

Introduction

Welcome to the December edition of the North West Mayday Network Newsletter. As 2009 draws to a close climate change is high on the agenda with World Leaders gathering in Copenhagen to negotiate a new global agreement to reduce carbon emissions. This is likely to bring an increased momentum as we move into the New Year.

2010 will see an exciting programme of activities within the North West. The 'Leading on Sustainability Programme' run in partnership with Lancaster University begins on 25 February and aims to prepare future leaders for business in the 21st Century. Our best practice forums on resource efficiency, sustainable travel and flexible working, and sustainable procurement will start in January and you can join our LinkedIn Group in advance to be involved. We also have three new regional awards with an environmental focus within the BITC Awards for Excellence programme: the Business Link Northwest Carbon Positive Award, the Department for Transport Sustainable Travel Award and the Lancaster University Leadership for Sustainability Award. We would encourage you all to enter the awards and we will be running surgeries to help with application forms. More information on all of these is included in this Newsletter.

We also have updates from our partners, Foundation – a climate fund for the northwest, and the Manchester Green Business Pledge and the Cumbria Environmental Business Support Programme, as well as information on new campaigns to reduce energy use from Envirolink, tackle waste from Envirowise and Liverpool City Council and a call to help save red squirrels from the Wildlife Trust.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful, relaxing break over the festive season and a happy and successful 2010. I look forward to working with you next year. For more information on anything within the Newsletter please don't hesitate to contact me.

[Gudrun Cartwright](#)

Climate Change Campaign Manager

This month:

- Leading on Sustainability
- Business Resilience to Climate Change
- Best Practice Forums
- Awards for Excellence 2010
- Manchester Environmental Business Pledge
- Cumbria Environmental Business Support Programme
- Foundation - the climate fund for the northwest
- Charge of the Light Brigade
- The Big Give
- Cycle to work
- Employee carbon trading scheme
- Make waste your Business
- Efficiency During Recession
- Upcoming Events

[News from the North West](#)

Leading on Sustainability

Leading on Sustainability is an innovative new programme developed by Business in the Community in partnership with Lancaster University Management School to support organisations in the North West. The programme is designed to prepare future leaders for business in the 21st Century, with a focus on environmental issues such as resource efficiency, energy security and climate change. Businesses that thrive in the future will be those that effectively address these challenges.

The programme will explore the science, politics and business challenges of sustainability, leadership for change and innovation, systemic thinking for complex issues and action learning as a leadership approach. Live case studies of organisations integrating sustainability into policies and practices and a focus on real issues within participants' work places will help ensure that the programme is practical and relevant.

Business resilience and risk management for a changing climate

Climate change will have a significant impact upon businesses during the 21st Century. The latest research indicates that temperatures could potentially rise by around 6°C globally with a range of impacts affecting how we do business in the North West and throughout supply chains across the world. In order to thrive, businesses will need to prepare for these impacts and adopt a robust process of risk management and planning.

We are running a series of workshops that will:

- Give you an overview of how future climate change impacts will affect the North West and your business.
- Help you understand how markets will change and how the insurance industry is preparing.
- Feature a case study from leading businesses who will share their perspectives and the actions they are taking.
- Introduce you to a risk management tool, with a practical session on risk planning for your own organisation.

Dates and venues to be announced.

Best practice forums

Our best practice forums will provide the opportunity for networking and shared learning through workshops, roundtable discussions and an online forum. The forums are led by leading businesses and you can join the forums now by signing up to the [May Day Network North West LinkedIn Group](#)

Awards for Excellence 2010

The BITC Awards for Excellence are now open for entries. To find out more and download an application pack please visit the [Awards for Excellence pages](#)

This year we are pleased to announce three regional awards in the north west:

- The Lancaster University Management School Award for Leadership for Sustainability.
- The Business Link Carbon Positive Footprints Award.
- The Sustainable Travel Award for commuting and business travel - supported by Department for Transport.

To read the criteria for entry and download an application pack visit

http://www.bitc.org.uk/north_west/programmes/awards/north_west_awards_10.html

Manchester Environmental Business Pledge

Are you based in Manchester? Would you like additional support for your business on environmental issues? Manchester City Council has developed a new environmental rewards scheme aimed at businesses called the Environmental Business Pledge (EBP). It is a free service provided by the council to all businesses in the Manchester area with the aim of improving their environmental performance. The council offer free energy resource audits, help and advice on resource efficiency, water and energy use. Benefits include:

- Free help and expert environmental advice from Groundwork
- Help developing an environmental policy
- Advice on developing a waste action plan
- Advice on how to monitor and reduce your carbon footprint

Businesses that sign up to the EBP can receive awards at bronze, silver and gold levels to recognise their commitment to making environmental improvements.

For more information please visit www.manchester.gov.uk or contact Sarah Teague on 0161 953 2737 or s.teague@manchester.gov.uk

Cumbria Environmental Business Support Programme

This programme is delivered by Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency and aims to offer environmental advice to help cut energy use, save water, conserve raw materials, reduce waste, manage emissions in order to save money and reduce environmental impact. The free scheme offers access to the Cumbria Business Environment Network (CBEN) awards scheme, which supports businesses to implement an Environmental Management System, and promote corporate responsibility through the structured awards scheme. Toolkits are also available along with environmental monitoring services. Benefits include:

- Increased profitability
- Reduced environmental impact
- Access to specialist consultancy
- Free advice from qualified environmental auditors
- The programme is aimed towards smaller businesses.

For more information please contact Jeanette Armstrong on 01768 891 555, Jeanette@crea.co.uk or visit www.crea.co.uk

Foundation

Foundation, a climate fund for the Northwest gathers donations from businesses and individuals and uses them to support a variety of community-based carbon reduction projects across the region; projects with additional social and economic benefits that would otherwise be overlooked. They offer businesses a new and unique way to help meet CSR requirements, compensate for unavoidable carbon emissions and invest in the local community. Companies already signed up to work with Foundation include United Utilities, Manchester bar and catering chain Kro and internet haulage agency shiply.com.

Foundation supports a range of projects including energy efficiency improvements, renewable energy installations and behaviour change initiatives. All of the projects result in real carbon savings that are closely monitored and subject to independent verification.

To find out more please visit www.climatefund.org.uk. Alternatively contact the Foundation business development manager David Marnell on 0161 234 6104.

The Light Brigade

Ever walked past a shop or office late at night with all the lights on and thought “what a waste”? If so, this is the campaign for you! The Light Brigade is a campaign that is aiming to highlight energy wastage to the people who run those shops and offices in order to encourage them to take action to save energy, save money and reduce their impact on climate change and light pollution.

The campaign encourages people to take photos of shops/offices with their lights left on overnight and upload them to the website along with basic location of the building and contact details. They then contact the company and encourage them to take action to reduce energy wastage.

Website is being developed but will be hosted as www.thelightbrigade.co.uk

Get switching off those lights!

Save Our Reds - The Big Give

The most recent outbreak of squirrel pox wiped out two thirds of the red squirrel population on the Sefton Coast. There is still hope for the red squirrel population, but action must be taken now.

Creating a large buffer zone around the Red Squirrel refuge area will increase their protection and chance of survival. By keeping grey squirrels out of the buffer zone it increases their chances of survival.

The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside need help to protect the red squirrel population.

Please visit www.lancswt.org.uk or email saveourreds@lancswt.org.uk for information on donating

National News

Cycle to Work Guarantee - Keeping Yourself and the Environment Healthy

The aim of this initiative is to get more employees cycling to work in a bid to combat climate change. Providing on site bike storage and maintenance, incentives and rewards, along with sending out clear signals from the top that cycling to and from the office is a good thing, can all help make cycling a realistic and alternative option for travelling to work.

The scheme opens the door to a number of benefits to both the employer and the employees:

- Employees make big savings on new bikes
- Employers get a healthier workforce and save money
- Employers get a more motivated and energetic workforce
- Decreases congestion on roads leading to shorter journey times

This is an opportunity for employers, for a relatively low cost investment, to reap massive returns for their organisation and their communities

For more information please visit <http://www.cycletoworkguarantee.org.uk/>

Employee carbon trading scheme offered to Mayday members

Engaging employees in tracking and minimising their own carbon footprints is a smart way for businesses to encourage and embed good behaviours in their workforce. This was the learning from WSP who has just piloted the world's first voluntary personal carbon trading scheme for staff for the last 2 years and has just expanded it to staff globally.

To find out more visit http://www.bitc.org.uk/media_centre/news/employee_carbon.html

Make Waste Your Business

The "Make Waste Your Business" campaign is funded by the Environment Agency and Liverpool City Council as part of the Year of the Environment programme. The campaign aims to offer advice and information regarding commercial waste disposal and recycling.

Recycling commercial waste can financially benefit businesses, as there is no landfill tax on items taken to recycling points and, in some cases certain materials can be sold or removed without cost.

The project hopes to give businesses the information they need to get the most cost effective, legal trade waste and recycling contract. This makes good financial sense, as businesses will benefit from having a suitable contract and from avoiding fine payment due to illegal waste management practices.

Further details are available from Liverpool City council: Email: pat.davies@liverpool.gov.uk.

Recession Leaves Legacy of Resource Efficiency

In a recent report published by Envirowise it was suggested that the recession could leave a legacy of improved resource efficiency in the North West as businesses adopt an increasingly 'thrifty' mindset.

The Envirowise Business Thrift Shift Report, which encompasses responses from more than 500 UK companies, reveals that 75% of respondents in the North West have developed a more detailed knowledge of their spending and resource use as a result of the recession. This includes everything from investment in raw materials, transport and energy, to staffing, equipment and professional services.

Reduction of spend on raw materials and consumables was the biggest area of cut back for the region's companies (42%) with a large number also minimising their water, energy and transport use. And this 'thrift shift' is set to continue, with 95% of respondents expecting to be more careful about how they use their resources once recovery comes. Nationally, almost three-quarters of the 500 businesses surveyed (73%) had developed a more detailed knowledge of their spending and resource use as a result of the recession.

The Envirowise Business Thrift Shift Report is available at www.envirowise.gov.uk/thriftshift2009

Dates for Your Diary Events in the North West

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| 14/01/2010 &
18/01/2010 | Awards Surgeries
One to one sessions for Awards for Excellence entrants at the Business in the Community offices in Manchester.
To book a place or for more information email Mary Beaird or telephone 0161 233 7769 |
| 23/02/2010 | Responsible Supply Chain Management Workshop
This interactive workshop will explore the issues, risks and opportunities around responsible supply chain management.
Hosted by Speedy Hire in Newton-le-Willows
For more information visit the event page . |
| 25/02/2010 | Leading on Sustainability
Leading on Sustainability is an innovative new programme developed by Business in the Community in partnership with Lancaster University Management School to support organisations in the North West.
For more information visit the event page . |