

Sustainable business matters

Bite Size Green Support

Would you like to recycle more, reduce waste and save on energy and water? We have launched a bite sized service that will help you meet your environmental obligations in a cost and time effective way.

CEAC's new *Green Check* service allows you to establish key environmental information about your business. Each check is self-contained but taken together they can form initial stepping stones towards an Environmental Management System such as ISO14001.

The service is based on several years' experience of delivering environmental reviews to local businesses and the recognition that companies do not usually have a lot of time to devote to 'green' management and so may miss opportunities. *Green Check* does not rely on lengthy site visits as work is carried out remotely and results are supplied by e-mail. There is support by phone to talk through a particular issue in more detail.

Green Checks offered focus on energy use, CO2 emissions, water use, recycling and environmental policy. Each will provide the business with measurable performance information and guidance if room for improvement is identified. Businesses can choose to mix and match checks as required.

'The service is designed for the small and medium sized business who needs environmental expertise that does not cost the earth, and would like to have access to an independent opinion and reassurance that they are moving in the right direction', comments CEAC's Business Programme Director, Marylene Mansfield-Williams.

The Environmental Policy Check, for example, provides advice on how to write a policy and gives an independent review of existing company environmental policies. It also includes guidance on how to avoid common pitfalls and ensure the policy is compatible with current standards.

As environmental requirements continue to grow, the service aims to respond to the need for flexible business support on a range of issues so that in-house capacity is enhanced without diverting significant resources from the core business.

For further information e-mail CEAC at contact@ceac.co.uk.



Free Sustainable Innovation Consultancy

If you are an inventor, start-up, service or product manufacturing company with less than 250 employees and based in the South East region you may be eligible for up to two days of free consultancy support. The Centre for Sustainable Design www.cfsd.org.uk is able to provide free research and advice related to greener product design and development, funding, marketing and commercialisation to eligible individuals or companies through European Commission funding. Contact Tim Woolman, Project Coordinator, twoolman@ucreative.ac.uk for more information.

Rainwater Guide

Envirowise has issued a four page leaflet on reducing mains water use through rainwater harvesting. It targets any business where rainwater can be collected in sufficient volume to be reused. It details how to quantify the volume of rainwater that can be collected and lists key considerations, such as water quality, when assessing options for reuse. Visit www.ceac.co.uk/html/resources.html to download a copy. Additional detail can also be found in the newly launched BSI *Rainwater Harvesting Systems – Code of Practice* which applies to both retrofitting and new build, available from www.bsi-global.com/upload/Standards%20&%20Publications/shop.html

Incident Planning Guidance

The Environment Agency has published new guidance to help businesses with incident response planning that could reduce the risk of an event happening or help to act quickly if one does.

Many pollution incidents can be avoided with planning and preparation. They are the key to protecting the environment and minimizing the impact on your business continuity. The Environment Agency's new guidance, *Incident Response Planning*, provides tested advice on how to produce and implement an incident response plan to help you reduce environmental risks.

The free guide provides a template for the basic information about your site that is needed for your plan and gives clear and easy to understand advice on:

- preparing the plan
- activating the plan and responding to incidents
- plan testing / staff training
- reviewing the plan.

The new 20 page guidance is aimed primarily at sites and organisations **without** legal obligation to produce a plan such as:

- Site operators of industrial and commercial premises that store, use or process toxic and/or polluting substances such as chemicals, oils, food or beverages
- Other organisations, authorities and individuals whose site or operations pose a potential risk to the environment
- Fire and Rescue Service and others who may be involved in the production of such plans, such as insurers and underwriters.

The new PPG21 is available in hard copy by calling the Environment Agency national Customer Contact Centre on 08708 506 506 or can be downloaded from www.ceac.co.uk/html/resources.html.



New Business Carbon Reduction Rules

April 2010 will see the introduction of the UK wide Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC), an innovative climate change and energy saving scheme for UK businesses and public sector organisations. It will encourage improvements in energy efficiency which can save money. The scheme has been designed to generate a shift in awareness in large organisations especially at senior level, and to drive changes in behavior and infrastructure.

CRC is a central part of the UK's strategy for controlling our carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. It will tackle emissions not already covered by Climate Change Agreements and the EU Emissions Trading System. This will help reduce the country's carbon footprint to deliver the ambitious emissions reduction targets set in the Government's Climate Change Act.

Emissions trading schemes such as CRC provide a financial incentive to reduce emissions by placing a price on carbon emissions. In the case of CRC, participants have to purchase allowances equivalent to their emissions each year. The overall emissions reduction target is achieved by means of a cap on the total number of allowances available to the group of participants. However, within that overall limit, individual participants can determine the most cost-effective means to reduce their emissions. Overall the scheme is predicted to achieve emissions reductions of at least 4MtCO₂ per year by 2020.

It is estimated that the energy efficiency benefit to participants will be around £1 billion by 2020. Revenue recycled back to participants from the sale of allowances each year will also include a bonus for the best performers. In addition to financial incentives, the scheme will provide a reputational incentive as well. Participants will be ranked according to their performance in a league table. This will then be made available for public scrutiny.

As organisations will have to monitor their emissions it will also lead to improved understanding of both energy consumption and opportunities for energy efficiency. Around 20,000 organisations may be affected by the scheme and yours could be one of them. Failure to comply with your obligations will result in penalties including monetary fines.

For a detailed guide about the scheme visit www.ceac.co.uk/html/resources.html.



Envirofacts

- During their lifetime, each UK citizen produces 3.3 tonnes of electrical waste.
- Two million TV sets are discarded every year.
- Around the UK there are over 1500 Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment collection points plus in-store retail drop off points.
- The energy saved from recycling one glass bottle is enough to power a light bulb for four hours.
- Recycling one plastic bottle can save the same amount of energy needed to power a 60-watt light bulb for six hours.
- The UK uses over six million toner cartridges annually - approximately 50% end up in landfill sites.

Big WEEE Raid

Environment Agency enforcement officers have raided two sites in east London and in Essex in the most significant action to date in stopping the suspected illegal export of electrical waste from the UK.

Following an intelligence-led investigation Environment Agency teams swooped on almost 500 storage and shipping containers at an industrial site in Rainham, east London and at a farm near Upminster, Essex. Around 50 people were questioned before Environment Agency officers began searching containers, gaining access using bolt-cutters and steel grinders. More than 100 personnel took part in the Environment Agency-led operation which was supported by officers from the Metropolitan and Essex Police service.

Many containers were found packed with waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) - such as old TVs, computer monitors and fridges - suspected of being destined for Africa.

National Enforcement Service Project Manager Chris Smith, said: "The Environment Agency is stepping up efforts to stop electrical waste being illegally sent abroad. Our investigations have found that the majority of this equipment is beyond repair and is being stripped down for raw materials under appalling conditions in Africa. But the law is clear - electrical waste must be recycled in the UK, not sent to developing countries in Africa where unsafe dismantling puts human health and the environment at risk.

The Environment Agency has created a national team to stamp out this illegal trade and strong intelligence work has resulted in this operation - the most significant action to date in investigating suspected electrical waste being shipped to Africa."

Stop notices were placed on shipping containers, preventing them from being moved. Environment Agency officers will now gather evidence at the two sites to determine the source of the electrical waste.

Some electrical waste contains hazardous substances such as mercury and lead and to protect the environment the WEEE Regulations were introduced in 2007 to ensure more electrical waste is recycled safely instead of going to landfill.

Over six million electrical items are discarded by people in the UK every year, which equates to over one million tonnes of waste - enough to fill Wembley Stadium at least six times.

The Environment Agency is hopeful that the raids will lead to charges being brought under Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations. Anyone found guilty of exporting waste abroad illegally is facing a maximum two years in jail and an unlimited fine. The Environment Agency can also pursue profits from criminal activity under the Proceeds of Crime Act.



Diary

CIEH Environmental Awareness Certificate Course

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

Date: 2nd July 2009

Venue: High Wycombe

Fee: £195 (includes course materials, lunch and refreshments).

CIWM Waste Awareness Certificate Course

Chartered Institution of Wastes Management

Date: 8th October 2009

Venue: High Wycombe

Fee: £195 (includes course materials, lunch and refreshments).

Bright Savings

Save Energy with Lighting

Date: 15th October 2009

Venue: Slough, Slough Business Environment Club

Fee: £50 / SBEC Members free

Cleaner, Greener Office Showcase

Date: 26th November 2009

Venue: Slough, Slough Business Environment Club

Fee: £50 / SBEC Members free

Environmental Legislation Update

Date: 4th March 2010

Venue: Slough, Slough Business Environment Club

Fee: £50 / SBEC Members free

To book an event or course: E-mail the event title, your details and any special dietary /other requirements to contact@ceac.co.uk. Alternatively call 01494 527564. Event details are also available on our website www.ceac.co.uk.

Our Events - Your Opinion

'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.'

'Many ideas to put into force.'

'Really enjoyed it, excellent presentation. Clear, relayed simply, not rushed.'





CONTACT US

CEAC
Kelvin House
1 Totteridge Avenue
High Wycombe
Bucks HP13 6XG

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



CEAC SERVICES

CEAC, the Corporate Environmental Advice Centre, has been providing environmental management 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 organise and present environmental workshops, seminars and accredited training courses for businesses.

Environmental Management Expertise

We carry out environmental reviews and assist in developing energy and waste management strategies. We offer practical help with implementing environmental management systems such as ISO14001. We also offer internal environmental 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.

Information Service

We can advise businesses on environmental topics and compile tailor made resource packs.



CEAC works in partnership with:



Corporate Environmental Advice Centre Ltd trading as CEAC
Registered in England and Wales - Registration number 06840983
Registered office: Kelvin House, 1 Totteridge Avenue, High Wycombe, Bucks HP13 6XG