



Business Environmental NEWS

WINTER 2004

Benefiting your business!

ISSUE 11

Welcome to the winter edition of Business Environmental News, the newsletter of the York and North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum.

If you are not already a member of the Forum then why don't you join the 400 businesses that have already taken advantage of this free service and are leading the way by reducing their environmental impact.

Membership is free and as a member 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.

Copies of this newsletter addressed to non-members include a letter inviting application for membership.

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



The future for the Forum

Over the past 4 years the York and North Yorkshire Business Environmental Forum (YNYBEF) has been successfully working with businesses in its area. The objective has been to raise their environmental awareness through information and advice and to help them to improve their environmental performance. The success of the Forum has encouraged 400 businesses to become members and benefit from the service. Members represent a wide cross-sector of businesses and other organisations in York and North Yorkshire. The Forum, based in York at the offices of Business Link York & North Yorkshire, provides businesses with a central contact for environmental information, support and help.

The Forum means business

In response to the increasing need for businesses to be environmentally aware and recognising the importance of turning awareness and advice into action, the Forum is undertaking a review to see how it can improve its service to businesses. Your views and ideas would be appreciated.

The Forum invites members and others reading this newsletter to tell us what environmental support would most benefit their business. This might include: company visits; seminars on specific environmental subjects; the chance to network with other businesses; information on legislation; or information on what is happening locally re environmental issues. We invite you to let us know your views so that we can improve our services. Please contact Katie to let her know what you think.

The Forum Steering Group (see the back of this newsletter for a list of members) would also like to invite more businesses to join the Group, to contribute to the running and future of the Forum. If you are interested please contact Katie.

Contact Katie Harvey
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

Green Business Clubs

The **Green Business Support Organisation (GBSO)** project, which is part of the regional SME Environment Support Programme, is gaining momentum as it welcomes its second 'Green Business Club', in Whitby. Twenty-two businesses have expressed an interest in joining up and receiving free environmental consultancy to help reduce their environmental impact. The programme enables a consultant to work with each business, identifying areas of environmental improvement which are set out in an action plan which aims to reduce waste and energy by 10%. The Whitby club is supported by Scarborough Borough Council and North Yorkshire Moors National Park Authority, who are also helping local businesses with environmental issues.

The county's first green business club under the programme was set up last year in Pickering, where 12 businesses have benefited from specialist environmental support and advice, and are now working on their own action plans. The club recently met to discuss waste management and recycling, with a talk from the local Recycling Officer. Through being a member of the club, this networking opportunity has enabled a local business to promote their recycling service and provide a use for waste materials.

There are plans for several other green business clubs to be set up around North Yorkshire over the next few months. Watch out for clubs in the Harrogate, York, Stokesley and Scarborough areas, which will include neighbouring towns and villages. In the meantime, if your business or organisation employs up to 250 people and you would like to receive free environmental consultancy through this project, or you would like more information please contact **Katie Harvey on 01904 656769**.



Waste Exchange A Case Study

**Does your business throw away Polythene, Polypropylene or High Impact Polystyrene?
Are you condemning it to landfill?
Are you spending money on its disposal?
Your business' waste could be of use to another business.**
Cromwell Plastics Recycling Ltd was set up to collect and recover waste plastic for recycling. The Company is based in Tockwith near York, and operates a 7.5 tonne vehicle which collects waste plastic from companies, normally within a 5 mile radius of York. Bulk bags are available for companies without balers or compactors and the material is then baled

at Tockwith. Companies can also deliver their own plastic waste to the Tockwith site.

In addition to the recovery of loose plastic waste, Cromwell also operates a granulator which can handle hard plastics in the form of small plastic mouldings: caps, closures, bottles, trays etc.

The company is part of Cromwell Polythene Ltd, based at Sherburn-in-Elmet, which supplies all types of polythene bags (including recycled) for a wide variety of uses to the manufacturing; local government; healthcare; cleaning and hygiene; and waste management sectors.

The company is expanding their plastic waste collections by teaming up with Yorwaste, the waste disposal and recycling company, who will be handling the baling of the material at their site at Hessay.

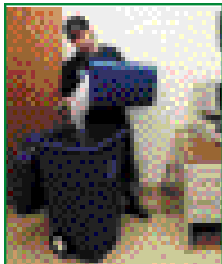
The types of plastic that CPR will recover include:

- ◆ Polythene (PE) film: Pallet cover/pallet stretch film/sacks & bags/liners/sheets.
- ◆ Polypropylene (PP): Film, woven fabric, hard plastic mouldings, sacks/sheeting.
- ◆ High impact polystyrene (HIPS) (not EPS expanded polystyrene)

If you would like more information please contact: Cromwell Polythene on 01977 686868 or look at their website: www.cromwellpolythene.co.uk

If you have waste that might benefit another business or if you think another business might have waste that you can use, please contact Katie on: 01904 656769

Green Efficiency



Most business have an office of some kind but how 'green' is it? Here are a few ways that you can reduce your impact on the environment, and save money by improving the use of your office resources;

Paper

- ◆ Do not print unless you really have to!
- ◆ Photocopy and print on both sides of a piece of paper.
- ◆ Ensure photo copiers are set to copy double sided.
- ◆ Save scrap paper to print on the back or use for notepads.
- ◆ Recycle all office paper, newspapers, magazines, flyers etc .
- ◆ Reuse envelopes where possible –especially when sending information internally.
- ◆ Donate surplus card / coloured paper to your local school.
- ◆ Aim to purchase paper that has 100% recycled content.
- ◆ Use A5 paper size when possible.

General Waste

- ◆ Choose minimally packaged products or ask suppliers to provide less packaging.
- ◆ Ask suppliers to take packaging, including cardboard boxes, away with them for reuse.
- ◆ Ensure china / washable mugs are used at vending machines rather than plastic vending cups or send used plastic cups for recycling.
- ◆ Avoid disposable catering products such as sugar sachets, milk jiggers, paper plates and cutlery.
- ◆ When replacing furniture and computers, donate surplus items to charity for reuse and recycling.
- ◆ Reduce, reuse and recycle to cut down on your waste disposal costs.
- ◆ Compost green and organic waste. You can include tea-bags, fruit peelings, flowers, garden waste and small amounts of paper and cardboard.
- ◆ Collect tins and cans, cardboard, printer and toner cartridges for recycling.

Staff Awareness

- ◆ When you have decided what action can be taken in your organisation, make sure all staff are aware of then and how this will help the environment.
- ◆ You cannot make a difference alone!
- ◆ Put up reminder posters near printers and photocopiers.
- ◆ Provide training where necessary, eg. double sided photo copying
- ◆ Inform cleaning staff and caretakers of new changes, and encourage them to use green cleaning products.
- ◆ Remember, if you produce less waste and use fewer resources you will reduce your environmental impact and save money



Benchmark your Environmental Impact

Over the last five years Business in the Environment has surveyed major organisations in the region to assess their environmental impact and the results are published annually. The Index has become the leading benchmarking tool in Yorkshire and Humber and more organisations are now seeing the value of participation.

Participation is through the completion of a questionnaire. Businesses can see how they are performing in comparison with their sector and overall , and can use the results to help them plan further environmental action. The environmental profile of an organisation is becoming increasingly important and taking part in the Index shows that organisation takes its environmental performams seriously.

If you are interested in taking part, you need to register with Business in the Community. The index launch will be on 25th May. Information on the index can be found at www.bitc.org.uk/yorkhumb or contact Colin Robertson on 0113 2058200.

GREEN CHEMISTRY

A new Greenchemistry Centre of Industrial Collaboration has been launched at the University of York. Funded by Yorkshire Forward, it operates in partnership with Leeds University and the Central Science Laboratory and can call on the multidisciplinary expertise of over 20 academic and scientific staff. It has the knowledge and facilities to help industry develop commercially viable processes and products that reduce or replace the use of hazardous materials.

The services of the Greenchemistry CIC will be useful throughout the chemicals supply chain and will be of value to markets covering chemical, materials and pharmaceutical manufacturing, agricultural products and consumer goods (including retail organisations), as well as to government organisations. Key chemical manufacturing industries include paints; dyes; textiles; adhesives; agrochemicals; personal care; paper; pharmaceutical intermediates; plastics and speciality chemicals.

The CIC is happy to assist with chemical related problems. To find out how this expertise can benefit your business, please contact:

Dr Paul Smith, CIC Commercial Manager,
University of York, 01904 434549.
E mail paulsmith@greenchemcic.co.uk,
or visit the website www.greenchemcic.co.uk

LEGISLATION UPDATE

Environmental Protection (Controls on Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2003

The Environmental Protection (Controls on Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2003 (SI 2003 No. 3274) were made on 13 December 2003 and implement EU controls on dangerous substances.

The Regulations:

Set out exclusions to the restrictions on the placing on the market and use of dangerous substances and preparations.

Prohibit the placing on the market from 6 January 2004 of short chain chlorinated paraffin in concentrations greater than 1% for use in metalworking or for fat liquoring of leather

Prohibit, from 30 June 2004, the use of arsenic compounds as substances or constituents of preparations intended for use in certain circumstances

Outline certain derogations in relation to the inorganic compounds of the copper, chromium, arsenic (CCA) type C

Prohibit from 6 January 2003, the use of hexachloroethane in the manufacturing or processing of non-ferrous metals

Specify certain criminal offences in relation to contravening the regulations

Specify the penalties for such an offence.

The Regulations amend the Environmental Protection (Controls on Injurious Substances) Regulations 1992 and revoke the Environmental Protection (Controls on Hexachloroethane) Regulations 2003.

The Restriction of Hazardous Substances in Electrical and Electronic Equipment (ROHS) Directive (2002/95/EC)

This directive affects manufacturers, sellers, distributors and recyclers of electrical and electronic equipment containing lead, mercury, cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls or polybrominated diphenyl ethers.

The Directive aims to: protect human health and the environment by restricting the use of certain hazardous substances in new equipment and complements the WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic) Directive.

From 1 July 2006 new electrical and electronic equipment will not contain lead, mercury,

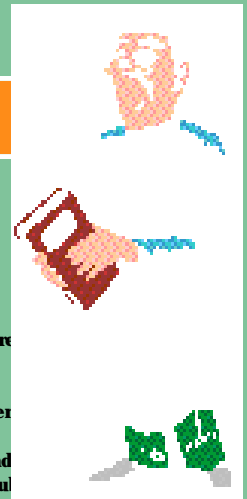
cadmium, hexavalent chromium, polybrominated biphenyls or polybrominated diphenyl ethers. Certain applications are exempt from the requirements of the Directive including mercury in certain types of fluorescent lamps, lead glass of cathode ray tubes

electronic components and fluorescent tubes, lead in electronic ceramic parts and hexavalent chromium as an anti-corrosion of the carbon steel cooling system in absorption refrigerators. The exemptions will be reviewed every four years.

Before 13 February 2005 the European Commission will review the terms of the Directive to take into account any new scientific evidence.

The Directive is to be brought into force in the UK by 13 August 2004.

For more information contact Katie.



Funding update

Support from Assured Professionals

This new project delivered by the York & North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce offers eligible businesses in North Yorkshire a new route to assessing and meeting their various legislative obligations. A free legislative audit covers everything from employment law through to environmental legislation and arranges introductions to lawyers and other professionals who can help implement necessary changes. Financial subsidies are available to eligible SME's in order to help reduce the cost of such legal assistance.

Amongst other things environmental lawyers can help with authorisations and permits, with environmental due diligence and with specific advice and assessment covering UK and EC environmental law. The service is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and is available to SME's in upland or coastal North Yorkshire. For more information contact Karl Elliott at the Chamber of Commerce on 01904 629513 to determine your eligibility.

Or see

www.ynyccsupport.com for more information.



Useful Links

Enhanced Capital Allowances (ECAs) enable a business to claim 100% first-year capital allowances on their spending on qualifying plant and machinery.

There are three schemes for ECAs:

- ◆ Energy-saving plant and machinery
- ◆ Low carbon dioxide emission cars and natural gas and hydrogen refuelling infrastructure
- ◆ Water conservation plant and machinery

Businesses can write off the whole of the capital cost of their investment in these technologies against their taxable profits for the period during which they make the investment. This can deliver a helpful cash flow boost and a shorter payback period.

For further information visit www.eca.gov.uk

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 :

- Business Link York & North Yorkshire • Business in the Community • City of York Council • Energy Efficiency Advice Centre •
- Environment Agency • Government Office for Yorkshire and The Humber • Hambleton District Council •
- Harrogate Borough Council • Nestle • North Yorkshire County Council • Norwich Union • Scarborough Borough Council •
- Science City York • University of York • Yorkshire Forward • Yorkshire Venture • Yorwaste Ltd •

Printed by Thirk Printing Company. Telephone 01845 523123
on Totally Chlorine Free & Sustainably Sourced

EVENTS

Harrogate Area Green Business Club Launch

Location: Harrogate College, Hornbeam Park, Harrogate

Date: Tuesday 9th March 2004

Time: 8.30am – 10.30am Breakfast included

Cost: Free

As part of the regional Green Business Support Organisation, a free seminar is being held for SME's to learn how their business can benefit from joining a Green Business Club.

The seminar will show how businesses can receive free environmental consultancy, on a one to one basis helping to reduce their environmental impact, save money and increase their competitive edge. The programme includes an Environmental Audit, Cost Saving Action Plan and a Company Report. The club is being run as a partnership between the Forum, Business in the Community, Harrogate Borough Council and is funded by Yorkshire Forward.

If you are a business or organisation which employs less than 250 people, and you would like to attend the seminar please contact Katie on 01904 656769

or email katie.harvey@blyny.co.uk to reserve a place.

Environment Seminar

Location: Central Science Laboratory, Sand Hutton, York

Date: Thursday 22 April 2004

Time: 9.00am – 4.30pm

Cost: £100 t.b.c which includes lunch Denison Till, together with the University of York, Science City York, Business Link, CSL, Environment Agency and Yorkshire Forward are coming together to hold a regional event on business and the environment. The day will offer businesses the opportunity to increase business efficiency and opportunities in today's rapidly expanding market. Businesses will also learn how they can increase their bottom line profit. The event will cover a variety of local business success stories and there will be high profile speakers.

For more information please contact Rebecca D'Agostino at Denison Till on 01904 561446 or email rjd@denisontill.com Further information will be sent out in due course.

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.