



GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER

January 2013

Dear Deb,

Happy New Year from all of us here in the Green Achiever office!

Why not make 2013 your year to really drive forward your company's environmental performance and accreditation? Increasingly we're finding that supply chains are requiring evidence of good environmental performance in tender submissions and customers are using 'green' credentials as one of their decision-making factors. So what is your performance like and how are you demonstrating that?

Take a look at your current improvement plan - are you on target? Does it need a revamp? Does it accurately reflect your company's environmental ambitions?

And how about the recognition side for your performance? What kind of accreditation do you have - a star-rated self-assessment or an audited Silver or Gold award? And do you make sure you are displaying the logo so your stakeholders can easily see recognise your environmental status. (If you would like an easily downloadable version of the logo please contact the Green Achiever Team on 01743 343403 or email deb@greenachiever.co.uk).

There are numerous environmental accreditation options available besides Green Achiever we know (eg. ISO14001 or BS8555 or EMAS) so what's so different about the Green Achiever ones? Crucial is the point that the Green Achiever accreditations focus on what happens in practice on a day-to-day basis rather than focussing on the effectiveness of an underlying environmental management system. Numerous of our members have found that the two types of accreditation work well in parallel and others have also used the Silver process as an initial launch for working towards ISO14001. Follow this link for a diagrammatic view of how the Green Achiever Silver / Gold Awards align with the ISO14001 standard.

The E4environment team also support companies in developing and implementing environmental management systems and to gain ISO14001 accreditation so we have an expertise across the board to tailor appropriate support and advice. If you'd like to talk through your improvement plan or some accreditation options then call Deb Cairns on 01743 343403 or contact deb@greenachiever.co.uk

Center Parcs encourages staff energy efficiency

Holiday company Center Parcs is offering its staff incentives to be energy efficient away from the workplace. The company will reward employees who make household energy savings by matching the money saved from their electricity, water and gas usage. The employee who reduces their energy consumption the most will be given £7,000 to spend on 'greening' their home.

In addition, Center Parcs offered a financial bonus in 2011 based on the company's carbon savings throughout the year. Center Parcs have reduced their carbon emissions by 7% in the last 12 months.

Center Parcs UK chief executive Martin Dalby said: "Over the past few years we've been working hard to educate staff about how they can change their behaviour at work to help us achieve the business' carbon reduction target of 20% by 2020, and I'm confident this knowledge will be invaluable in reducing their energy consumption at home too."

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT PRESENTS LANYON BOWDLER SOLICITORS WITH THIRD CONSECUTIVE GOLD AWARD



The Rt Hon Owen Paterson, Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, recently presented Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors with their third consecutive Green Achiever Gold Award. Having joined the scheme in September 2008, the firm achieved silver status the following April and Gold in 2010, 2011 and 2012. This success has been accompanied by recognition as the Best Green Business at the 2009 Shropshire Business Awards and being highly commended for the LSA Award for Excellence in Environmental Responsibility at The Law Society Excellence Awards in 2010.

Since then further progress has been made in key areas such as reducing energy consumption and paper use as well as lowering of its carbon footprint.

Senior partner Peter Flint said: "Our involvement in Green Achiever was initiated by the staff who continue to drive the project forward with support from management. Each office has its own eco monitor and an environmental committee, planning activities, setting goals and targets and producing an internal newsletter. We have come a long way since 2008 with simple, practical changes making a difference not only to the bottom line but the way in which everyone at the firm has embraced their environmental responsibilities."

Mr Paterson added: "Lanyon Bowdler's achievement is a great example of how to address key operational issues within a company or organisation and by doing so not only save money and increase efficiency but also encourage a positive 'can do' working environment. To attain gold status for the third time reinforces the firm's long-term commitment to the initiative and for that I offer my congratulations to everyone at Lanyon Bowdler."



Peter Flint, Lanyon Bowdler; Owen Paterson, MP and Mandy Stoker, E4environment Ltd

Dates for your diary

Climate Week 4-10 March 2013 www.climateweek.com - The UK's biggest climate change campaign incorporating a week of sustainability based events.

Earth Hour 23 March 2013 8.30pm www.earthhour.org - In 2012, 7001 towns and cities in 152 countries switched off their lights sending a powerful message for action to save the planet with many individuals making a commitment to go 'Beyond the Hour' and continue to with their action for the planet.

Go on, treat yourself! Order your diary now!

This is a diary for the environmental professional. In

keeping with the theme, the diary will be printed on recycled paper and bound using, wherever possible, recycled materials.



The Environment Diary 2013

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Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme