
GREEN BUSINESS PROJECT

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report provides the results of the Green Business Project which was undertaken on the Hockley Foundry and Eldon Way industrial estates in Hockley and the Purdeys Way industrial estate in Rochford. Refer to Appendix One for the Project Report
- 1.2. This project originated as part of Rochford District Council's strategy to address Local Agenda 21 within the district. While Local Agenda 21 is not a statutory function of councils, there is a government requirement for Councils to produce a Local Agenda 21 Strategy and action plan by the end of 2000.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1. The aim of the initiative is to improve the environmental performance of businesses on the estates while enabling them to cut costs. The project also identified opportunities for sharing knowledge and resources to mutual advantage, focussing on reducing energy use and waste minimisation.
- 2.2. A longer term aim of the project was to form a successful framework which can be applied to other industrial estates within the Rochford District.
- 2.3. Rochford District Council has joined forces with the Essex Training and Enterprise Council and Business Link South East Essex to develop this Green Business Project.

3 DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROJECT

- 3.1 The project offered businesses a free assessment to identify opportunities for environmental improvement and cost savings; and free help and advice on environmental matters such as energy efficiency, waste reduction and disposal, packaging, transport, water and effluent, government initiatives (e.g. grants), and legislation.
- 3.2 Refer to Appendix One for the project methodology.

4 PROJECT SUMMARY

- 4.1 Main conclusions of the report were as follows:

Environmental Policy: A number of organisations on the industrial estates were interested in the environmental policy aspect of their

company and realised the marketability of establishing one. However, only three companies on the industrial estates visited had actually developed Environmental Policies.

Energy Use: Of the companies contacted , 35% were given advice on energy efficiency matters.

Waste: Of the companies contacted, 79% were given advice on waste minimisation.

Transport: Staff travel/commuting was the only issue raised in relation to transport.

Water: None of the companies visited used unnecessary amounts of water.

Management Advice: In addition to the advice given in relation to environmental matters, 29% of the companies contacted received general management advice.

- 4.2. Several businesses involved in the project felt they would benefit from a newsletter that would keep them up to date with environmental legislation and other environmental matters that may concern their businesses. Refer to Appendix Two for a copy of the first newsletter.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Please refer to Appendix One.

6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. While this project has involved considerable staff time, funding for company visits by the environmental consultant has been provided by Essex TEC. The results of the company visits carried out can be followed up by staff, however the continuation of this project onto other industrial estates will require additional resources. Staff will continue to seek further external funding.

9 RECOMMENDATION

- 9.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS:-**

(1) that the Project Report contained in Appendix One be noted.

(2) that Officers seek further funding to continue the project on other industrial estates within the District, and that a report be brought back to this committee in due course.

- (3) That Rochford Green Business News be published quarterly in order to facilitate a waste exchange and update businesses on environmental issues, regulations and legislation. (HCPI)

Shaun Scrutton

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Background Papers:

Refer to Appendix One

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