



T B E A

MENTORING NETWORK NEWS

Issue 1, Aug 02

TAMESIDE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION

In partnership with

Business Environmental Mentoring Network

www.Tameside.gov.uk



chamber business enterprises



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

One Year On

The Business Environmental Mentoring Network has just had its first birthday and has recently secured funding from the Tame Valley Partnership to

the Climate Change Levy, an overview of environmental legislation, and waste. An environmental surgery was held in March, where companies had the opportunity to have their environmental queries

their role to offer support to companies in Tameside who have environmental issues such as waste, energy efficiency and compliance with legislation associated with their sector.

Mentor Companies

Vitamol, Ashton-Under-Lyne

Hadfield Wood Recyclers, Droylsden

Shirley Dyeing & Finishing Ltd, Hyde

Centrica (Formerly British Gas Trading), Hyde

Centura Foods, Droylsden.

Stepan UK, Stalybridge.

These companies are willing to share examples of good environmental practice. Help has already been given on Environmental Management Systems and recycling and we are in the process of gathering support from more companies to help you with your problems.



Transport network meeting, Stalybridge Civic Hall

continue for another year.

In the first year of the network over 40 companies have received assistance, through a range of avenues from site visits to seminars. So far three network events have been held covering a range of topics including

answered. These events were extremely well attended with companies from a range of different sectors.

The first year of the network has also seen six companies join as mentors,

If you would like to get involved as either a mentor or to receive information on best practice, or if you have any ideas for the newsletter please contact Ed McDermott on 0161 342 2885 or email tbea@mail.tameside.gov.uk.

Business Transport Seminar

On Wednesday 12th June, Stalybridge Civic Hall was host to TBEA's "Business Transport Seminar", run as part of National Green Transport Week. Over 25 people attended the event, and the feedback was very positive.

Green Transport in a nutshell!

The seminar aimed to give businesses a broad knowledge of the issues concerning transport, what their responsibilities are, the cost to them, and the help available.

Chris Chandler, from Fleet Audits, Vehicle Fleet Consultancy, began proceedings, by speaking about **Cost effective car and fleet management**, covering the importance of vehicle selection, driving style and vehicle usage.

For the foreseeable future we expect environmental issues to be the primary driver for vehicle taxation. Already two such examples are the CO2 based company car Benefit In Kind (BIK) Tax, which will be based on a percentage of the cars listed price. The main losers will in particular be high business mileage users in expensive cars. The CO2 based fuel Scale charge, is another such example, which will effect employees who receive free fuel for their private mileage in their company cars from April 2003 and will be directly linked to the levels of emissions produced.

In order to become greener, you must firstly understand your current position, by looking at journey patterns for business trips and the ve-

hicles being operated. You should also record business mileage and fuel consumption. Once this is done you can then analyse the data to identify areas of inefficiency and evaluate alternative options. There are a number of things that can be done to encourage improved fleet management. These include controlling travel reimbursement, so as not to encourage driving extra miles. Driver education is also very important, to encourage efficient driving, journey planning and vehicle checks. Fuel use and travel can be monitored to check consumption and mileage.

Richard Armitage, from Richard Armitage Transport Consultancy in Hyde, covered the **Benefits of Travel Plans for businesses and employers**.

There are many benefits to the employer for introducing a travel plan. They can help employee recruitment and retention by reducing employee stress, creating a healthier lifestyle and making a better place to work.

Travel plans can also enhance the corporate identity, by creating a better image and public relations, and help the organisation meet key goals such as environmental management and quality assurance.

The surrounding areas also benefit, with reduced congestion, improved journey times, better air quality, less noise pollution and less environmental impact.

Financial Support

The final presentation was given by Barney Milles, of the Energy Saving Trust (EST), who talked about what **the EST do and the grants available to help businesses**.

The EST was established in 1993 and is funded by the government to tackle the environmental concerns raised by the Rio Earth summit in 1992.

Transport Action was also introduced, with the objective to, "Create a market for cleaner vehicles, and to deliver local and global environmental benefits." It has created two programmes, Powershift and CleanUp, which offer funding to companies to convert their vehicles to clean fuel such as Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG), based on certain criteria.



Chris Chandler from Fleet Audits talking about Company Fleet Management.

Travel plans include planning travel within the organisation and reducing the over-dependency of the car. They aim to make small changes in everyone's travel behaviour, including switching to more environmentally friendly ways of travelling, including car sharing, buses, trains, walking and cycling.

If you would like any general advice on any of the topics mentioned, including grant availability, or would like a copy of the delegate pack from the seminar, please contact Adam or Ed on 0161 342 2885 or visit www.tbea.org.uk.

You can also access the delegate packs on our website, www.tbea.org.uk

As part of National Green Transport Week, between 8th and 16th June, TBEA in conjunction with Tameside Council organised a range of events to mark the occasion. Cycling Matters was the theme of the first event on Monday, when "Bike Doctor" Peter Evans from Bridge Cycles in Stalybridge, provided cycle check ups outside Ashton Civic Hall, offering cyclists, including the mayor of Tameside, Cllr Pauline Harrison and Cabinet Deputy, Cllr Alan Whitehead, advice on repairing their bikes and keeping them safe.



Vehicle Emissions Testing Event, Snipe retail park, Ashton-Under-Lyne

On Tuesday officers from the council's Environmental Protection unit, carried out vehicle emissions testing on the Snipe retail park. A total of 40 vehicles were tested, with 25% of them failing an MOT standard on that day. In the near future, the council will have powers to stop vehicles, **including commercial vehicles**, on the road side and carry out compulsory emissions testing, with fixed penalty notices of £40 being issued to those who fail.

Deputy Chair of Ashton-Under-Lyne District Assembly, Cllr Sheila Ballagher, supported Tameside's first ever Cleaner Vehicle Exhibition, when she visited the event which took place on Wednesday, at Asda car park. Members of the public and businesses were invited to visit the display of both private and commercial low polluting vehicles

from Volvo, Vauxhall and Toyota. Representatives from Evans Halshaw (Stockport), Culvers (Stockport), and Pentagon Vauxhall (Oldham) were present to inform visitors about the environmental benefits of their alternative fuel vehicles. A display about the problems associated with road traffic and air pollution was on show inside the Asda store, which helped Council Officers to raise the profile about the issues with the local community.

If you would like more information about these events please contact Tameside MBC's Travel Co-ordinator Liz Lambert on 0161 342 3989

Fresh solutions for the Northwest's Food sector

Food and agricultural companies from across England's Northwest attended an environmental technologies showcase at Ashton-under-Lyne Civic Hall on May 29th.

The showcase featured more than 30 companies that offer the very latest in environmental services, from waste management and water treatment to pollution control and advice on government legislation. The event included exhibitions and expert speakers and was organ-

ised by Envirolink Northwest in partnership with the Northwest



Environmental Technologies Showcase Event Ashton Civic Hall

Food Alliance, Tameside MBC TBEA and MIDAS.

Envirolink's newly appointed Chair, Neville Chamberlain CBE, spelt out the opportunities the event offered to the Northwest's food industry.

"There are some serious environmental pressures being felt by our region's food companies, from the latest legislation concerning pollution control to the impact of the Climate Change Levy and the need to cut costs and boost profits. Luckily, England's Northwest boasts more than 700 thriving companies dedicated to delivering solid, robust solutions to the environmental challenges facing business today."

For more information please call Pia Wagner at Envirolink on 01942 491 294 or email: p.wagner@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk



Contact us

If you have any queries or comments about the

Mentoring Network News

or suggestions for articles, please contact Ed McDermott or Adam Hackett on

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News

Hazardous Wastes

The European Commissions Landfill Directive has taken effect, as of 16 July 2002. It will have a major impact on waste regulation and the waste industry in the UK.

Under the new regulations, certain hazardous wastes will no longer be permitted on landfill sites. These wastes include:

- Explosive and oxidising substances
- Any flammable or highly flammable chemicals
- Corrosive chemicals
- Infectious clinical waste
- Any waste in liquid form, except sludge
- Any laboratory-produced chemicals which are old or not known for their effects on the environment or man.

Hazardous wastes banned by the EC's Landfill Directive will stop being landfilled immediately. Instead they will be managed by treatment or incinerated.

Local authorities will also be given permits dictating how much waste can be landfilled. Once they have run out of permits they must apply to the Government for further payments and must pay for them. Landfill owners wishing to continue operating under the new laws must submit a 'Conditioning Plan' detailing how they will comply with the regulations.

The Environment Agency will also regularly inspect landfill sites to ensure that no illegal wastes have been dumped on the sites. The practice of mixing hazardous and non hazardous wastes will no longer be allowed. Landfill companies that do not comply with the new regulations will be subject to fines and prosecutions.

According to the Environment Agency, England and Wales produced approximately 6.1 million tonnes of hazardous waste in 2000. Of this about 43% was landfilled and 18% was recycled or re-used.

For more information please contact TBEA on 0161 342 2885

Other Business Support in Tameside

Tameside Business Outreach Service

This is a FREE specialist service to all small to medium sized businesses in Tameside. It works on a one to one basis communicating directly with business owners and managers to provide advice, support and signposting on:

- Grant information
- Location and premises
- Local regeneration updates
- Recruitment
- Business planning
- Use and development of ICT
- Marketing
- Training and skills issues
- Investment and finance

If you would like more information call the Business Outreach team on:

Phil Cowper

Business Outreach Officer for Mossley, Stalybridge, Dukinfield, Longendale and Ashton St Michaels

0161 303 8638

07773 365871

Tracy Leonard

Business Outreach Officer for Denton, Droylsden, Hyde, Audenshaw, and Ashton Waterloo/ Ashton Hurst

0161 342 2794

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The *e-tameside* Business Team offer free and impartial advice on internet and electronic commerce to Small and Medium sized Enterprise businesses within Tameside. Advice is available on: **Developing a website, using email to promote business, using the internet for business research, typical costs.**

The business team can also offer grant assistance of up to 50% (Max £2,000) to businesses wanting to set up and develop their own website.

Regular seminars are held on internet related topics. Forthcoming seminars include:

- 11 September. **Debunking the myth** - Online payment provision Venue: the Village Hotel, Hyde
- 16 October. **What makes a good basic website** Venue: Stalybridge civic hall
- 28 October. **What makes a good e-commerce site** Venue: Stalybridge civic hall.

For more information please see www.tameside.gov.uk/etameside including online seminar booking or an advice visit. Or telephone **0161 342 2515** or email etbt@mail.tameside.gov.uk