



GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER

June 2012

Dear Deb,

Welcome to the June edition of the Green Achiever newsletter.

With the Olympic Games fast approaching and the promise that the Games would be the greenest ever, questions have been raised as to how environmentally friendly the Games will really be.

From the onset, the Olympic site raised controversy owing to the displacement of its wildlife, the ecological impact and the ongoing sustainability of the park but the Olympic organising committee has been dedicated to delivering the greenest Olympic Games in history.

Taking the Aquatics Centre as an example, there has been sustainable sourcing of materials from the UK, such as steel from North Wales and under-floor heating from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne. The wave on the roof of the building has been constructed using aluminium, half of which has been recycled, the plastic seats have been made using fewer chemicals and the ceramic tiles used in the pools have been transported to the site by train.

Across the rest of the park, measures have been taken to reduce the environmental impact of the construction process, including reducing the carbon footprint by 50%. Once the Games are finished the site will be opened as the Queen Elizabeth II Olympic Park with 10,000 new houses also being built.

Hopefully the Olympics will stay on track to be the greenest-ever Games, providing London with a long-term legacy.

SMEs to throw away £470m in landfill tax in 2012

UK small and medium-sized enterprises are set to throw away £470m in landfill tax in 2012 by sending waste to landfill rather than saving money by recycling or recovering it. The costs of sending waste to landfill will rise from £64 to £80 per tonne in two years with the average SME to spend £335 in 2012 on landfill tax, rising to £358 in 2013.

Jean-Dominique Mallet, Chief Executive Officer from Veolia Environmental Services

commented: "These figures highlight where SMEs could be saving money when it comes to paying for waste disposal. Over the last three years nationwide access to recycling services has become a reality for SMEs. Now they need to start considering alternatives to landfill when they dispose of their waste and see it as a resource that can be recycled or recovered into energy."

"We know keeping costs down is the priority for businesses in these tough economic times and sustainable recycling will help them to pay out less and turn their waste into a resource. I'd encourage SMEs to take us up on our offer of a free recycling audit today!"

David Moore, owner of the Abarbistro restaurant in Portsmouth, commented: "As a restaurant, managing our waste levels is a continual worry. Ensuring our staff embrace recycling is a challenge, but an important thing to get right as we save around £3,000 every year through recycling of food waste, bottles and other packaging. In difficult economic times, it's great that we can continue to cut back on costs for managing the restaurant's waste, while being environmentally friendly."

Veolia offer a number of free, no obligation services that can help businesses reduce their waste and increase recycling. For more information, please see -

www.veoliaenvironmentalservices.co.uk

M&S achieves carbon neutral and zero waste targets

Marks and Spencer's have reached another 43 of its sustainability goals set out in Plan A, including certifying all stores, offices, warehouses and delivery fleets in the UK and Ireland as carbon neutral and recycling all of its waste.

M&S is also committed to carbon offsetting and has increased the energy efficiency of its operations by a further 4% on last year's figures. In addition, the retailer has cut its greenhouse gas emissions by 68,000 tonnes by cutting gas leaks from refrigeration units, reducing electricity use and improving fuel efficiency.

In the five years since Plan A was launched, M&S has reduced its carbon footprint by 22% and raise energy efficiency by 28%. The Plan A initiatives have generated net financial benefits of £185 million.

"These financial benefits as well as the social and environmental progress we have achieved so far are based on the strides made in integrating sustainability into how we run our business," confirmed M&S chief executive Marc Bolland.

"I am proud of what we've achieved. We now have a better, greener and more ethical Marks & Spencer. Plan A is an essential part of our DNA."



Recycle Week 18 - 24 June

Next week is Recycle Week with this year's theme being 'Recycling - Home and Away', which is aimed at making us think not just about recycling at home but also when we are out and about or at work. It's not too late to get involved in Recycle Week! For more information about Recycle Week and recycling in the office please visit -

www.recyclenow.com/what_can_i_do_today/start_recycling_at_2.html

2012 Water Efficiency Awards

Nominations are open for the Environment Agency and Waterwise biannual 2012 Water Efficiency Awards. With awards being given to organisations in the public, private and voluntary sectors in the UK that, through water-saving activities, are helping to conserve precious resources.

Winners will receive many benefits from the awards including using them as good practice case studies for dissemination by the Environment Agency, Waterwise and others as well as being able to use the Water Efficiency Awards 2012 Winner logo on website and marketing materials.

Entry is free and the closing date for nominations is 30 June 2012. Green Achiever would love to hear from you if you decide to enter!

More information can be found at www.waterwise.org.uk/pages/awards.html

Low Carbon Innovation Survey

The Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) are looking to survey businesses on their low carbon innovation activity. The survey will look at investment in innovations that result in reductions of greenhouse gas emissions and will also investigate barriers and drivers to such investments. The results of the survey will allow the government to understand better the innovation activity within the private sector.

The survey is conducted via a brief telephone interview. If you would like to take part in the survey please register on the website below or contact William Lecky at DECC (william.lecky@decc.gsi.gov.uk)

www.surveymonkey.com/s/XP8ZLW5

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Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme

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