

GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2010

October is here and as autumn arrives proper we have to take advantage of the light and warmth while we still have it. Many businesses are looking forward to being able to recoup investments made in energy saving equipment installed over the summer – energy saving light bulbs, lights controlled by movement sensors, improved building insulation, having timed heaters (and indeed simply turning the thermostats down 1°). Some are starting to use their own energy having taken advantage of the government Feed-in-Tariff Scheme so bills are already lower. Here at E4environment, we're looking forward to reduced energy costs having moved offices over the summer.

This month we're bringing you 2 great Silver celebrations. It's a real credit to each of these companies and we're pleased to be able to profile their commitment to the environment and their continuing efforts to reduce their impacts. Here's to the continuing success of these and all our other Green Achiever members.

Mandy

The Start Campaign

Last month the Green Achiever Scheme visited the Prince of Wales' Start Garden Party where we were invited to visit one of our members, Delphis Eco, who were exhibiting there. It was a really good event. Start is a new initiative aimed at helping people across the UK lead more sustainable lives and to show what a more energy efficient, cleaner and healthier future could look like. In a debate at the exhibition, Jonathan Porritt, prominent campaigner of the Green Party, Friends of the Earth and the Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future, Lord Chris Smith, Chairman of the Environment Agency and David Aaronovitch of The Times discussed what is meant by sustainability. Some of the key definitions that were used include:-

- "Doing things in a way today that won't stop people doing the same tomorrow."
- "Sustainability is an 'inter-generational' concept – ie. we can't just think about sustaining our own lifestyles now we need to think about the next generation also."
- "If you take out, you must put back."

Some of these may sound very much like simple 'soundbites' but the debate was really focused around encouraging people to think about the complexity of the whole environmental issue. An audience question was asked about the need to be sustaining business as a priority before sustaining the environment and it was interesting to hear the discussions clarifying these need not be mutually exclusive elements. Savings made on energy consumption for example can save cash while also reducing negative environmental impacts. That said, there was no complacency about the difficulties facing businesses and certainly there was acknowledgement that more government support to make being 'Green' less bureaucratic or simply more profitable could be usefully targeted.

While Start may look like it is primarily aimed at individuals there are numerous of the “20 Ways to Start Making a Difference” that can be equally applied to business thinking. Follow this link to see which ones could be applied in your business going forward.

<http://www.startuk.org/think/20-ways-to-start-making-a-difference.aspx>

Many Green Achievers are already implementing various things as can be seen from their Environmental Declarations. Also we have members who can supply products or services so check the [Green Achiever Business Directory](#) as a starting point if you're looking for support.

WEEE Advisory Body (WAB) - Transition Plan

We told you about the imminent closure of WAB in our [August E4e-manager newsletter](#). The group has held its last meeting and agreed a transitional plan for achieving the programme plan already agreed earlier this year. Responsibility and accountability for the policy development undertaken by the WAB will now return to the Department for Business Innovation and Skills. Key areas of work have delegated to 5 WEEE Working Groups (WAGs). Details of the tasks to be achieved will be explained in more depth in our October E4e-manager newsletter.

UN climate talks held in China

This year's UN Climate Change Summit is being held in Cancun, Mexico at the end of November. In preparation for this, talks have got under way in China. Last year's summit in Copenhagen, billed as a make-or-break year, ended in disappointment without a legally binding deal to curb global climate change.

The summit ended with delegates at the 193-nation UN conference simply "taking note" of a US-led climate deal that recognised the need to limit temperature rises to 2C (3.6F).

For many environmental groups, it was a massive anti-climax to a gathering where expectations had been high for a legally binding deal to be struck.

The agenda at the meeting in Tianjin is focusing on two main topics:

- Industrialised nations' commitments under the Kyoto Protocol, including further emission reductions after 2012, when the current period ends
- Progress on a draft negotiating text for the Cancun summit

We keep you updated on progress and the possible implications of any outcomes in terms of how they may translate through to UK policy as decisions are made.

COMPANY PROFILES

Silver Celebrations!



m. marcus
architectural hardware

Located in Dudley, M Marcus Ltd, is one of the UK's leading suppliers of architectural and electrical brassware. Operations manager, Fred Evans, said: "We see this award as the pre-cursor to obtaining ISO14001 certification which we are working steadily towards. A result of the initial review carried out by E4environment and required by the certification body as the first step for certification, it points to the fact that we are already operating several elements of the ISO14001 requirements as a matter of company policy. We would expect to receive the gold award as a by-product of a successful ISO14001 certification campaign, run in conjunction with ISO9002 - which we have held for a number of years.

"M Marcus is serious about its responsibilities towards the environment, as well as recognising the valuable contribution good working practises, involved in operating to standards such as ISO14001, make to the everyday profitability and long-term benefits of the company."

www.m-marcus.com



York based Rolawn Ltd is Europe's largest producer of cultivated turf and Britain's leading supplier of high quality topsoil. Paul Dawson, MD at Rolawn Ltd, said: "We are delighted to achieve the silver award as it endorses the positive steps the company has taken over the last few years to develop its green credentials; from our sustainable and recycled topsoil products to our highly efficient turf operation. Green Achiever also gives us a framework for continual improvement as we work towards gold status."



www.rolawn.co.uk