



Green Achiever Newsletter

March 2011

Dear Deb,

GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER MARCH 2011

This month we see Earth Hour happening on Saturday 26th at 8.30 pm (local time) and tomorrow is the start of Lent so March sees us thinking about things we can give up or stop using. Environmentally this has echoes as we try and find ways and provide advice to companies about how they can reduce their resource use, reduce waste, etc. In this issue we have information about two free advice sessions about carbon management, articles on Earth Hour, good office practice that enables companies to reduce their environmental impact and offer advice about developing an environmental policy that will support you in increasing your environmental awareness while potentially also supporting you in winning business.

As an added bonus as today is Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Day, the day when 'rich' ingredients should be used up before the season of fasting and prayer we have included a tried and tested recipe for traditional pancakes. Here at E4environment we love them!

Enjoy!

Mandy

Please note - some of our members may have been contacted by The Green Organisation recently. Please be aware that this organisation is not connected to Green Achiever or E4environment Ltd in any way.

Free 'Carbon Management' Events

We are holding a free 'Carbon Management / Calculating your Carbon Footprint' breakfast workshop on Wednesday 13th April, 8.00am - 10.30am at E4environment offices in Shrewsbury. For more information about booking a place please ring 01743 343403 or email kj@e4environment.co.uk.

Working alongside Barbour EHS, Mandy Stoker, Director of E4environment, will be co-presenting a free webinar - 'An introduction to BS EN16001 and an appraisal of Carbon

Management methodologies' on 12th May, 11.00am - 12.00pm. For more information please contact Elaine Boorman on 01344 899298 or email barbour-marketing@ubm.com

Earth Hour

Saturday 26th March 2011 sees the fifth annual Earth Hour. Started in Sydney, Australia in 2007, Earth Hour aims to encourage individuals, organisations and businesses to switch off their lights for an hour from 8.30pm (local time).

Last year, 128 countries took part in Earth Hour, the largest Earth Hour to date. Iconic buildings and landmarks from Asia Pacific to Europe and Africa to the Americas switched off. People across the world from all walks of life turned off their lights and came together in celebration and contemplation of the one thing we all have in common - our planet. This year, Earth Hour is asking that once the lights are switched back on that we should all think about how we can make a difference for the rest of the year. For more information see www.earthhour.org

Environmental Policy - the key to winning new business

Have you ever been asked for your Environmental Policy by your customers or by potential clients? More and more, companies are being asked about how green their business is in the form of an Environmental Policy.

At the Green Achiever Self Assessed and Silver / Gold Levels, we provide you with a bespoke Environmental Policy that outlines your stance with regard to reducing your carbon footprint, recycling, reducing packaging, minimising waste as well as encouraging your workforce to become more 'green'.

This policy can be used internally within your organisation to set targets for the coming year and to review your green credentials regularly. It is also a tool for showing potential clients your commitment to good environmental practice.

For more information [click here](#) or call Deb on 01743 343403.

Greening your Workplace

In addition to reducing the use of electricity within your workplace, you may wish to switch to energy from renewable sources such as wind, wave or solar. Most electricity companies are able to offer a renewable energy option and Good Energy (www.goodenergy.co.uk) is the only company that offers electricity entirely sourced from renewable supplies.

Reducing energy and using renewable energy sources This is one of the most obvious

areas of office environmental unfriendly practice. This could be leaving lights on unnecessarily or leaving computers on standby rather than turning them off. In order to reduce energy by switching off lights and computers, it may be necessary to re-educate your workforce. You may wish to switch to energy efficient light bulbs with reflectors and fit motion sensors that automatically switch off lights that are not in use.

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Reducing Paper Use Reducing paper use is easier than you think! Paper that has been printed on one side can be reused for draft documents and printing documents on both sides will reduce the amount of paper used by half.

Using computers to store documents rather than printing paper copies will cut down on paper use, cost and storage space. Using emails rather than printing letters will, again, cut back on paper use and postage costs. Some email systems are able to send faxes directly from a computer rather than printing the document to be faxed.

Using a company intranet will cut back on printing items for notice boards or newsletters.

Recycling office waste Materials for recycling (such as paper and general office waste, computers and electronic equipment, office furniture and fittings, toner cartridges, mobile telephones, etc) can be collected by recycling companies. Some charge for this service and some do not. It is dependent upon the type and quantity of material for recycling. See www.wasteconnect.co.uk for more information about how to recycle in your area.

Purchasing When purchasing new items it is important to look at what each product is made of, where it comes from and how it has been made, what will happen to it once it has been used and whether it needs to be purchased at all. Drawing up a Green Purchasing Policy which outlines your company's criteria for products and services sourced, should help to cut down on unnecessary or un-environmentally friendly products.

Some key questions that can be asked when making purchasing decisions -

- Do we need this product (or service)?
- Is a suitable product available elsewhere in the organisation?
- Can the requirement be met by renting or sharing, rather than purchasing?
- Is the quantity requested essential?
- Is the specification currently used the correct one for the purpose?

Once it has been decided that an item needs to be purchased it is essential to consider the environmental impact of the goods and services. (ie. Is the product biodegradable? Can it be disassembled and recycled after use? Are recycled materials used in its manufacture? Is the equipment energy efficient? Has the product been made locally using local resources? Is the product good quality so will last and can be repaired, reused or upgraded? Does the product come with minimal packaging? Has it been manufactured ethically?)

Examples of criteria for purchasing key items -

- Cleaning materials - choose biodegradable, non-toxic
- Decorating materials - choose organic paints
- Energy - choose renewable, efficiency
- Equipment (e.g. computers - choose energy efficient products)
- Furniture - choose recycled. If wooden, choose forest stewardship council (FSC) certified
- Paper - choose recycled, chlorine free

The possibilities for making your workplace 'greener' are many and every small change helps.

For Brilliant Traditional Pancakes

- 200g plain flour
- 3 eggs, lightly beaten
- 500ml milk
- Butter or a little vegetable oil, for frying
- Lemons and caster sugar, for serving

Sift the flour into a bowl. Beat in the eggs and enough milk to make a batter that's the consistency of single cream.

Heat a frying pan until very hot. Add the butter or oil and wipe off any excess with a wad of kitchen paper. Add a ladle of batter, tipping and tilting the pan so it's evenly coated. The underside is done when you can lift it to see its golden underside. Flip or toss it over and cook the other side for barely a minute. Place on a warmed plate while you repeat with the rest of the batter. Serve with lemons and caster sugar.

Company Profiles

SAXONBY UK - construction company



Shrewsbury based Saxonby UK Ltd specialises in the delivery of affordable housing. James Wood, director, said: "As a construction company we are very conscious of Saxonby's impact upon the environment and are always looking at ways to reduce this. In fact, continuous improvement is a Saxonby business objective and with support from the Green Achiever scheme we hope to identify and develop new and innovative approaches to help the environment. There is a lot of unnecessary waste products and packaging in the construction industry and we are working hard with our employees and suppliers to minimise our contribution to this."

www.saxonby.com

CATHERINE THOMAS LANDSCAPE & GARDEN DESIGN LTD



Award-winning Salisbury based Catherine Thomas Landscape & Garden Design Ltd specialises in landscape and garden design for clients throughout the south of England.

Catherine Thomas, managing director, said: "We are delighted to be on the first step in demonstrating our commitment to sustainability. In our work we aim to create harmony between a client's style, the buildings and surrounding landscape. Sustainable design and traditional materials in contemporary styles are our particular interests, softened by beautiful, wildlife-friendly planting."

www.catherinethomas.co.uk

Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme