



Green Achiever Newsletter

February 2011

Dear Deb,

GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2011

A belated Happy Chinese New Year to you!

Chinese New Year celebrates the end of the autumn harvest and the start of spring and in China it is still called the Spring Festival. We are entering the year of the rabbit, which should mean a calmer year than last year - the year of the tiger. A calmer year may mean more time to dedicate to greening your business. Why not set targets for the coming year whether it is encouraging car sharing or draft-proofing your building? Small changes can make a real difference.

This month we are encouraging our members to get recognised for their environmental good practices by entering for awards and also we're providing you with notice about price increases that we will be applying from 1st March. We have two interesting company profiles - our first Parish Council member and a company that advises on green travel plans.

Mandy

Notice - Inflation Price Increase in March

From Tuesday 1st March we will be changing our Green Achiever prices in line with inflation. We are applying a 2% increase which means some of the prices are no longer 'round figures' but we prefer to do this rather than apply a large hike which is not backed by real price increases. From 1st March the new prices will be as follows:-

- Self-Assessment - £112 (excluding VAT)
- Silver and Gold Awards
 - ~ for businesses of 20 employees - £306 (excluding VAT and expenses);
 - ~ for businesses with more than 20 employees - £612 (excluding VAT and

expenses).

Green Awards

Has your company entered (or won!) any green awards recently? We would love to hear from you if you have! We know that being a Green Achiever has supported some of our members' submissions for awards and indeed in some cases has been cited as a factor for winning. Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors for example (Green Achiever members since May 2008) won the Best Green Business Award at the Shropshire Business Awards 2009 and followed this by achieving a Highly Commended for Excellence in Environmental Responsibility at the Law Society Excellence Awards in 2010.

With the ever increasing need to raise awareness of environmental issues, there has been an increase in 'green awards' across many sectors of industry, business and the community. Green awards are aimed at raising the profile of many environmental matters as well as recognising and rewarding companies and organisations that have made significant contributions to tackling climate change.

A number of industry sectors have launched their own green awards, such as The Drinks Business (www.thedrinksbusiness.com) and Green IT Awards (www.greenitawards.com) as well as the introduction of local green awards schemes - The Lancashire Green Awards (www.lancashiregreenawards.co.uk) and The Hertfordshire Green Awards (www.hertsgreenawards.co.uk).

We will be putting details of upcoming Green Awards in our newsletters. Why not make a submission of your good practices and get the recognition for your efforts?

Company Profiles



One of the latest businesses to join the Green Achiever scheme is **Green Travel Plan Expert**.

In our busy world where there seems to be no time to think, Green Travel Plan Expert can help by providing affordable green workplace travel plans for all businesses, employers and places of work. A green travel plan (GTP), or workplace travel plan (WTP), is a tailored package of measures and initiatives designed for employers to encourage and promote sustainable and healthy travel and reduce carbon footprints. GTPs are endorsed by the Government as good practice.

Carl Chouler, founder of Green Travel Plan Expert, said: "Our vision is to provide every business, school and charity with a GTP to promote sustainable, healthy and accessible travel, with the aim of benefiting their people, community and environment. We support and develop GTPs as well as carry out assessments and reviews to ensure that each one is effective and making a positive difference."

If you are interested in developing a GTP for your business or place of work visit: www.greentravelplanexpert.com



A Staffordshire council has become the first organisation of its kind prepared to demonstrate its green credentials by signing up to the Green Achiever scheme.

Commenting on its environmental responsibilities, Ray Smythe, parish clerk at **Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council** in Cannock Chase, said: "The parish council, which recently appointed a green issues councillor, takes a proactive approach to environmental issues and reviews all operations from a green perspective. As well as receiving advice from the Green Achiever team, we also liaise with a local environment group to keep up to date with best practice and introduce ideas.

For example, the prize for our Christmas Lights competition is no longer cash but low energy bulbs and insulation equipment, and our 13,000 residents will soon receive a map highlighting local walking and cycling locations to encourage exercise and health living."

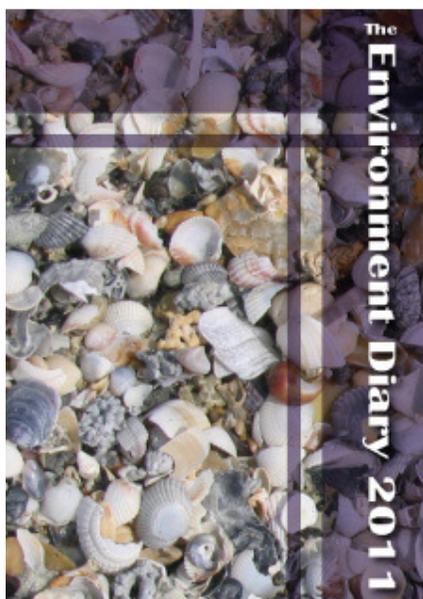
Concerning parish council property and equipment, he continued: "With a grant from the Quality Parishes Investment Fund, the Hayes Green Community Centre now has a new high-efficiency boiler, low-energy bulbs installed throughout the building and sensors in the toilets to ensure the lights are only on when needed. I use an electric pedal cycle for most of my travel in the local area, which saves the council money, reduces vehicle miles and keeps me fit! The cycle will go for 50 miles at up to 15 mph on a single charge that costs 4p. It is everyone's responsibility to reduce unnecessary energy use and promote sustainability - something that the council takes very seriously."

Find Heath Hayes and Wimblebury Parish Council on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=336519293967

Go on, treat yourself! Order your 2011 diary now!

This is a diary for the business professionals who want to manage their environmental impacts. In keeping with the theme, the diary will be printed on recycled paper and bound using, wherever possible, recycled materials.



The Environment
Diary 2011

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