



Green Achiever Newsletter

December 2011



Dear Deb,

Well, with Christmas fast approaching we bring you the 12 Green Days of Christmas Campaign! For each of the 12 days of Christmas, we are making suggestions as to ways you can save energy or be more environmentally friendly around the workplace. Thank you for all your fantastic suggestions and ideas. Our favourites were from Sara Blain at Golden Bear Products Ltd, who came up with some great ideas for energy saving at work! Sara - a prize is on its way to you! Congratulations!

We also bring you news from the start of the Durban Conference, a great selection of company profiles and congratulation to our Silver status Green Achiever, GreenZone Cleaning and Support Services Ltd, who have won the CSSA's prestigious Excellence in a Small Cleaning Business award.

A very Merry Christmas from all of us at Green Achiever!

Twelve Green Days of Christmas

1. Make a Green Team within your company to discuss and implement green ideas throughout the company.
2. Reuse envelopes by using sticky address labels and attaching them to old envelopes. Trees for Life sell recycled paper A6 gummed labels - http://www.treesforlife.org.uk/products/envelope_reuse_labels.php
3. 'Turn it down Tuesday'! Turn down the heating by 1°C each Tuesday and save money on your bills as well as reducing energy consumption.
4. 'Waste Not Wednesday'! Focus on not wasting each Wednesday by switching off lights, turning down heating. By taking a meter reading in the morning and again in the evening, electricity usage can be calculated and targets set for the following week.
5. Use the back of waste paper to make note pads by simply stapling together in one corner.
6. Ask to be removed from mailing lists for either junk mail or for catalogues that can be viewed online.
7. Remove items such as plants and books from windowsills. They may be reducing the amounts of natural light in your office and once relocated, you may not need to turn the lights on in your office. Rearrange the office so that each workstation

- receives maximum natural daylight.
8. Have an office supplies amnesty. Place a box in the office and ask everyone to look in their drawers for any the office supplies that they may have but do not use.
 9. Switch off your PCs during your lunch hour or meetings to save electricity.
 10. It may sound obvious, but check your work for spelling mistakes and layout before printing. Viewing the document and running a spell and grammar check will eliminate errors before printing.
 11. Be understanding to employees who use public transport - they may be late from time to time! Provide a salary advance so that season tickets can be bought and encourage use of public transport for business use.
 12. Put up a green office notice board. It is a great way of keeping others informed of the progress in your green office and to encourage green issues to have a high profile. Details of achievements (ie. recycling targets and figures) can be posted as well as suggestion forms for staff to complete.

Congratulations!

We would like to extend our congratulations to one of our Silver members GreenZone Cleaning and Support Services who won the CSSA's (Cleaning and Support Services Association) Award for Excellence in a Small Cleaning Business at the 20th Kimberly-Clark Professional and CSSA Golden Service Awards in November. The award ceremony is often referred to as the 'Oscars of the Cleaning Industry', being a leading industry event, a benchmark for quality of service and all that is innovative within the sector. Our congratulations go to all at GreenZone.

Working Together - Saving Tomorrow Today

The United Nations Climate Change Conference (Durban 2011) is currently underway in sunny Durban, South Africa. It brings together representatives of the world's governments, international organisations and civil society to discuss the Kyoto Protocol as well as the Bali Action Plan (from the 2007 conference) and the Cancun Agreement from December last year.

Since the United Nations Framework Convention in Climate Change (UNFCCC) came into force in 1995, they have been meeting annually to assess climate change. Greenhouse gas emissions, national policy and practice are discussed and national strategies launched with provision and support for developing countries.

Already the South African president, Jacob Zuma, has called on governments to be more ambitious when making agreements at the conference. Twelve heads of state and about 130 ministers have until Friday to decide what action to take.

Delegates have heard analysts confirm that the earth's surface is set to warm by about 3.5°C (6.3°F) by 2100 rather than the 2°C (3.6°F) that governments have previously agreed as a maximum.

Mr Zuma stated in his ministerial address;

"We are all agreed that the Earth is in danger, and we're all agreed that we must do something about it," he told delegates. "But the problem is when we've got to say what it is, and how."

We will bring you more information about the outcomes of the Convention in the January issue of the Green Achiever newsletter.

Company Profiles

Dataquest. We keep you working.



This past year Dataquest has been working hard towards achieving the most challenging and sought after award within the Green Achiever Scheme. As a team we implemented new procedures and processes to help work towards reducing our impact on the environment.

Dataquest were assessed in October 2011 and it was proven that we have demonstrated a keen enthusiasm for environmental issues. We have shown this by building a staff culture that has meant everyone taking the necessary steps in reducing, reusing and recycling where possible. It was reported that Dataquest had made huge steps and that there is a real staff motivation and drive for this to continue.

Next year we are determined to maintain our Gold status. We have demonstrated to all that we are an environmentally friendly and social responsible company, who are determined to maintain our green achievements. Please log onto www.greenachiever.co.uk to follow our progression. You can also log onto the website if you are interested in learning more about this scheme or even signing your company up.

If you wish to know more about our progression to Gold, the benefits we have gained from the scheme or advice related to our other initiatives, please do not hesitate to contact us.

www.dataquestuk.com

THE PROSPECT CENTRE AIMS FOR GOLD IN OLYMPIC YEAR!



Hull's Prospect Shopping Centre is gearing itself up to achieve its own Gold Medal in Olympic Year 2012 having just been awarded Silver for its environmental best practices.

The centre signed up to the national Green Achiever Scheme last year and was quickly awarded four star status for its environmental performance. This month they have been recognised with a Silver Award and are now aiming at Gold in Olympic Year.

"Green Achiever is an award framework that enables us to demonstrate to all stakeholders what we are doing to proactively reduce our impact on the local environment," said Lee Appleton, shopping centre manager.

"To achieve the Silver Award of the Green Achiever Scheme the Prospect Centre firstly demonstrated it was compliant with the myriad of environmental legislation and regulations that apply to the effective management of a shopping centre. Further throughout the audit process we were able to show that good environmental operational practices were in place across a broad spectrum of areas from waste management to using biodegradable cleaning products. The centre management demonstrated that it is actively working with tenants to encourage recycling of waste cardboard, paper and plastic by providing the facilities to make this easy for them."

To achieve Gold accreditation the centre has to demonstrate continued awareness of and compliance with environmental legislation.

Deborah Cairns, operations manager Green Achiever for E4environmentl Ltd said:

"It is really good to see the Prospect Centre demonstrating this sort of environmental leadership. It is easy just to maintain on-going practices but the management at this centre are keen not to stand still and offer the opportunities to improve environmental performance to all their tenants by making it easy and advantageous to them. I am really looking forward to returning next year to review their progress further to enable me to award the centre the Gold standard."

"It would be a great achievement for everyone to win Gold in Olympic Year," added Lee.

For more information visit www.prospectcentre.co.uk



London based VDC Trading manufactures and supplies specialist cabling and associated products for all professional and domestic audio and visual applications, and on board marine AV systems.

Tracey Gould, is the company's general manager. She said: "We want to show to our clients that we care about the environment and we are doing everything we can to minimise our impact on it. Initially we looked into ISO accreditation but this fell short of our requirements. We're not about ticking boxes at VDC; we want to make a difference and that is why we chose the Green Achiever scheme. We've received great advice and encouragement and from early on found out that being green wouldn't cost our business lots of money, in fact being green has actually saved us money!"

Negotiating with its main suppliers VDC Trading has cut the amount of packaging they use. Tracey Gould continues: "This was an important step for us. Recycling is great, but preventing the excessive use of packaging at source is much better for the planet! As a business we still generate waste, so we recycle our cardboard, paper, plastic and wood and wherever possible send electronic invoices and encourage our suppliers to do the same. We use biodegradable bubble-wrap and re use void-fill supplied with our deliveries. We even donate the stamps from our incoming post to charity."

Working with its waste carrier VDC has reduced its collection from five 1100 litre bins twice a week to two once a week, with the aim of reducing this further to one per week before the end of 2011. It uses a carbon neutral same-day delivery service in London and VDC's preferred overnight carrier has introduced electric vehicles to its fleet. VDC has also installed sensors to stop continuous running water in its urinals. In fact the only thing it hasn't done yet is recycle food waste but that is something the company is looking into.

Tracey Gould: "Being green shouldn't stop once you leave your home in the morning to come to work but should continue throughout your working day. That's what we do at VDC. We are proud of what we have achieved so far and with help from the Green Achiever team we can only get better at it!"

www.vdctrading.com

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The Facebook logo, consisting of the word 'facebook' in a white, lowercase, sans-serif font centered on a dark blue rectangular background.

Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme

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