



## GREEN ACHIEVER NEWSLETTER

October 2012

Dear Deb,

This is a "good news" newsletter with articles on a discount offer we're bringing you to save money on lighting alongside a good news about the positive impact that charging for carrier bags in Wales has had on their usage. To cap it all we've an item about national environmental innovation awards.

On the Discount offer - Energy usage is one of the big concerns of many of our members and we are often asked for advice on how businesses can reduce their consumption. Lighting is one of the key elements we talk about (you may recall our [previous newsletter item](#) about this) so the Green Achiever Scheme has partnered up with the major lighting manufacturer, RhinoCo Technology to bring you a discount offer. For more information read the item below.



### **Save Money and Energy on Lighting Discount Offer made through the Green Achiever Scheme and our Partner RhinoCo Technology**

If you've thought about saving money and energy by looking at your lighting now may be just the time to do it. The Green Achiever Scheme has linked up with major lighting manufacturer RhinoCo Technology to bring you a discount offer on installing LEDs of between 5% - 15%.

Why LEDs -LED lighting can consume up to 70% less energy than conventional incandescent or discharge lamps which can make dramatic impacts on electricity bills. Technological improvements in recent years mean that LEDs can now be dimmable, linked to movement and daylight sensors or timer switches. Their operating lifespan is rated far higher than other lamps reducing maintenance costs as well as replacement costs.

RhinoCo Technology provides lamps for car parks, warehousing, floodlights, offices and back-of-house corridors. There aren't many places they haven't fitted out either with their bulb or tube fittings.

Upfront cost and payback periods

- changing a lighting system can qualify for the government Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme whereby businesses can write off the whole of the capital cost of their investment in energy saving technologies against their taxable profits of the period during which they make the investment. Further, if a leasing arrangement is made this can be offset on tax.

As part of our on-going efforts to support our members in reducing their environmental impacts we have agreed the following discounts with RhinoCo Technology

**15% discount - for all silver or gold members**

**5% discount - for all self-assessed members**

No minimum order required.

If you want to discuss taking up this offer then contact either

Deb Cairns on 01743 343403 [deb@greenachiever.co.uk](mailto:deb@greenachiever.co.uk)

or

Lisa Lupton on 0845 644 5421 [llupton@rhinoco.co.uk](mailto:llupton@rhinoco.co.uk)

**Carrier bag charge works, says Welsh MP**

One year after the Welsh Assembly introduced a mandatory 5p charge for single-use carrier bags, the number of bags being used in Wales has fallen by as much as 96% in some retail sectors. At the same time, the rest of UK has seen the number of bags used continue to rise.

"The Welsh experience proves that if you want to effectively reduce carrier bag use, a charge really is the best way to go," said the Welsh environment minister John Griffiths.

"It is really heartening to see people in Wales developing sustainable shopping habits and being much less wasteful."

According to the Welsh Assembly's figures supermarkets have been most successful in cutting carrier use, with the number of bags being used falling by 70%-96%. Home improvement stores report a 95% reduction, while fashion retailers have cut bag use by 68%-75%.

Alongside cutting the number of bags being used and then thrown away, the scheme has resulted in more than £875,000 being donated to environmental charities, with firms including Asda, Argos and McDonalds, donating the 5p charge to Keep Britain Tidy and the

RSPB.

Wales is currently the only devolved government to have implemented a charge for carrier bags, although Northern Ireland will begin charging for bags from April next year. The Scottish parliament, meanwhile, has just closed a three-month consultation on introducing a charging scheme, which it estimates will cut overall bag usage by 80% and raise £5 million.

### **Shell Springboard Awards 2013**

The Shell Springboard Award scheme provides financial support to innovative, low carbon UK-based business initiatives. The idea behind the scheme is to encourage businesses to act on climate change not just in order to save money and comply with legislation but in order to provide new business opportunities.

There are nine awards of up to £40,000 available with the best two regional entries being entered for the overall UK award. Entries are invited from limited companies, sole traders, partnerships or community interest companies in the UK.

The deadline for applications is 18 January 2013.

For more information see [www.shellspringboard.com/programme/awards](http://www.shellspringboard.com/programme/awards)

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Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker  
Green Achiever Scheme