



T B E A

MENTORING NETWORK NEWS

Issue 4, June 03

TAMESIDE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

In partnership with

Business Environmental Mentoring Network

Financial Support from TBEA

2. Product Development

www.tameside.gov.uk

Tameside Business Environment Association (TBEA) is now accepting applications for the NEW Direct Small and Medium Sized Enterprises Support Scheme.

Grants are also available for companies to employ expert consultant time to help development by:



- Researching, developing and manufacturing new products.
- Improving and modifying process lines and on-site manufacturing techniques.
- Diversification in new products and processes including environmental technology initiatives.

chamber business enterprises



Project part financed by the European Union

The new initiative aims to provide companies with access to a grant in order to implement a host of environmental activities on their site.

Assistance is available for projects, which enable businesses to improve their sustainability. The SME support scheme has 2 types of grant available:

Again there is a maximum grant of up to 50% of the total cost of the project. This time, however, up to £3,000 can be given towards the cost of the project and this could be extended for exceptional projects.

1. On site environmental improvements

The scheme can provide a grant of up to 50% of the total cost of environmental improvements within a company site, up to a maximum project value of £2,500 (a grant of £1,250).

Unfortunately expenditure on projects for which you have a statutory duty to undertake cannot be funded through this scheme.

This type of project will be expected to demonstrate a contribution to one or more of the following objectives;

Assistance through this scheme is available to Small and Medium sized businesses* located in the Tameside area, and will require a site visit from a TBEA advisor to ensure that the project will lead to clear environmental improvements through changes in process efficiency or reduced raw material usage. Each project will then be discussed on its own merits, and grants will be issued on a first come first serve basis, subject to a finite budget.

- Minimisation of waste generated or improved management of waste.
- Reductions of emissions to air.
- Reduction of discharges to sewer or watercourses.
- Reduction in consumption of energy or water.
- Reduction in the risk of pollution.

*SME is defined as a company with no more than 250 employees, an annual turnover of no more than 40m Euros (£25 m) or a balance sheet total of no more than 27m Euros (£17m) and be independent, i.e. less than 25% owned by another company.

Mentoring Services

- Guidance on Legislation
- Site visits to mentor companies to see good environmental practices
- Regular network meetings
- Best Practice seminars on environmental issues affecting business
- Grantfinding - Advice on opportunities and availability
- Specific case study literature
- Support for developing environmental policies and management systems
- Environmental e-group

For more information on the Direct SME support scheme or to discuss the types of schemes that are eligible for a grant, or for an application pack, please contact Ed McDermott on 0161 342 2885 or email ed.mcdermott@mail.tameside.gov.uk

Environmental impacts of 2003 Budget

Chancellor Gordon Brown has presented the 2003 Budget, setting out a range of environmental measures.

A package of reforms to improve waste management include:

- Confirmation that the landfill tax will increase by £3 per tonne from 2005/06 to reach a rate of £35 per tonne in 2010.
- Further consultation on options for a package of measures to ensure that landfill tax is revenue neutral to business as a whole.
- Reform of the Waste Management and Recycling fund into a local authority Waste Management Performance Fund in England to help improve waste performance for households.

- Reform of the landfill tax credit scheme so that £100 million in 2003/04 and £110 million in 2004/05 and 2005/06 is redirected to public spending on a new sustainable waste delivery programme.

New enhanced capital allowances are proposed for:

- Water efficient technologies, meters, flow controllers, leakage detection equipment, efficient taps and efficient toilets.
- Energy-saving technologies, automatic metering and monitoring equipment (and the existing boiler, compressed air and refrigeration technologies will also be expanded).

See www.eca.gov.uk.

The Government has announced freezes in climate change levy rates in 2003/04, rates of air passenger duty, the main road fuel duties until 1st October 2003, and aggregates levy rates.

Finally, the Budget 2003 introduces:

- Measures to promote cleaner road fuels, including duty incentives for sulphur free fuels and bioethanol and an increase in the duty on red diesel and fuel oil.
- A new lower carbon dioxide vehicle excise duty (VED) band from 1 May 2003 for the most environmentally friendly cars.
- A lower level of emissions for the minimum company car tax charge in 2005/06.

For more information please contact TBEA on 0161 342 2885 or for more in-depth information on the budget go to www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/budget/bud_bud03/bud_bud03_index.cfm

New environmental standard for small businesses

Many organisations including SMEs already have some form of Environmental Management System (EMS) as part of their overall structure. However, many face uncertain difficulties when implementing a formal EMS.

There are over 3.7 million SMEs in the UK, and firms employing fewer than 10 people make up over 90% of all the companies in the UK. They face many challenges in implementing a formal EMS which are often due to limited resources, difficulty in effectively implementing the requirements of **ISO 14001** and the costs involved in implementation.

In these circumstances, a phased approach to implementation offers several advantages. The British Standard Institute are launching a new guide to the phased develop-

ment, implementation, maintenance and improvement of an EMS. **BS 8555:2003 Environmental Management Systems - Guide to the phased implementation of an EMS** will provide guidance to all organisations but particularly SMEs.

It will also include advice on:

- The integration and use of environmental performance evaluation techniques during the implementation process.
- The co-ordination of such an environmental management system with other management systems.

In summary, given the need to help all organisations improve their environmental performance and to improve supply chain relationships the guidance in this standard will:

- Describe a six-phase incremental approach to implementing an

EMS using environmental performance evaluation.

- Provide information to organisations on environmental performance management and the use of environmental indicators.
- Help organisations to satisfy the environmental criteria increasingly being set in contract tenders by new and existing major clients.
- Benefit organisations who may wish to self declare or seek voluntary phased recognition at specified points throughout the implementation process.
- Enable organisations to identify and maximise the areas of greatest potential return on investment.
- Show organisations how to demonstrate to interested parties that progress is being made towards the appropriate target level of environmental management.

For more information on the new **BS 8555:2003 Environmental Management System - Guide to phased implementation of an EMS** contact Jeff Wright at Groundwork Tameside on 0161 342 6726 or visit the acorn trust website, www.theacorntrust.org.uk.

Local Recycling Database

Many companies are facing increasing waste disposal charges as a result of increased Landfill Tax, which aims to make companies think about both minimising and recycling their waste, thus reducing pressures on limited landfill space and wasted natural resources.

In order to help business cut costs associated with waste disposal and help secure new business in an emerging recycling sector, TBEA are currently compiling a local recycling directory, with invitations going

to recyclers in Tameside and Greater Manchester. The Database aims to give Tameside companies quick access to local recyclers to help facilitate sustainable waste practices.



Landfill Site, where your waste ends up

The database is available on the resource packed www.tbea.org.uk web site

which contains various information to help businesses assess their overall environmental performance.

Free site visits are also available to Tameside companies that want an assessment of their waste disposal techniques, or to discuss any environmental issues, including improving sales through improved environmental image, energy efficiency, transport analysis, legislative compliance, amongst other issues in confidence.

For more information or a copy of the Recyclers Directory for business please contact Ed McDermott at Tameside Business Environment Association on 342 2885 or email tbea@mail.tameside.gov.uk

Tax relief from cycling to work

A travel plan is a package of practical measures designed to reduce car use for journeys to and from work, and for business travel. They are put together by employers, and can be adapted to suit particular needs of individual sites.

Normally, when an employer provides money or benefits for things like the costs of petrol or season tickets for employees to get to or from work, these benefits are taxable.

However, there are a number of circumstances where, since 6 April 1999, the tax and National Insurance Contributions (NICs) charge has

been lifted on travel plan employers offer to employees.

One such scheme is providing bicycles or cycling safety equipment for employees travelling to and from work, for which there is no tax or NICs to pay on this benefit if offered to employees.

There are a number of other features to this scheme. The bicycles can be used by the employee for leisure as long as the bike is predominantly for work, and employees can get tax relief on mileage of up to 12p per mile for business travel when they use their own cycles. This relief can cover any mileage their employer pays, up to that

amount, so that there is no tax or NICs to pay.

What is Business travel?

Business travel covers journeys that employers have to make in order to carry out their job. For example:

- Journeys that employees have to make as part of their job, i.e. from the usual workplace to a meeting at another office.
- Journeys that employees have to make to or from a temporary workplace, i.e. travelling directly from home to visit a client.

Further information is available through the Inland Revenue
www.inlandrevenue.gov.uk
0845 9000 404

Oil Storage

The next phase of the **Control of Pollution (Oil Storage) (England) Regulations 2001** comes into force on 1 September 2003.

The regulations affecting above ground oil storage came into effect in March 2002, and since then new oil stores have had to meet the minimum standards to prevent pollution and provide better protection to the environment.

The regulations will eventually effect all existing oil stores, but oil storage in "high risk areas" (defined as within 10 metres of a watercourse or 50 metres of a well or borehole) must comply by 1st September 2003.

The regulations apply in England where oil is stored in containers of more than 200 litres outside and above ground at industrial, commercial or institutional sites. The regulations apply for example to factories, shops, offices, hotels, schools, public sector buildings and hospitals.

Failure to comply with the regulations is a criminal offence, which can result in prosecution and a fine of up to £20,000.

All types of oil - excluding waste mineral oil - are covered by the regulations and include petrol, diesel, vegetable, synthetic and mineral oils.

www.environment-agency.gov.uk

If you would like more information on any of the news items mentioned in this newsletter please contact Ed McDermott for more details on 0161 342 2885 or email tbea@mail.tameside.gov.uk



Contact us

If you have any queries or comments about **Mentoring Network News** or suggestions for articles, please contact Ed McDermott or Adam Hackett on **0161 342 2885**

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FLY TIPPING - Dial 0845 3000 630 and stop a common problem

The environmental charity ENCAMS (Environmental Campaigns) which runs the Keep Britain Tidy campaign, is running a new poster campaign to encourage the public to report anyone they see dumping sofas, mattresses, fridges and other large items of rubbish in the countryside.

According to the charity, recent research revealed that cleaning this waste up is costing over £22 million per year.

People are being asked to ring the tip-off hotline number, tel: **0845 3000 630**, and report on those they catch fly tipping. Councils and the Environment Agency will then either try to apprehend them red-handed or set up a trap to get them next time.

Keep Britain Tidy www.encams.org

Go green and save cash!!

BUSINESSES - SAVE MONEY BY CUTTING WASTE

Calling all businesses - how would you like to help the environment and at the same time save money?

Castrol UK's Hyde plant has been doing just that by increasing the range of waste materials it recycles - with a little help from TBEA.

Many companies are facing increasing waste disposal charges as a result of increased Landfill Tax, which aims to make companies think about both minimising and recycling their waste, thus reducing pressures on limited landfill space and wasted natural resources.

A spokesman for Castrol UK said: "What started as a review of disposal costs became an exercise in cost saving and environmental protection, in short a win-win opportunity. Our team identified that materials, such as paper, cardboard, glass and plastics were a potential resource going to waste."

Castrol UK in Hyde now has its paper and glass recycled through the local Council and is considering options for plastic and cardboard recycling. On top of all that it is also hoping to make use of the Council's glass crushing machine for its specialised glassware.

The spokesman added: "Our own working environment will also benefit when the large skips, that for years have been required to hold waste, are finally removed from the site."

TBEA are currently compiling a local recycling directory. The Database aims to give Tameside companies quick access to local recyclers to help facilitate sustainable waste practices.

Cllr Catherine Piddington, Cabinet Deputy for Environmental Services, said: "The recycling directory is a great idea. Not only will it help businesses cut costs associated with waste disposal it will also help secure new business in an emerging recycling sector."

The database is available on www.tbea.org.uk which contains various information to help businesses assess their overall environmental performance, and is already available through TBEA's online discussion forum, the Environmental E- group.



Castrol Employee filling reconditioned oil drums

For more information on this case study, a copy of the Local Recyclers Directory for business, or for details of the environmental e-group, please contact Ed McDermott at TBEA on 0161 342 2885 or email tbea@mail.tameside.gov.uk.

THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENTAL MENTORING NETWORK

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