



Business Environmental NEWS

AUTUMN 2003

Benefiting your business!

ISSUE 10

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Business Environmental News, the newsletter of the York and North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum. The Forum is 'back to business' with a new co-ordinator to provide you with information on best practice; funding opportunities; new legislation and initiatives; and to encourage sustainable environmental action.

If you are not already a member of the Forum then why don't you join the 360 businesses that have already taken advantage of this free service and are leading the way by reducing their environmental impact. You will be entitled to a range of benefits, including the quarterly newsletter; updates on activities and training events; and the chance to participate in network events.

To register as a member please contact the Business Environmental Forum on 01904 656769 or email Katie.

If you would like to see a particular feature or information in the next newsletter please let us know.

To register as a member all you need to do is complete the on-line booking form at:

www.here4greenbusiness.co.uk

Or telephone Katie on 01904 656769

Or e-mail katie.harvey@blyny.co.uk

Or write to Katie Harvey, Business Environmental Forum, c/o Business Link York & North Yorkshire, Arabesque House, Monks Cross Drive, Huntington, York, YO32 9WU



SME Environment Support Programme

A new Environmental support project is successfully being implemented across the region offering small to medium enterprises (SME's) free environmental consultancy. The project has been awarded £1m of funding from Yorkshire Forward and the European Union to assist 440 SME's to reduce their waste and energy use. The project is managed by Business in the Community and is delivered by the Business Links.

Businesses located in York and North Yorkshire that have fewer than 250 employees can learn how to reduce their environmental impact through free help and advice in exchange for their commitment to the project. SME's who have already signed up to the project are learning how they can also save money, improve their image and by adopting this better business approach, they will improve their competitive edge.

The project enables a consultant to visit each business to assess areas of improvement by reducing waste and energy consumption. From this the business will work towards a recommended action plan with the aim to reduce waste or energy by 10%. Advice and support will be provided throughout the project with opportunities to bring in specialist advisors from Envirowise and Action Energy. The process is strengthened by a return evaluation audit tracking the progress of each business.

Over the last couple of months support has been given to a group of 12 interested businesses in Pickering who have each signed up to the project as members. They attended an introductory seminar to learn how the project will help improve their business and they have recently received a visit from an Envirowise advisor who is currently working on waste reduction in each business.

The project also enables a network of environmental support providers including government bodies, environmental organisations, consultants and regional facilitators to come together to act as a steering group for the project. This increases co-ordination between environmental support projects, and it avoids duplication.

If you employ less than 250 employees and would like to benefit from free environmental consultancy, or you would like to find out more about the project, please contact the York & North Yorkshire project co-ordinator, Katie Harvey of the York and North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum.

Travel Planning

If you are thinking about applying for planning permission, or if you are dealing with environmentally aware customers, then you may have heard of travel plans. A travel plan shows that you have thought about the impact of travel on your business and on the surrounding community. It also shows how you will reduce your company's dependency on single-occupant cars.

Hundreds of companies throughout the country have taken action from running their own works buses down to providing a few bicycle stands for the use of customers and staff.

Central government has chosen to target businesses and schools to encourage them to produce travel plans. Initially voluntary - but new guidance means that any request for planning permission must be accompanied by a travel plan.

North Yorkshire County Council is acutely aware of the limited alternatives to car travel in this rural area. Nobody wants to force workers onto infrequent rural buses or into cycling long distances. But we cannot simply ignore the problem of increasing dependence on the car. We have to recognise this and look for alternatives. We can think about how we might drive fewer miles per year, and on our own less often.

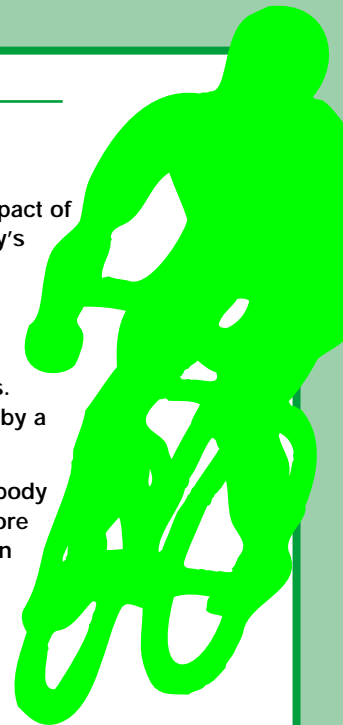
The main benefits of reducing car dependency include; better use of car parking land, a healthier workforce, and a better image for customers and clients. This latter is important since, in an increasingly competitive world, who you are and what you stand for is becoming as important as what you sell.

If you would like to find out further information or for a free consultation ring the County Council's Travel Awareness Officer Geoff Gardner on 01609 532371 or email travelwise@northyorks.gov.uk

For further information on this subject visit the website;

<http://www.northyorks.gov.uk/environment/travelwise/company.shtm>

Some companies have adopted a car share scheme to help ease car parking on site. If you run such a scheme and would like a free plaque please contact Geoff.



'NISP-y' Business

The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) is about identifying and using synergies and linkages between cooperating industries and other organisations to improve resource efficiency and minimise waste. The concept is not exclusive to any particular resource, as it can include raw materials, by-products, human resources, logistics, services, waste, energy and water.

NISP- Humber, a regional part of NISP is funded by Yorkshire Forward. It is business led and aims to create bottom line benefit through greater resource efficiency and creating new business opportunities for participating businesses in the region.

The programme is led by a Programme Advisory Group (PAG) made up of a number of the participating companies. Companies and organisations already involved in the programme include the following; Anglian Water Services, Associated British Ports, Conoco Phillips, Corus Group, Envirogen Sustainable Resources, Millennium Chemicals, Rix Biodiesel, Severn Trent Water Services, Sita North Lincolnshire

The programme works with businesses of any size and industry. Its benefits include new market opportunities, enhanced networking and partnerships and reduced costs for materials, energy, transport and waste disposal.

If you would like to find out more about becoming involved in NISP-Humber, please visit <http://www.nisp.ismanager.co.uk> or e-mail humber@nisp.org.uk or phone 01724 29 7016

CUTTING THROUGH

ENVIRONMENTAL **RED TAPE**

While the region's small to medium size enterprises (SME's) drown under a continuous wave of legislation, one key area which is often over looked is environmental law. The Red Tape project which was launched in January and has so far assisted 1000 businesses with free advice has found a particular lack of understanding among SME's of their 'green' responsibilities.

It seems that some businesses fail to see the benefits which can be achieved by complying with legislation. Most firms focus on the 'reduced risk of prosecution' while there are in fact many other advantages, including improved operating costs and better customer relations.

Field Packaging PLC of Bradford who recently won the Envirowise British Retail Therapy 2003 award highlighted their practical approach as being one that all businesses could implement. 'Education, education, education' was their catch phrase which touched the importance of getting all staff involved in the project. They mentioned the fact that a simple thing such as turning lights off can save money and in the long term save jobs!

Michael Romagnoli from the Red Tape Team urges all businesses to think about their environmental obligations and to consider the array of organizations and initiatives which are available to help meet and surpass their legal requirements.

The Red Tape Team help businesses to link the objectives of environmental legislation with strategic business planning. This approach will reap the long term quantitative and qualitative benefits which can be gained from becoming more environmentally focused.

For free advice contact the Red Tape Team on **0845 050 0080**. or visit www.red-tape.org



Seven simple steps to improving energy efficiency

By saving energy you are not just saving money, you are also helping the environment. Burning fuel to generate electricity releases pollution and carbon dioxide (CO₂) into the atmosphere. Our actions are resulting in acid rain and climate change, which is resulting in harm to the environment and adverse social and economic consequences.

Major energy savings can be made in offices, factories and shops, if only you know where to look. How about starting with these;



- Step 1 Make someone responsible as an energy champion/environmental officer
- Step 2 Establish the facts – How much energy are you using?
- Step 3 Compare your performance – Use your current energy use as a benchmark to compare your consumption with similar businesses or to set targets.
- Step 4 Plan and organise – Involve your staff in working out an action plan.
- Step 5 Pay less for your energy – Check your tariffs
- Step 6 Use less energy – Find the areas of obvious waste and identify where investment is needed
- Step 7 Control and monitor – Keep your control system under constant review

Getting down to business – HOW to make a difference

Lighting

- ⚡ While there is enough daylight switch off lights in empty offices and corridors.
- ⚡ Reduce lighting in areas that need it less, such as corridors. This can be as simple as removing tubes from alternate fittings.
- ⚡ Clean light fittings annually. Dirt reduces their output and can lead to extra lights being turned on.
- ⚡ Fit presence detection controls to automatically switch off lights in vacant areas.
- ⚡ Label light switches to remind staff. (Contact Katie for free stickers).

Heating

- ⚡ Only heat your building to the maximum recommended level of 19°C. Costs rise by 8% for each 1°C of overheating.
- ⚡ Make sure radiators are turned off before you open a window. An open window loses enough energy in a day to produce 130 wine bottles.
- ⚡ Check the insulation on valves and pipe flanges
- ⚡ Don't obstruct radiators – this will reduce their output
- ⚡ Check adequate roof insulation – especially in older buildings

Office Equipment

- ⚡ Switch off any appliance or piece of equipment that is not being used. A PC Monitor left on overnight wastes enough energy to laser print 800 A4 pages.
- ⚡ Print emails only when necessary and then reuse and recycle the paper.
- ⚡ Replace old metal kettles with the modern energy efficient jug style.
- ⚡ Turn off vending machines when not needed.
- ⚡ A badly maintained motor and drive system can add 5% or more to your energy costs.

For further information on energy efficiency in your business contact Owen Daggett, the local Action Energy Advisor on 01904 656769 or visit www.actionenergy.org.uk

Environment Agency introduces 'remas'

A new project called 'remas', lead by the Environment Agency, is setting out to find the evidence that links an environment management system to improved performance.

Over the next three years, (EMS) data will be collated from certain industrial manufacturing sites throughout Europe and the search is on for sites to volunteer their data for the first two strands of the research, 'remas snapshot' and 'remas history'. (PERFORM project)

All businesses who have implemented an EMS have the opportunity to become involved with the project, although the objective is to target production sites in specific industrial sectors (these are covered by the IPPC Directive).

remas snapshot

Data will be collected on environmental performance and management indicators at included sites. There is no need for a site to have a formal environmental management system in order to participate in the assessment. Site managers can choose their own indicators and the assessment is carried out online.

The remas snapshot assessment will concentrate on industrial sectors being regulated by the Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) Directive.

remas history assessment

This assessment is being carried out in conjunction with the PERFORM project

which is run by the Science and Technology Policy Research Unit (SPRU) based at the University of Sussex.

The PERFORM project involves collecting historical data from companies about sustainability (including environmental performance), for three or more years. Remas will use this historical data (with the site's permission) to analyse trends in environmental performance. PERFORM indicators are company (or site) wide and will also be collected online. PERFORM will be looking at a wider range of industrial sectors.

For further information on 'remas' log on to www.remas.info or contact one of the team: admin@remas.info, alternatively telephone 0117 914 2989.

LEGISLATION UPDATE

End of Life Vehicles Update

To cope with the environmental effects of nine million tonnes of vehicles that reach the end of their useful lives each year in Europe, the European Union drew up the End-of-Life Vehicles (ELV) Directive in September 2000.

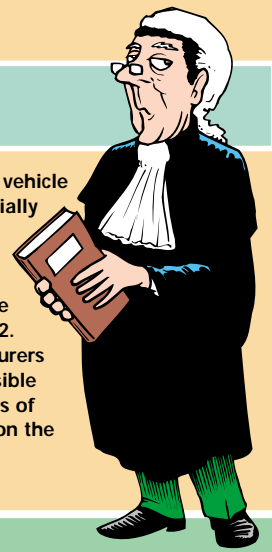
The ELV Directive sets recovery targets of 85% of all ELVs by weight by January 2006 (minimum 80% recycling) and 95% by January 2015 (minimum 85% recycling).

In the UK, the Department of Trade and Industry's ELV consultation group is currently considering how the UK will implement the EU directive on ELVs. This group includes: The British Metal Recyclers' Association, The Motor Vehicle Dismantlers Association of Great Britain, The British Salvage Federation and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders.

In the UK, about two million vehicles are recycled each year. Currently between 73-75% of the materials in an ELV are recycled in this country.

The ELV Directive is likely to be implemented in

the UK by 2004, with vehicle manufacturers financially responsible for reaching the Directive's targets for all vehicles put on the market after July 2002. After 2006, manufacturers will be made responsible for all ELVs, regardless of when they were put on the market.



Funding update

The Enhanced Capital Allowance (ECA) scheme helps organisations invest in energy saving equipment in a cost-efficient way.

How it works

Capital allowances on plant and machinery are generally given at 25 per cent a year on a reducing balance basis. However, with ECAs, businesses can write off 100% of the cost of energy saving equipment against their taxable profits within the first year of investment. Businesses claim the allowance on their income tax or corporation tax returns.

How to apply

Only investment in products approved for the Energy Technology List can qualify for an ECA claim. Those organisations who are not eligible to make ECA claims can still benefit from ongoing energy savings by using the Energy Technology List as a procurement tool. For further information visit www.eca.gov.uk or contact the Carbon Trust 020 7170 7020

Finance for Recycling Businesses

The Recycling Fund is a venture capital fund established to invest in small or medium sized recycling companies in the UK. WRAP, Wastelink Services Ltd, Barclays and Partnerships UK have contributed a total of £5.5 million to the fund, which is managed by Impax Asset Management (Impax), a fund manager specialised in the environmental sector. For further information see www.recyclingfund.com or contact Katie Harvey for further details.

Solar Grants

Put simply, photovoltaic cells utilise sunlight to provide electricity. With no moving parts or chemical emissions, it's an effective way to reduce the damaging carbon dioxide emissions pumped into the atmosphere at the power station. Linked



cells are encapsulated into modular panels - often a rectangular shape about a metre long. These are then interconnected to provide electrical power which can be harmonised with grid electricity and fed back into the network.

Providing power is used efficiently, an average south-facing house in the UK has sufficient roof area for modules to provide most of your electricity. So the potential for businesses is significant

Please note that there is a distinction between solar PV modules (which provide electricity) and solar water heating modules (which provide water heating).

Substantial grants are available towards the installation of solar electricity equipment, whether you're a householder, business or social housing group. Look up www.est.org/solar for more information or by call the helpline on 0800 298 3978 - you could save yourself between 40% and 60% of total installation costs.

Useful Links

Here are some of the important areas in which businesses can take action to reduce their environmental impact and where to find help:

Netregs

By March 2004, Netregs will offer specific advice to at least 100 different business sectors. It already includes generic 'Management Guidelines', covering key environmental regulations that apply to most businesses, and good practice tips. It is completely free and anonymous - there is no need to register. Visit Netregs today at www.netregs.gov.uk and make sure you comply with the legislation affecting your business.

Water Management

Water bills could be costing your company more than one per cent of business turnover. A good practice benchmark of eight cubic metres per full time employee per year has been suggested - to work out how your business is performing, divide annual water use by the number of staff. Small changes can make big differences. Spray taps in hand basins typically save up to 80% of water used compared to standard taps - a single dripping tap can cost up to £40 a year. A simple water management plan could help you reduce your water consumption by up to 80%. The Environment Agency's 'Waterwise - Good for Business, Good for the Environment' is a guide to developing a water management plan for your business and 'Conserving Water in Buildings' is a series of fact cards providing information on water efficient technology. These guides are available free from the Water Demand Management helpdesk on 01903 832073 or by emailing enquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk. Further information on water demand management can be found at www.environment-agency.gov.uk/savewater

Waste Management

Waste costs UK business up to 4.5% of its annual turnover and much of this is hidden in the costs of labour, storage, transport and energy. Even if you think your company is good at minimising waste, the chances are more improvements could be made. Envirowise is a government-funded programme offering free, independent environmental advice to UK businesses to help companies gain competitiveness by improving their environmental performance and by reducing waste at source. The programme provides a range of free resources to businesses through its Helpline (0800 58 57 94) and its website www.envirowise.gov.uk. Free resources include training, Best Practice Guides, case studies, benchmarking guides, software and CD-ROMs, as well as free full day on-site waste reviews and Fastrack visits, for companies with less than 250 staff.

Whilst the Y&NYBEF publishes BE News in good faith and takes care to check the accuracy of the information contained in each issue the Forum cannot accept responsibility for information derived from other sources or for action taken by businesses in response to that information.



The York & North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum is generously supported by:
•Yorventure •Yorwaste Limited •Government Office for Yorkshire & The Humber •Norwich Union Life •Business in the Environment •Business Link York & North Yorkshire •Yorkshire Forward •City of York Council •North Yorkshire County Council

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EVENTS

Waste Minimisation and Energy Efficiency Event for the Tourism Sector
Location: Sutton Bank Visitor Centre
Date: 2nd December 2003
Time: 12.45 - 3pm

This event is free and is organised by the Business Environmental Forum and North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority. There will be presentations from Envirowise and Action Energy with information and tips on how to save money, increase your competitive edge and reduce your impact on the environment.

To reserve a place please contact Katie Harvey by telephone or email

please keep in touch

If you have any comments to make about this Newsletter or need environmental advice please contact Katie at:

e-mail: katie.harvey@blyny.co.uk

or on-line at:
here4greenbusiness.co.uk

or telephone 01904 656769.