



TOUCHWOOD
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EXCLUSIVE Touchwood Sustainability Breakfast Business Visit - 09/07/13

Solihull businesses are invited to find out first-hand how Touchwood is embracing sustainable business practices on Wednesday 9th July 2014.

Lend Lease's flagship Solihull shopping centre places sustainability at the forefront of everything it does. Touchwood's vision is to achieve net zero carbon status and zero waste to landfill by 2016. "We are committed to creating a sustainable environment and to achieve cultural social and economic enrichment. In order to reach our goals we have a vision to implement sustainable best practice, not just in the way we manage our centre but also how we engage with our community" commented Andrew Cole, General Manager at Touchwood.

Join the Touchwood team, Lend Lease and Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group at 'The Hub' Touchwood for an EXCLUSIVE look behind the scenes -

Agenda

- 7.45am - Registration, Fairtrade Breakfast and Networking
- 8.05am - Introduction
- 8.15am - Lend Lease Sustainability Approach
- 8.45am - Touchwood Sustainability Achievements
- 9.15am - Q&A
- 9.30am - Close

The event is **FREE to attend** but places are limited so please book early to avoid disappointment. To register, e-mail your name, organisation, job title, address and any access requirements to sustainabilityvisioning@solihull.gov.uk or call Mary Gibbs on tel: 0121 704 6972.

Case Study: Touchwood Environmental Treasure Hunt

Lend Lease came up with an innovative way to engage all members of their Touchwood team in raising awareness and identifying ways in which sustainability could be improved by embarking upon an 'environmental treasure hunt'.

The day sought to widen the understanding of environmental issues as well as identify opportunities to save carbon and money by improving the energy efficiency of the centre.

A diverse group of 14 treasure hunters with a broad mix of skills and experience from Touchwood and Lend Lease head office were split into teams to look, listen and feel for energy, water and waste saving opportunities. Armed with an environmental kit bag, they were tasked with hunting for environmental improvement opportunities across whole centre, including the back of house areas, car parks and the malls.

The aim was to identify energy savings equivalent to five per cent of the site's annual consumption. The day was a resounding success with electricity saving opportunities amounting to nine per cent of the total site's electricity consumption being identified. If all of the opportunities are realised the centre could achieve a financial saving of £25,000 per annum from its energy spend.




Lend Lease

Andrew Cole, General Manager at Touchwood, commented: "The treasure hunt was a fun and engaging way to bring together both our Asset Management and Facilities Management teams as well as local town centre stakeholders and external contractors. We dug into the real detail of how we take an already well-performing centre to the next level of sustainability."

"It is all too easy to be complacent and having people from all levels of the business taking a collaborative approach to the issues has given us a great insight into the ways we can take things forward. This is a great way to approach the challenge and I would recommend it to any asset looking to reinvigorate their environmental credentials."



Ecuity expanding thanks to Business Development Programme Grant Funding

A Solihull-based firm of experts in low carbon energy and environmental regulation are looking to expand with help from a new grant-aid programme aimed at helping businesses grow. Ecuity provides expert advice to companies in the UK and internationally on the political aspects of developing markets for low carbon energy solutions. The firm was founded by James Higgins and Dave Sowden in 2012 and currently employs 15 people. The company advises on a wide range of issues including whole-house energy efficiency retrofits via Government's Green Deal programme, renewable energy generation and smart grids. Focusing solely on the low carbon sector has allowed Ecuity to develop an intuitive understanding of the energy sector and the wide range of policies that shape the market.

Ecuity is one of a growing number of companies in the Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP (GBSLEP) area to have benefitted from the Business Development Programme. The funding has been used to expand into new offices at Radcliffe House, Blenheim Court, Solihull.

James Higgins, Partner, said: "The BDP Grant has come at a perfect time in our development, moving into a larger open plan office has enabled us to create a workspace consistent with our values and our brand. It's really helped us rethink the way in which our staff collaborate and share ideas and new ways of working."

Councillor Ian Courts, Cabinet Member for Economic Development at Solihull Council said: "It is great to see the Business Development Programme support the growth of local companies such as Ecuity. Finance is a key issue for businesses and this programme is providing a stepping stone that enables organisations to realise expansion and recruitment plans. Already more than £2 million of grants and 'match funding' has been secured across the programme, together with the creation of over 300 jobs. Businesses tell us that the biggest obstacle to growth is a lack of access to bank finance. This innovative programme is an essential resource that is supporting business growth in Solihull and the West Midlands."

The Business Development Programme is an £8 million business support programme funded by the European Regional Development Fund aimed at helping more than 400 companies across the GBSLEP area. To qualify for funding of between **£10,000 and £15,000 towards business expansion projects**, companies have to have been trading for more than six months and have expansion plans ready to implement that will safeguard existing jobs or create new ones. The Business Development Programme grant is available to businesses in eligible sectors that are located within the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership area. The grant covers 45% of the costs of an eligible project, subject to satisfying criteria and approval.

For more information about the programme please contact **Solihull Council's Business Support Team** on **0121 704 6151** or email business@solihull.gov.uk.

Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme Grants £10k - £1million

A £20 million funding programme to help supply chain companies develop, grow and diversify within the green sector in the West Midlands.

The scheme is aimed at companies that operate within the green sector or which are seeking to diversify or set up within this sector, such as renewable energy, low carbon, building technologies, manufacturing, transport and logistics. Grant support of between £10k and £1million is available to develop new markets, new products, new processes, skills development and purchase of capital equipment and premises refurbishment.

The Green Bridge Supply Chain Programme is available to businesses in the local enterprise partnership areas of Greater Birmingham & Solihull, Black Country, Coventry & Warwickshire, The Marches, Staffordshire & Stoke-on-Trent and Worcestershire. It is funded through the Government's Regional Growth Fund and the European Regional Development Fund and is managed by Birmingham City Council.

For further details including how to apply visit:
www.birmingham.gov.uk/greenbridge



Solihull businesses join forces to 'Love Solihull'

Employees from some of Solihull's leading organisations showed their love for Solihull last week as they joined forces for a day of environmental work.

Over 25 volunteers headed down to Alcott Wood Park on Friday 20 June to carry out environmental and access improvements, in support of Solihull Council's Love Solihull campaign. The improvements included laying new footpaths, clearing back vegetation, painting fences and creating better access to the Chelmsley Wood beauty spot.

Volunteers on the day were representatives from Draintech Services, EH Smith, Environment Agency, Hardyman, Jaguar Land Rover, NEC Group and Solihull Council – member organisations of Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group.

Joe McNamara, Chair of the Group and Lean Manufacturing Manager at Jaguar Land Rover, said: "It's great to see so many volunteers from Solihull businesses really getting stuck in and working together to enhance the enjoyment of this local park. Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group is delighted to support the Love Solihull campaign and encourage its members to carry out volunteering work for the benefit of the local community."

Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group is led by senior business representatives and stakeholders and aims to put Solihull at the forefront of sustainable business development and be a showcase for environmental business standards, supporting the transition to a low carbon economy.

Solihull's new Mayor, Councillor Mrs Kate Wild visited Alcott Wood on the day to see the volunteers hard at work. She said: "It was a pleasure to visit the park and see the fantastic improvements being made by volunteers from businesses. By working together to carry out environmental projects we can achieve so much more to make Solihull an even greater place to live, work and visit."

Love Solihull aims to inspire residents, businesses, schools and voluntary organisations to become involved in environmental activities to create cleaner, greener lives for people across the borough. If you 'Love Solihull' and would like to improve your local area, contact the **Love Solihull** team on **0121 704 6243** or lovesolihull@solihull.gov.uk

Corporate volunteering can help improve team working and is a great way for businesses to demonstrate their commitment to the local community. If your business would like to get involved in environmental volunteering activities, please contact Solihull Council's **Neighbourhood Activity Team** email: environmentalchampions@solihull.gov.uk

Resource Efficiency Advice for SME's

The NISP Programme, delivered by International Synergies Ltd, has funding to deliver up to **16 hours FREE business support to SMEs** based in the West Midlands.

The aim of this support is to provide companies with more cost effective outlets for underutilised resources and waste materials to cut operating costs. The support will be delivered by visits to site to look at waste streams, waste audits, awareness raising sessions for staff and the opportunity to network at one of their Resource Matching Workshops. The programme has helped over 150 companies in the last 3 years to cut costs, create and sustain jobs and reduce their carbon dioxide footprint.

International Synergies Ltd will be running Waste Awareness events on Thursday 10th July, Tuesday 2nd September, Thursday 4th September and Thursday 11th September at their Kings Norton office, and a Resource Matching Workshop on Thursday 10th October at a convenient venue in the West Midlands.

For further information please contact Phil Johnson on **0121 433 2687** or email: philip.johnson@international-synergies.com.



Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group

Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group aims 'to help Solihull to be at the forefront of sustainable business development and a showcase for environmental business standards, supporting Solihull's transition to a low carbon economy'.

Led by senior business representatives and stakeholders including Arup, BB Boutique, Birmingham Airport, Ecuity, Environment Agency, EH Smith, Hardyman Group, Jaguar Land Rover, NEC Group, RWE npower, Royal Haskoning DHV, Solihull Council and Touchwood, the Group's four key priorities are to:

- Raise the standards of waste and energy management practices
- Promote 'green technology' that is efficient and cost effective
- Influence regional and local policy making, to ensure sustainability is at the heart of decision making
- Conserve and enhance the natural environment, in particular community space

Further information on Solihull Sustainability Visioning Group and its activities can be found at: www.solihullforsuccess.com/solihull-sustainability-visioning. If you would like to participate or receive regular updates please e-mail: sustainabilityvisioning@solihull.gov.uk or contact Alexander Heath on tel: 0121 704 6529.

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For the latest news, events and information, please join our **Solihull Sustainability Visioning Network** on LinkedIn - [click here](#)



For enquiries please get in touch in the following ways:

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www.solihullforsuccess.com



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