



GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER

May 2013

Dear Deb,

Welcome to the May edition of the Green Achiever Newsletter.

This week Energy Secretary Ed Davey has put pressure on Michael Gove to reinstate climate change on the geography curriculum. In a private letter, he stresses how we have a responsibility to inform young people about global warming and the impact of climate change both here and across the world. Yet,



even if his wishes are granted, should we in the business arena not take more of this responsibility when educating the next generation? If we lead by example and embrace environmental good practice, not only will we pass on an inherent awareness of environmental issues, but an invaluable lesson on sustainability in business. If schools are no longer going to educate comprehensively the effects of pollution and wastefulness how can we, in the world of business, place emphasis on the importance of eco-friendly practices and pursuits?

This Green Achiever issue focuses on leading by example. Investing in your environmental policy, or R & D into environmentally friendly goods and services, will pay off not only in monetary terms, but in terms of influence over future environmental attitudes. At a time where a nationwide charge is imminent on single use plastic bags, Polythene UK have stepped up their game in a way that could change how we treat packaging in the future. Also, we take a look at the LEAF Scheme and how it provides an incentive for farmers to reduce their environmental impact. We also hear from Lift and Engineering Services Ltd who are celebrating their Gold Award status for their third consecutive year.

I hope this newsletter gives you food for thought and if you'd like to discuss your next step with us, as always, we'd be more than happy to help.

Mandy

UK Packaging firm launches 'Carbon Positive' Polythene

A UK packaging firm has developed a bio-based material, which it claims could mean the end of fossil fuel-based polythene bags and film.

Polythene UK said Polyair, made from sugar cane, was both 'carbon positive' and totally recyclable, making it the greenest polythene packaging option in the UK.

"It is revolutionary and has been in product development for over 10 years. It could free the UK - if we are proactive - of fossil fuel-based polythene films and bags," said James Woollard, managing director at Polythene UK. "We have tried to promote our core products (...) to the SME market, but only a fraction of those [companies] take their carbon footprint reduction targets seriously."

For more on Polythene UK's innovative steps to reduce the environmental impact of their products, and words from the manager on their current actions promoting sustainability, please visit <http://www.polytheneuk.co.uk/news/category/environment/>

Also, if you would like to devise a comprehensive environmental policy or declaration of environmental commitment, call us on 01743 343 403



Linking Environment and Farming (LEAF)

LEAF is a leading organisation promoting sustainable food and farming. They help farmers produce good food to high environmental standards which leads to their products being identified in-store by the LEAF Marque logo.

By encouraging environmentally friendly actions from producer to consumer, LEAF has had a positive influence over many major UK supermarkets, many of which have pledged to stock LEAF accredited products over alternatives. Waitrose actively promotes its support of the LEAF scheme.

They also run 'Open Farm Sunday' (this year it is held on the 9th of June) where farms are invited to open their gates to the public and demonstrate how they are meeting the rigorous environmental standards that make them LEAF accredited.

For more information on LEAF and how you can get involved, please visit their website www.leafuk.org

If you are a business that does not deal in food or farming, but you would like similar accreditation for your eco-friendly practices, visit our website www.greenachiever.co.uk

Company Profile - Lift and Engineering Services Ltd



Birmingham based Lift & Engineering Services Limited (LES), which specialises in the bespoke design, manufacture, installation and year-round service of goods and passenger lifts, is celebrating after attaining Green Achiever Gold Award status for the third consecutive year.



Following its ISO 14001 environmental standard accreditation in September 2010, the company signed up to the Green Achiever scheme in March 2011, gaining Gold status a month later and again in April 2012, the first lift manufacturer in the UK to do so. LES Ltd is a privately owned family company which has pursued good environmental principles since it was established in 1983, including practices on waste management, energy use and pollution prevention. Its latest improvement actions include: an ongoing programme to incorporate environmental consideration into lift design and operation; a reduction in energy consumption by installing movement sensors to control lighting and replacing windows at the Cradley site with double glazing; an electronic sign-off system for site engineers; the replacement older less-efficient vehicles to its fleet and the use of vehicle tracking systems and software to monitor driving style.

Commenting on future developments, Tony Blakemore, the company's health, safety, environmental and training officer, said: "Although we have identified and comply with all environmental legislation relevant to our business activities and are already demonstrating a significant reduction in our environmental impacts, the next 12 months will see us commit to the installation of energy efficient lighting as part of the office refurbishment, research options to reduce energy consumption including voltage optimisation, consider the installation of solar PV to source our energy, and maintain our registration to ISO14001, including the completion of any corrective actions identified during certification audits. It's an enjoyable and fulfilling process which all of the staff at the company whole-heartedly support and which has also improved our bottom line."

www.lift-engineering.co.uk

We've Moved!

Our new address is:

E4 Environment

Hilley Farm

Pentre

Shrewsbury

SY4 1BP

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Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme

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