, a five-year initiative, supported by the TUC and CBI, to encourage the widespread adoption of new smarter working practices, such as home working, across the UK. 

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 sent to you by emailing info@gbn-mk.org 

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

MK Green Alert! Environmental Seminar Programme

GBN's MK Green Alert! seminars are funded by Milton Keynes Council and are free to GBN members. Guests are welcome to attend at a cost of £25.00+VAT per delegate, per seminar.

Unless otherwise stated, all seminars 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-mk.org) to book your place.

28 June 2007

Cutting Waste to Save Money

Milton Keynes Council's Materials Recycling Facility

This seminar will look at topics including,

- What is Waste?
- The Waste Hierarchy,
- Introducing simple and low cost ways of reducing waste,
- Basic waste legislation,
- Ways of taking waste minimisation to the next level.

A formal presentation will be followed by a practical workshop. Companies may stay for a tour of the facility.

18 July 2007

Environmental Legislation

Venue: Cranfield MDC

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.

27 September 2007

Corporate Social Responsibility

08.30 to 12.00

Venue: National Badminton Centre

GBN is offering an event focusing on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

The event is aimed at profit-making organisations and will provide an introduction to CSR, focusing on how companies operate internally and externally and what issues and areas should be taken into account when considering social and environmental responsibility.

CSR now a key factor in setting 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, converging technology (the ability to mix and match different services - voice, data, GPS, music, internet, email, etc - and deliver them over different devices), and delivering on corporate social responsibility.

Book at GBN's CSR conference on the GBN website.

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

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"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."

Bedfordshire Environmental Seminar Programme

Subject to places being available, GBN members can attend the Bedfordshire seminar programme. These are generally held at the Forest Centre at Marston Moretaine. See website for details.

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 your business processes with a "fresh pair of eyes". It applies to all business sizes and sectors.

27 June 2007

Staff and Management Buy-in

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 September 2007

What a Waste! Event and Exhibition

Time: 08.30 to 12.00

To book, visit GBN's website events and seminars at www.gbn-mk.org

