

Sustainable business matters

Green Yellow Pages Launched

Finding solutions to environmental business issues has just become easier with the launch of Envirolist, a directory of environmental products and services for businesses.

Are you looking for a company that can recycle your waste or provide energy efficiency advice? Help is now at hand with Envirolist, a new free one-stop resource for businesses looking for environmental suppliers.

Envirolist includes an extensive range of categories that cover common issues such as waste, energy or water, but also more specialized areas such as asbestos removal. With most suppliers located in the South East it also encourages local trade and networking.



We have maintained a supplier directory for over 10 years and Envirolist offers greater functionality such as focused search functions and quicker access to company information. The listings are actively maintained and monitored.

Should you wish to have a company included in the list because you feel that this would be useful to others, or you supply an environmental

product or service yourself, please send an e-mail to contact@ceac.co.uk.

Access and basic listings are free.

Envirolist can be accessed at www.envirolist.co.uk.

For further information e-mail CEAC at contact@ceac.co.uk or call 01494 527564.



News

Changing Infrastructure Predictions

Roads, railways, energy and water supply networks and other infrastructure all need to be able to cope with the effects of a changing climate. The first in a series of reports produced by organisations which maintain national infrastructure set out potential risks and solutions.

Reports from organisations including Network Rail, National Grid and the Highways Agency were carried out at the request of the Government under the Climate Change Act to ensure that organisations with a crucial role in running the country's infrastructure are preparing for the threats and opportunities which climate change will pose. The reports are available at

ww2.defra.gov.uk/environment/climate/sectors/reporting-authorities/

New Environmental Damage Regulations in Force

New environmental damage and liability regulations force businesses to prevent and remedy environmental damage that they have caused - the 'polluter pays' principle. If you or your business carry out an activity that causes environmental damage you will have to remedy the damage. If there is a risk of damage from your business activities, you must prevent such damage occurring.

www.netregs.gov.uk/netregs/legislation/current/104965.aspx

Eco Growth Revolution

As the low-carbon revolution gathers pace globally, Britain's businesses have an unprecedented opportunity to profit from it, argues the Carbon Trust. Already worth £3,000 billion annually, the world's green economy is forecast to grow by a quarter over the next five years, outpacing overall growth.

Early pioneers of this green business revolution are already profiting from the move towards an economy less dependent on exploiting finite resources and which has less impact on our environment.

The global giant GE began exploiting the opportunities a more sustainable global economy presented some time ago through its Ecomagination initiative and is profiting from the move, argues Mark Elborne, CEO & President of GE UK "The opportunity is enormous. When you look at the introduction of renewable energy, carbon capture and storage, the need for smarter use and distribution of energy and the arrival of electric vehicles, it adds up. If we need to deploy 20 million smart meters in the UK by 2020, for example, and it takes three hours to fit a meter, how many jobs is that going to create?"

But the green-growth revolution poses a threat too. Those that pursue old ways of thinking risk being left behind in the race for green growth, according to Ian Cheshire, group chief executive of the home improvement group Kingfisher.

"All of us running businesses hope we have a sustainable model that will still be here in 30 years. But if you are using too many resources, that will come home to roost. A business model predicated on cheap oil, for instance, may not be around when crude hits \$150 a barrel. There are still some who regard sustainability as a bit of an add-on. But the risk for people tackling environmental issues in a box-ticking way is that they will miss opportunities and that their customers will see them as hypocrites."

You don't have to be GE to profit from a more sustainable vision and strategy, says Mr Elborne. "Whether you're developing offshore wind turbines or considering changes in how you light your shop or factory, be confident in your ability to be adaptable.

Time spent understanding the benefits of action and exploring the consequences of inaction will be money and time well spent. Don't just stand there and say it doesn't affect you because it does. There's a strong consensus, and it's growing, that this is something we need to do."



E - Quote

'The cheapest kWh of energy is the one you don't use'

Delvin Lane, Head of Energy 360, British Gas, interviewed in 'Energy, Water & Environment', October 2010.

Top Free Savings Tips

By making a few simple changes, businesses can make a big difference to their bottom line. Below are 6 good, practice tips that businesses can follow easily to cut their costs as well as do their bit for the environment.



1. Turn off all office equipment when you're not using it - overnight, at weekends and during bank holidays.

A single computer and monitor left on 24 hours a day will cost over £50 a year. For a typical small office with 10 PCs, this could equate to savings of over £300 per year.

2. Turn off lights in empty rooms and replace bulbs with energy saving ones.

Lighting costs can be cut by as much as 15 per cent by simply turning off lights in rooms and corridors that aren't being used.

3. Reduce water consumption by turning off taps fully and fixing any drips.

A constantly dripping tap can waste 500,000 litres of water per year. This could cost your business about £500 per year.

4. Examine waste disposal costs and look at whether your waste could be reduced or re-used.

Your business can save 4-5 per cent of its turnover by using waste minimisation techniques.

5. Keep heating at a constant level and ensure doors and windows are shut when using heating or air conditioning.

Your heating costs will go up by 8 per cent each time you increase the temperature by just one degree.

6. Use email where possible and set your PC to print double-sided.

Using less paper saves you much more than recycling it, both in costs and staff time spent handling it.

If you have implemented these easy wins then why not consider attending our Utilise course to get new practical ideas and hear what worked for other businesses.

For course information visit

www.ceac.co.uk/html/courses.html

Practical Tips to Avoid Greenwash

A new free guide is available to help businesses avoid making false or misleading green claims.

The Green Claims Guidance, published by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) sets out advice to companies on how to describe the environmental benefits of their products without falling into the greenwash trap.

It provides advice for clear, accurate, relevant and substantiated environmental claims on products, services or in marketing and advertising.



Research conducted in the making of the guide found that while consumers are becoming more familiar with green terms such as 'recycling', they were less sure of phrases like 'negative carbon footprint'.

It also found that companies were not always sure how to communicate the genuine improvements they have made to their products or services.

Environment minister, Lord Henley, said: "Our guide will make things easier for both business and consumer - helping restore public faith in environmental advertising and acting as a resource for companies developing more sustainable products."

The guide encourages businesses to follow three key steps in their labelling. They should ensure the content of the claim is relevant and genuine, claims should be made clearly and accurately and they should be able to substantiate any claims.

The guide has the backing of leading retailers including Marks and Spencer and the Co-operative. Marks and Spencer's corporate sustainability manager, Rowland Hill, said: "We welcome the new Green Claims Guidance which will help companies to market products and services that are more sustainable."

The guidance is available at www.ceac.co.uk/resources.html



Diary

UTILISE Savings through Efficiency

1 day accredited BTEC Level 3 utility management course

Discounts are available for Wycombe and Slough based businesses – visit our website www.ceac.co.uk for more information.

Date: 8th March 2011

Venue: Slough

Date: 7th April 2011

Venue: High Wycombe

CIEH L2 Environmental Principles & Best Practice

1 day accredited course

Date: 14th April 2011

Venue: High Wycombe

To book: E-mail the event title, your details and any special dietary or other requirements to contact@ceac.co.uk.

Alternatively call 01494 527564. Event details are available on our website with an online booking option at www.ceac.co.uk/html/courses.html.

Your Opinion

'A great insight into a subject that most of us try to avoid.'

'A very well presented & informative course.'

'I picked up quite a bit of new information and the points already known were covered in a new angle.'

'All in all, it was probably the most productive two hours that I have spent for some time'



Contact us

T: 01494 527564
E: contact@ceac.co.uk
W: www.ceac.co.uk



Our services

CEAC, the Corporate Environmental Advice Centre, has been providing environmental advice to businesses since 1997.

Based in High Wycombe, CEAC employs an experienced team who together can offer a broad skills base to clients. The Centre operates on a non-commercial basis and provides:

Training

We run environmental workshops, seminars and accredited training courses for businesses.

Environmental Advice and Guidance

We carry out environmental reviews and assist in developing energy and waste management action plans. We offer practical help with implementing environmental management systems (EMS) such as ISO14001, including internal EMS auditing services.

Networking Opportunities

All our events provide networking opportunities for businesses. We believe that sharing of good practice is an important element in achieving environmental excellence.

Newsletter

We publish a free newsletter. To subscribe to our update service e-mail your details to contact@ceac.co.uk.

CEAC works in partnership with:

