

Green Achiever Newsletter - Renewable Energy

May 2010

Dear Deb,

So we got through April without the rain showers although we did have the ash clouds which look like re-appearing again in Ireland, Scotland and some parts of mainland Europe. And the oil leak off the US coast looks set to be the biggest ecological disaster for 20 years. So this month we're concentrating on damage limitation technology - renewable energy sources and the myths and opportunities now available for many businesses.

We are celebrating with Lanyon Bowdler who have achieved Green Achiever Gold status.

We also have three alerts for our members to take advantage of:-

- E4environment is celebrating our 10 year anniversary in June. We are planning a party (on a non-World Cup day) and will be making up 'goodie bags' for our guests. If you have fun items that you would like us to include to promote your business please get in touch with Deb Cairns on 01743 343403 or deb@greenachiever.co.uk.

- Advertising opportunity on the Green Achiever Website

- July 1st Workshop with a focus on reducing your energy consumption

It's a short working month with two bank holidays so heads down and drive your green agenda forward.

Mandy

ALERTS

1) E4environment is celebrating our 10 year anniversary in June. We are planning a party (on a non-World Cup day) and will be making up 'goodie bags' for our guests. If you have fun items that you would like us to include to promote your business please get in touch with Deb Cairns on 01743 343403 or deb@greenachiever.co.uk.

2) Opportunity to advertise on the green achiever website. The Green Achiever website is now the top entry on Google for 'Green Business' and is on the Google front page for 'Green Businesses.' Our site gets over 20,000 hits a week and regularly 1,200 - 1,500 visits a week. We know that our members use the Business Directory to find suppliers so how about using our front page for advertising your business? We have put up a rolling example on the Green Achiever website homepage so follow this link www.greenachiever.co.uk to see the space. For just £30.00 a month, £150.00 for 6 months (ie. one month for free) or £285.00 for a year (ie. 2½ months free) you could use this space and reach those people looking for 'Green Business'. Call Deb on 01743 343403 or email deb@greenachiever.co.uk to book a space.

3) Green Achiever Workshop, 1st July 2010. We alert you to another date for our Environmental workshops - Thursday 1st July, 2010, at Holborn Studios, London . <http://www.greenachiever.co.uk/workshops/workshop-010710.pdf> We are holding two on one day - the morning session is an introduction to Greening your Business, the legislation and ways and means of dealing with the issues; the afternoon is about Saving Cash and Reducing Energy where we will have experts on-hand to help businesses discuss the real options for improving their energy efficiency. If you are interested in both or either session please contact Kelly Jones at kj@e4environment.co.uk or telephone on 01743 343403.

MICRO-GENERATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCING

Most energy used by businesses in the UK still comes from non-renewable fossil fuels such as oil, coal and gas. These resources however, not only cause pollution but are also running out. Burning fossil fuels contributes to increased levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere and to global climate change.

While taking steps to improve energy efficiency in business is not currently a legal requirement the government has nonetheless introduced incentives and support and encourage businesses to save energy. The Climate Change Levy (CCL) for example, has been introduced to encourage businesses to become more energy efficient. Your energy bills already include the CCL. The more energy you use the higher your CCL payments will be.

The Feed-in Tariffs introduced in April this year are an incentive scheme designed to encourage the use of renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and anaerobic digestion. Under this scheme energy suppliers make regular payments to businesses or domestic property holders who generate their own electricity from renewable or low carbon sources.

The emerging technologies are making these greener, renewable energy solutions more efficient, more affordable and with shorter payback times. This increasingly is making them a viable alternative for many businesses and with the Feed-in Tariffs are now becoming positively attractive.

What are wind turbines / micro-turbines and how do they work?

Wind turbines are the most common of the alternative energies, they are effectively the modern equivalent of the old fashioned windmill. The rotors or blades of the wind turbines are placed on a pole high up, where they need relatively little wind to turn them. The spinning blades of the turbines create electricity by rotating a permanent magnet to generate electricity, which can be used for a variety of purposes.

When most people think of wind turbines they think of the very large commercial wind farms, with 125m wind turbines. Micro-turbines however are now on the market standing at heights from 10m. Increasing numbers of business parks, farms and many singular businesses have taken advantage of the new technology and the FiT Scheme to install turbines, reduce their costs and indeed generate an income.

What is Solar PV and how does it work?

Solar PV stands for Solar Photovoltaic. Solar PV Panels, are usually situated on a roof and use semi conductors to convert sunlight to produce electricity. Unlike Solar Panels which use the energy of the sun to heat water, Solar PV (photovoltaic) converts the sun's energy into electricity. The photovoltaic panels do not require sunlight to be effective as they operate from daylight rather than sunlight specifically, although they do supply more electricity in sunnier climates. The more sun, the more electricity produced. The photovoltaic cell is activated by light. Electricity is created by the creation of an electric field across layers of semi-conductors in the cell.

What is Hydroelectricity and how does it work?

Hydroelectricity systems generate electricity from running water - usually a small stream. Small or "micro" hydroelectricity systems can produce enough electricity for lighting and electrical appliances in an average home or small business.

Hydroelectricity systems are also called hydro power systems or just hydro systems.

Alternative Energy Myth Busting ...

"Alternative energy solutions can only be used with New Build"

Wrong!, while it makes sense to consider renewable energy solutions when considering a new build or renovation, they can be retro-fitted to existing properties old or new.

"Renewable heating systems are too expensive for small businesses"

Wrong!, they are more expensive to install in the short term, but can be cost effective in the longer term (depending on the system installed some payback periods have been estimated to be as low as 7 years). Also there are grants available and tax concessions for businesses.

"Wind Turbines aren't effective"

Wrong!, Wind Turbines can be very effective and produce a lot of electricity. You need to have a suitable site so they may not be suitable for everyone, however, that is location not technology

limitation.

The environment can provide advice on alternative source energy generation and a useful website is the Energy Saving Trust. Hydroelectricity systems generate electricity from running water - usually a small stream. Small or "micro" hydroelectricity systems can produce enough electricity for lighting and electrical appliances in an average home.

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Company Profiles



- Lanyon Bowdler Get Gold!

A Shropshire firm of solicitors is celebrating after attaining Green Achiever gold status in only 18 months.

Lanyon Bowdler, which employs 200 people in six offices throughout the county, signed up to the Green Achiever scheme in September 2008 and achieved silver status in April 2009, a factor that contributed to the firm winning Best Green Business at last year's Shropshire Business Awards.

Amanda Jones, business development and marketing manager at Lanyon Bowdler solicitors, said: "This is a great accolade for us, achieved through the hard work of the staff who drive the project with support from management. We have green champions in each office and an environmental committee which plans activities, set goals and targets, and produces an internal newsletter. It is now part of Lanyon Bowdler's induction programme and thinking green has become second nature to all of us.

"We have reviewed many of our procedures and methods of working which has resulted in cost savings. From the information collated regarding our consumption over the past 12 months or so, we can now set benchmarks with the aim of reducing the energy we use. Lanyon Bowdler is also a member of BESST (Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford) as well as the Legal Sector Alliance. The firm has always been involved with the local community and will continue to support local charities including The Pride of Shropshire Awards and a variety of sports and entertainment events."

The gold audit found that staff and management at Lanyon Bowdler are demonstrating a conviction to enhancing their green status that not only sets a standard for others to follow but will save the firm money too.

Congratulations to Lanyon Bowdler on gaining gold status.

Dartmoor Chilli Farm

Ashburton (Devon) based Dartmoor Chilli Farm specialises in growing and supplying hot chilli peppers as well as an expanding range of chilli produce. Partner, Phil Palmer said: "We have always demonstrated an environmental awareness, and constantly aim to reduce our carbon footprint. Caring for the environment is very important to us. We grow our chilli plants holistically and organically. Our nursery is off-grid and we rely on renewable energy. We have seven solar panels and a wind turbine at the nursery as well as a host of other green projects such as rainwater harvesting, recycling paper for briquettes, solar powered heaters, biodegradable packaging, composting loos and much more. In two years, we have not contributed a single thing to landfill and practically everything is reused or recycled. We have recently been short-listed by the FSB Devon for their Environmental Responsibility Award for 2010, which is a great honour!"

www.dartmoorchillifarm.co.uk

Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme