



GreenZone – Gold Green Achiever Members

London based GreenZone Cleaning & Support Services Ltd is a Green Achiever scheme Gold member. ‘Nothing new in that?’ you might say and right enough. There is no reason why environmentally aware businesses and organisations shouldn’t all be attaining the coveted Gold status. As has been demonstrated time and time again it makes economic sense – reducing and managing environmental impact increases the bottom line.

So, with that in mind here’s GreenZone’s story, which according to its website is ‘a commercial cleaning company like no other; [aiming] to challenge all industry preconceptions and deliver the cleanest and most service focused customer experience, whilst achieving new benchmarks in sustainability.’

Green Achiever, keen to find answers to GreenZone’s environmental decision making process, asked three questions:

1. What is the biggest negative environmental side effect of your business?
2. What are the actions you have taken and how do you aim to overcome this?
3. Why did you decide to undertake some form of environmental accreditation?

Answers

The chemicals and processes used in daily operations make the biggest environmental impact in the cleaning sector. To combat this, GreenZone uses a wide range of new and innovative cleaning technologies that help tackle climate change, including Green Zero carbon machines, Delphis Eco & Pro-biotic chemicals and efficient re-usable micro fibre material. These products are marked with the European Eco-label having met a set of published environmental criteria agreed by EU member states.

Through the Delphis range GreenZone was the first company to ensure that any chemical utilised within its operations was accredited to the robust and environmental benchmarking EU Eco-Flower. When it comes to chemical usage, less is more. The key is matching the right product with the correct volume, for the appropriate job. All of GreenZone’s sites are also equipped with concentrate dosing stations, which minimise the costs associated with transporting material to site and reduce packaging waste.

Commenting on this as well as other chemical-free innovations, GreenZone Director Dan Sadler, said: “We have taken our cleaning methodologies a step further. Using specialist equipment, such as the Ionator and Toucan, we can convert tap water into ionised water which is a powerful dirt-removing, bacteria-killing agent. In our experience these

relatively inexpensive pieces of innovative technology not only improve on-site standards and reduce chemical usage, but are easier for operatives to implement.”

In addition, steam cleaners and ionised water scrubbing machines enable us to clean all types of floor surfaces without resorting to chemicals. Pro-biotic cleaning agents enable good rather than bad bacteria to feed off nutrients. We are constantly at pushing the boundaries with regards to methods and products that are used in our operations,” he added.

GreenZone is following the ten principles of *One Planet Living*, an on-going, self-funded, sustainability framework, which contributes to the wellbeing in the city in which the company is based (London), the UK and ultimately the planet! They are: zero carbon, zero waste, sustainable transport, sustainable materials, local and sustainable food, sustainable water, land use and wildlife, culture and community, equity and local economy, and health and happiness.

Nothing of this can be achieved without a retained and happy workforce. Green Zone employees are paid above the London Living Wage and are constantly provided with the latest internal and external training. Its ‘think green’ initiative is part of GreenZone’s induction programme and combined with the training and excellent employee welfare, is core to the company’s philosophy. Monthly meetings are attended by board members, directors, managers and environmental champions and an internal green charter has been developed for suppliers and customers.

In 2013 alone GreenZone was awarded with the following accreditations ‘Best Green Business’ and ‘Best Customer Service’ - Wandsworth Business Awards; ‘Best Cleaned premises, External Pedestrian Areas and Street Furniture’ and ‘The Healthy Workplace Award’ - Golden Service Awards, and gold level for the second year in the Mayor of London Green Procurement Award. It has maintained ISO 14001 since May 2011.

Dan Sadler again: “Generally all of our competitors will say they are green and environmentally friendly, but in truth they aren’t and it’s nothing more than a sales tool. Our aim is to be different through independent audits and certification such as Green Achiever. Once attained, we can tell potential clients that we’re not just talking the talk, but we’re walking the walk, and it’s been verified. If by doing this we inspire our suppliers and customers to take action and mitigate the effects our activities are having on climate change, then that’s a bonus.”

To find out more about GreenZone, please visit their website www.gzcss.co.uk and follow them on Twitter @GreenZoneCSS