



Business Environment News

Helping business to save waste, energy, water, carbon and money



BETRE inspires East Sussex businesses to increase profits and reduce CO₂ emissions

• East Sussex businesses are taking advantage of FREE support to increase their profits and reduce their environmental impacts.

"The BETRE course inspired us to make huge changes to the way we ran our business. Not only did we learn about our carbon footprint, we were able to reduce it with some very easy changes and we saved money each year. We got a lot of support from the team with suggestions and contacts. I would recommend anyone who wants to be more sustainable and save money to go on one of the courses."
Kate Mylrea, Manor Farm Oast, an award-winning B&B.

Businesses Benefit from FREE BETRE TRAINING WORTH UP TO £500

Places at our Autumn 2009 training events were snapped up by 57 East Sussex businesses keen to cut utility costs and improve environmental performance.

"Thanks again for a very informative session. I'm looking forward to the next one."

Peter Morrow, Meads Laundromat, Eastbourne who attended SUMS

For details of our courses see the events calendar on the back page or visit www.betre.org.uk and click on 'Training Events'.



Many small businesses are keen to make a difference and want to know where best to focus their efforts. Since 99% of UK businesses are small and medium sized (SMEs) the collective impact of positive change is potentially huge. Here is where BETRE can help.

Better for your business!

• BETRE offers free resource efficiency services to East Sussex SMEs in all sectors. To date we've helped local business save over £1 million per year.

On offer: FREE audits, training, grants and a confidential

helpline on environmental business performance – from saving energy, waste and water to environmental compliance.

Get in touch...
E betre@eastsussex.gov.uk
T 01273 336777

Green Action Grants – get paid to save.
Up to £500 to help your business reduce waste, water or energy.

Biomass boiler cuts hotel carbon emissions and heating costs

• Halland Forge Hotel is reaping energy and carbon savings by replacing an old inefficient oil boiler with a high efficiency biomass boiler, which burns locally sourced wood, to supply heating and hot water.

Environmental benefits include a whopping 38 tonne reduction in CO₂ emissions per year. Cost savings will be a significant £3,000 per year, giving an estimated payback of 3.5 years.

"I am delighted that our super efficient biomass boiler and controls will cut our running costs and our carbon footprint. Its win-win for our business and the environment".

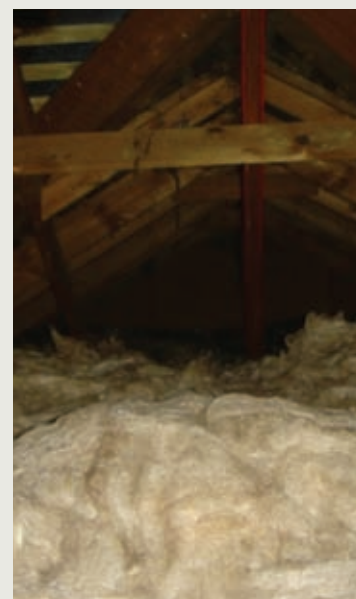
Paul Bedi

Insulation brings warmth to local College

• Frewen College in Northiam is enjoying the improved comfort and reduced heating costs achieved by installing loft and floor insulation in one of their accommodation buildings. Savings on the heating bills are projected to be around £350 per year, giving a payback of 3 years, whilst also keeping them warm at night!

"The grant was very easy to apply for and was received very promptly. I'm sure we will be noticing reduced energy costs this winter"

Jenny Ritchie



The new loft insulation at Frewen College



Smart businesses know that in challenging economic conditions, it's more important than ever to control costs. The prize in avoided costs is potentially huge. In 2008, the Carbon Trust calculated that money wasted through inefficient energy use could support 100,000 jobs.

Many actions are no or low cost but can save up to 20% on costs, putting profit back into your bottom line. If you can save £1,000 per year through energy efficiency measures then, at a 10% profit margin, that's equivalent to increasing turnover by £10,000.

Janette & Nancy
BETRE Project Managers

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Stop your heating bills making you shiver!



• With the cold season now upon us, simple steps can help minimise the pain of winter fuel bills.

Make sure that your heating and hot water systems work efficiently, only providing heat where and when it's needed.

Read on for practical tips to reduce your heating bills.

Heating and hot water

Why: Heating & hot water can account for up to 60% of building energy costs. Practical actions to reduce waste can cut costs by a third and improve occupant comfort.

How:

- > Only heat occupied areas – use frost protection settings on thermostatic radiator valves during very cold weather.
- > Use timer switches & controls to match use to occupancy. Most boilers have time and temperature controls but many are simply left on 24/7.
- > Thermostatic radiator valves enable greater control of temperature from area to area.
- > New technology enables heating systems to adjust to our changeable British

“We are really pleased with the Thermostatic Radiator Valves. The hotel is much warmer in the right places and there is no overheating in the wrong places”

Hugh Davie | Strand House Hotel | Winchelsea

weather. Compensators regulate the heating temperature based on the outside temperature. Optimum start controllers use internal and external thermostats to “learn” how quickly a building reaches the desired temperature.

They ensure that the right temperature is reached by the specified occupancy time by bringing heating on earlier on cold days and later on warm days.

- > Temperature – is very subjective and can be a contentious issue with staff. But do bear in mind that recommended temperatures for offices are 19-21°C. Remember that heating costs rise by 8% for every 1°C of overheating. If staff are wearing T-shirts in January then you are overheating, try to encourage them to dress more appropriately.

Boilers

Why: Keep them well maintained and service at least annually, ideally just before the winter season, this can save 10% on heating and hot water costs.

How:

- > The service should include a combustion efficiency check and adjustments to optimise the burner air-fuel ratio.
- > Make use of time and thermostatic controls.
- > If you have several boilers then in milder weather see if one or more can be switched off.
- > Lag any heating or hot water pipe work – this cuts heat loss from pipes by 70%.
- > If your boiler is very old then it may be worthwhile upgrading to a condensing boiler, which has a heat exchanger in the

flue to recover heat that otherwise would be lost. Condensing boilers can achieve efficiencies of 90% whereas old boilers (20 years plus), often have efficiencies of 70% or less. You can check how a boiler rates by visiting <http://www.sedbuk.com>. See the "Financing Improvements" section for schemes to help finance boiler upgrades.

- > Leaking hot water taps should be fixed promptly.
- > Hot water storage tanks – there is no need to heat stored hot water to more than 60°C, although you should not go lower than this due to the risk of legionella. If you have 'Caution Hot Water' notices in your washrooms then you are probably overheating your hot water.

"It keeps the bills down! The cold affects our machines and is not good for morale. It really has made 200% difference!"

Berforts | Hastings, installed plastic draught excluding curtains to their factory doorway

- > Keep external doors shut whenever possible, if necessary fit automatic controls e.g. for roller shutters or consider plastic curtains or air curtains for areas where doors need to be open for long periods.

Building fabric and insulation

Why? According to the Carbon Trust around two thirds of heat is lost through building fabric, with the remaining third being lost through air infiltration and ventilation.

Improvements to building fabric not only reduce heating and cooling demand but provide a more pleasant working environment, which can boost staff morale and productivity.

How

- > Check your building for signs of damp, which affects insulating properties.
- > Cut down on solar gain and glare using blinds and screens.
- > Roof Insulation to the recommended 270mm depth in the loft will reduce heat losses by 20%. Payback is

Case study

Brighton Media Centre, replaced a troublesome boiler and set up a regular maintenance contract.

The new boiler and its modern time controls reduced gas consumption by 33% and associated CO₂ emissions by over 7 tonnes.

typically 1-2 years for installed insulation, less for self-installed.

- > Double glazing can reduce heat losses by 20% and improve comfort by cutting out draughts. It is a substantial capital outlay but worthwhile when windows need replacing. Meanwhile, self-adhesive draught excluder could be used combined with thick/thermal-lined curtains.
- > Triple glazing is more expensive than double-glazing, although payback over double-glazing can be achieved in a few years. It is recommended for exposed north facing windows or in noisy urban areas.



Financing improvements

BETRE Green Action Grants

Offer 50% match funding, up to a maximum of £500, towards the costs of your business implementing a resource saving idea e.g. heating controls, energy efficient lighting, cardboard shredder, rainwater harvesting & passive infra-red urinal controls. To download an application form visit:

www.betre.org.uk

Energy Grant 500 Business Link is offering a grant of up to £500 to implement changes

that reduce energy costs and carbon footprint. It's available to any business (not home based) with a current energy spend of £1,500-£30,000 pa.

Businesses have the option to be loaned an energy monitor for 2-10 weeks to identify energy savings. Once actions have been identified you can apply for a grant. Call: 0845 600 9006

The Enhanced Capital Allowance Scheme visit www.eca.gov.uk for details

on the Energy and Water Technology Lists of equipment with proven efficiency savings. Investment in eligible equipment can be written off 100% against corporation tax in the year of purchase. Equipment to be fitted in new build is not eligible but is allowed for refurbishments e.g. upgrading lighting. Tel: 0800 085 2005.

The Carbon Trust Loans <http://www.carbontrust.co.uk/energy/Loans/default.htm> or call 0800 085 2005.

Interest free loans of between £3,000-£400,000 are repayable over 4 years, to enable an energy efficiency or renewable action to be implemented, conditions apply.



East Sussex BETRE FREE services

Training events

- > SUMS events
- > Environmental Management Systems
- > Carbon Management
- > Food Waste

Practical workshops giving tips on managing waste, water, energy, carbon and legislation.

"The best course in years! Business people can't spend a lot of time on non core issues; it showed how easy it is to make savings"

Deborah Howlett
Action for Change

Environmental reviews

A FREE confidential review of your energy, water and waste bills and a half day on site survey to provide you with a detailed report on savings opportunities and legislation.

"Thank you very much for your excellent report. I really appreciate the trouble you have taken over this and it is very useful"

Christopher Strangeways
Bosney Farm

Helpline advice

Practical advice on environmental legislation, managing waste, including hazardous waste and improving energy and water efficiency in your business.

"Most helpful by professional advisors. I would recommend it to any business. A superb service"

Kate Myrlea
Manor Farm Oast

Green Action Grants

50% (up to £500) towards the cost of implementing actions to reduce waste, energy or water.

Available on a first come first served basis.

"Applying for a grant was very easy!"

Susie Hill
Berforts Ltd



To find out more or apply for any of our services call us on 01273 336777 or email betre@eastsussex.gov.uk

Events calendar 2010

Places are limited so book now to ensure your place! To book online visit: www.betre.org.uk and click on 'Training events'

FREE Events – Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for your staff

Simple Utilities Management Seminar (SUMS) – 1 day event

A practical, focused workshop to help your business manage utility costs effectively.

- Tips for saving on waste, water and energy bills
- Practical exercises and business case studies
- Expert presentations from technical professionals
- Enables you to self audit your business and engage your staff
- Understand environmental legislation and reduce risks

Date	Location
Tues 16th March 2010	Hastings
Weds 28th April 2010	Brighton
Weds 12th May 2010	Battle
Weds 6th October 2010	Bexhill
Weds 17th November 2010	Lewes

Organics – ½ day event

Find out more about food waste composting, the legislation and practicalities and the results of a trial project with businesses in Lewes.

16th June 2010	Lewes
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Climate Change and Carbon Management – 1 day event

Want to help your organisation prepare and adapt for climate change? Need to calculate your organisation's carbon footprint? Heard about carbon offsetting but not sure how to go about it? Interested in installing renewable energy technologies? Visit to a local renewable energy installation included.

26th May 2010	Newhaven
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The Easy Way to Environmental Management Systems (EMS)

3 x 1 day workshops to enable you to implement an EMS in your business following the first 3 steps of the BS8555 EMS standard. THIS COURSE WILL RUN SUBJECT TO DEMAND.

Workshop 1: 22nd Sept 2010	Hastings
Workshop 2: 20th Oct 2010	
Workshop 3: 24th Nov 2010	

EnviroSkills ½ day and 1 day SUBSIDISED events

Accredited courses on a variety of environmental skills and topics.

Visit www.businesslink.gov.uk/southeast/enviroskills Phone: 0845 600 9006

Now until Dec 2010.	Across the South East
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Important note: Although places are offered for free, to ensure the funding benefits as many businesses as possible, once a place has been confirmed, in the event of non-attendance without 5 days notice, a charge of £40-£100 per delegate will be invoiced.



East Sussex BETRE, Part financed by ERDF, through the Interreg IVA Channel programme, is run by the East Sussex Sustainable Business Partnership (SBP), made up of all East Sussex Local Authorities, Brighton & Hove City Council, the Environment Agency, Business Link Sussex and supported by SEEDA and GOSE.