



Green Achiever Newsletter (January 2010)

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Dear Andrew,

Welcome to a freezing start to the new decade. As I write this, everyone across the country seems to be working in varying degrees of minus temperatures, with or without snow, but certainly with a lot of ice and frost. Is this a herald of things to come for the whole of the 'teenies' or will it be strictly limited to the run-up for the Winter Olympics? Who knows but curling has suddenly taken a higher listing in our local schools' sports curriculum.

So have you fallen into the new-year resolution mode? I'm achieving two for one on environmental and personal well-being by car-sharing then running home at least twice a week. Wish me luck. Let us know your resolutions to reduce your environmental impacts and how you are progressing as the year goes on.

→ New Year Resolutions - some suggestions

- Go to the next award level of Self-Assessed/Silver/Gold. Having reviewed the Green Achiever Award Scheme at the end of last year (see the December newsletter) and in responding to feedback from you we have looked at the processes for the various award levels and have simplified them as far as is possible. So why not take advantage and use our advice on what actions you can take to reduce your environmental impacts?
- Attend Workshops. We ran three workshops on 'Greening Your Business' towards the end of 2009 and there was a demand for more. We are currently organising workshops across the country on this same topic and also some on 'Energy Efficiency'. The provisional dates and locations so far are Manchester on Wednesday 3rd March, Birmingham on Wednesday 9th June, London on 8th September and Edinburgh on Wednesday 10th November. Let us know of your interest now and get a date in your diary.
- Join the Bike2Work Scheme. This is a nationwide initiative that aims to get people out of their cars and into the saddle with benefits being found for business, individuals and the environment. The scheme allows employees to purchase bikes at massively discounted rates. As the costs are

deducted from source both employers and employees benefit on NI savings. Look into the scheme this year - www.bike2workscheme.co.uk

→ It's so cold we can't really be in global warming; or can we?.....

There has been a lot of recent debate about the truth or otherwise of global warming. With the current cold snap this debate is not diminishing. A recent BBC broadcast "How the big freeze fits global warming" spelt out the difference between weather and climate by clarifying that while weather is a short-term process that changes day-to-day, month-to-month, climate is the sum of the kind of weather we have over a 30 year period ie. one cold winter is not the end of global warming. To see the report [click here](#).

More than the debate about local cold snaps though we ask should the debate be about what is happening on the Earth or should it be concentrated more on what is happening on the Sun? According to records the strangest weather last year was not on Earth, but on the Sun. Every 11 years the Sun goes through a cycle of sunspots. The number of sunspots reached its minimum in 2007 and should have increased soon afterwards but it has remained strangely quiet in what is thought to be the deepest solar minimum for almost 100 years. The solar minimum could be cooling the climate on Earth and the quiet spell could actually be masking some of the warming effects of greenhouse gases according to recent research by two solar scientists.

That said, even if this solar minimum is offsetting global warming, scientists stress that the overall effect is relatively slight and certainly will not last. We do then need to continue in our efforts to reduce our detrimental environmental impacts closer to home; ie. as they affect the Earth.

→ Cyan Solutions Ltd

Petersfield (Hampshire) based Cyan Solutions Ltd is an IT support and managed services provider. Simon Bond, director at Cyan Solutions Ltd, said: "As a carbon neutral company, we have always demonstrated a basic environmental awareness, for example, recycling paper and toner cartridges. However, we decided that there was more we could do across our service offering to improve our environmental impact. This included investing in an IT automation platform that has reduced on-site visits by as much as 85%, as well as offering a free IT recycling service to our customers upgrading to new equipment."

If you would like to feature in one of our newsletters, share your success stories, or provide a testimonial please contact Caroline@greenachiever.co.uk

Sincerely,

Mandy Stoker
Green Achiever Scheme