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## GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER

August 2012

**Dear Deb,**

Welcome to the August edition of the Green Achiever newsletter. For the past fortnight the news has been dominated by Olympic news and celebrations. The good news extends beyond the athletes to these being hailed as the 'Green Olympics' and we've got an article below about the Gold-level eco-friendliness of the Aquatic Centre. The Green Achiever Blog also featured a post on Greening the Olympics, you can find this here: <http://www.greenachiever.blogspot.com>. We also bring you some information about an "Upcycling" opportunity for the office biscuit wrappers. We are celebrating with Chequers Transport who achieved Silver status on their first audit review and our congratulations go out to them.

### **London Olympic Aquatics Centre scores Gold in eco-friendliness**

The Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) says that the London Olympics 2012 Aquatics Centre sets the standard for environmentally friendly cooling systems. While all eyes have been focused on the action in the pool, behind the scenes the stunning Olympic aquatic sports venue is also leading the way in environmentally friendly cooling systems. Refrigeration and air-conditioning are a major source of greenhouse gas emissions, partly through the use of synthetic refrigerant chemicals called hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) which are often thousands of times more potent than carbon dioxide. Designed by Zaha Hadid, the Aquatic Centre in London uses ammonia, one of a number of 'natural' refrigerants that have either no or low global warming potential. This not only eliminates the need for HFCs, but also leads to greatly improved energy efficiency. In addition to the Aquatics Centre, the Olympic Energy Centre also uses ammonia refrigerants.

Alasdair Cameron, Global Environment Campaigner with the EIA, said: "It is fantastic to see the London Olympics waking up to the need to use environmentally friendly refrigerants as a means of reducing its carbon footprint, but this is just the start. The next step will be to build on this experience so that future events such as the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow can be completely HFC-free."

### **"Upcycling" biscuit wrapper**

"Upcycling" is a process which adds value by transforming or reinventing an otherwise-disposable item into something of higher quality. It's the ultimate in reuse--and a whole new industry sector is shaping up around it. United Biscuits has launched the UK's first biscuit wrapper recycling scheme which consumers can directly participate in. The McVitie's manufacturer has teamed up with upcycling specialist TerraCycle to encourage biscuit eaters to send their wrappers for recycling through the post and raise funds for

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charity at the same time.

United Biscuits put its weight behind the initiative to tackle the amount of mixed plastics going to landfill. Under the scheme, used biscuit wrappers from any brand can be recycled and will be turned into everyday products such as watering cans, garden benches and waste bins.

It works by consumers downloading pre-paid postage labels online to send in old wrappers free of charge. The McVitie's Biscuit Wrapper Brigade is open to consumers across the UK who can get involved for free at [www.terracycle.co.uk](http://www.terracycle.co.uk).

Once registered, participants download pre-paid Royal Mail labels so the system is free to users. Simply collect any brand of biscuit wrapper, put them in a box or envelope, print the free postage label from the website and then stick it onto the package and post it.

This is another way to reduce your office consumables waste and is good for the environment too.

### **Company Profile**



### **SILVER for Chequers Transport**

North London based Chequers Transport, which provides private car hire and fleet management services to individuals and businesses throughout the capital and the Home Counties has attained Green Achiever award silver status. With a fleet of over 200 cars, Chequers Transport has been proactive in looking for ways to reduce emissions since 2004. MD Phil Alexander explains: "The economical, electric-hybrid Prius now make up 70 per cent of our fleet, with monitoring of fuel consumption and maintenance of every vehicle taking place regularly. All of our employees in the main office and five satellites located throughout London are very energy conscious and turn off electrical equipment, activate sleep features, use recycled paper, cardboard, packaging, pens, pencils, mouse mats and furniture. New staff will be introduced to the Chequers environmental policy as part of their induction to the company. We also have audit systems in place so suppliers will need to demonstrate their environmental credentials as well as a purchasing policy that considers environmental issues in the decision making process. It's exciting and we have embraced the Green Achiever scheme to ensure Chequers Transport is not only a leader in its field when it comes to environmental issues but as a result, a business our customers and suppliers want to work with."

[www.chequerstransport.co.uk](http://www.chequerstransport.co.uk)

**Our congratulations go to all at Chequers Transport.**

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Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker  
Green Achiever Scheme

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