



Green Achiever Newsletter

September 2011

Dear Deb,

Well, it certainly feels autumnal here today. After a rather disappointing August - only 11 Augusts in the last 100 years saw less sunshine - are we heading for an Indian Summer? If the weather forecast is right, an Indian Summer is unlikely in the north but the south looks set for better weather at the end of the month!

This month's Green Achiever Newsletter brings you fantastic achievements on levels of waste being sent to landfill in Scotland and encouraging results from KitKat as well as council homes in Eastbourne being powered green energy!

Mandy

Environmental Celebrations and Works in Progress

Waste

The amount of waste being sent to landfill sites in Scotland has dropped by 36% in 5 years, according to figures released by the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA). Figures show that less waste is being generated and more waste is being recycled - so a positive double whammy impact is being felt. During 2009 there was a 22% drop in the amount of waste being produced on 2005 figures. This decrease was seen in businesses and homes and included a 28% cut in construction waste. Other key findings include:-

- a 26% drop in the amount of bio-degradable waste sent to landfill;
- controlled waste sent to landfill falling from 7.2 to 4.7 million tonnes; and
- waste treated by waste management sites rising by 30%.

In England there are also 'waste' celebrations in Yorkshire as the KitKat factory in York has met its target to send zero waste to landfill. The changes to practices have meant that the site is now saving £120,000 a year in landfill tax and is also generating additional revenue by selling recovered materials including cardboard, plastics and pallets. The factory has also cut its water use by 36%.

Transport

The transport sector accounts for around 21% of the UK's domestic greenhouse-gas emissions and heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) are responsible for 20% of that figure. The freight industry is already taking action on this, a key area being particularly in reducing empty running. Empty run rates were 33.7% in 1973 and this dropped to 26.5% in 2003 according to Department for Transport figures. This has increased to 27% recently but more industry are starting to take action by increasing formal backhauling arrangements. The Stobart Group have reduced their empty run rates to 15% and United Biscuits have reduced from 22% to 13% in four years.

Thousands of miles of travel have been saved and it is anticipated this will increase in years to come as technology supports the industry to save money as well as CO2 emissions - new websites have been set up in recent years for online freight exchanges and further developments in telematics technology supports monitoring of journeys and can enable retailers and haulage companies to better manage their fleets.

So while there is still a way to go, there is progress being made and money being saved for businesses and customers alike.

Solar power for council homes

A council has plans to offer free electricity to council tenants by installing solar panels on its properties under the Feed in Tariff Scheme.

The council in Eastbourne are planning to invest £13 million in the scheme, which will see energy being generated by the solar panels over a 25 year period. Council tenants will benefit from free electricity, with any excess being sold by the council back to the National Grid.

Eastbourne Borough Council leader, David Tutt, said: "Eastbourne is now a step closer to leading a solar revolution and is amongst the first pioneering authorities to seriously consider the potential offered by sustainable energy.

"We still have some work to do before we can make this a reality; however, with such an innovative scheme like this it is right and proper to ensure we have completed all the right checks before committing funding.

"Everyone knows Eastbourne is one of the sunniest towns in the UK and we hope to have a final positive decision within weeks so we can start to harness our considerable sunshine advantage."

If you would like more information on solar pv or any other form of renewable energy, please contact njs@e4environment.co.uk

Company Profiles

NorthernSunlight

Northern Sunlight Ltd, based in Sowerby Bridge, near Halifax specialises in the design and installation of photovoltaic solar energy systems for commercial and domestic use. Anthony Lister, director said: "It sounds like a cliché at the moment, with so many businesses getting involved in the green movement; but I wanted Northern Sunlight to join the scheme because I consider myself, and our company, as green - with a green ethos. Everything we can recycle is recycled, from the waste cable or scrap from installations, to the packaging our materials come in. Our energy usage is minimal, as we run a small but efficient office and we keep fuel down to a minimum by using smaller vehicles when possible. As a company and as people we have always been aware of environmental issues and by being a Green Achiever we can show our customers that we are a little different."

www.northernsunlight.com

Cannon Electrical Services Ltd

One of our self-assessed members Cannon Electrical Services Ltd have been shortlisted for the Energy Efficiency Initiative of the Year Award in the Electrical Times 2011 Awards to be announced in October. This is for their Intenwatch Smart Electric Meter. The Green Achiever team wish to congratulate Cannon Electrical Services on being shortlisted and wish them good luck at the awards ceremony.

www.cannon-electrical.co.uk

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Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme