

EBS Newsletter

Groundwork West Midlands Environmental Business Services

GROUNDWORK WEST MIDLANDS

Highlights:

- * Meet the Consultants.
- * Free Emergency Preparedness Spillage Response Training.
- * MAS Funding Update
- * Next BISNES / Groundwork Event



Earth Hour

Uniting people to protect the planet.

Hundreds of millions of people, businesses and governments around the world unite each year to support the largest environmental event in history - Earth Hour: **8.30pm Saturday 31st March 2012.**

See what you can do: www.earthhour.org.



Date: 1st February 2012

Environment News Update

Feed in Tariff: Last Chance to Receive the 43.3p Tariff.

On 25th January at the Court of Appeal, the verdict was reached that it would be unlawful to change the Feed-in Tariff rate to 21p before March 3rd 2012 (the Government had wanted to reduce it to this rate from 12th December 2011). This leaves a very short period of time for you to receive the 43.3p tariff, and so if you are thinking of installing a solar PV system - act now.

The government tried to appeal this decision also, but this was refused. Although the government can appeal the decision via the Supreme Court, four judges have now found their proposal to be unlawful and any appeal would have limited chances of success.

Could your business be an Energy Hero?

If you can demonstrate the benefits of your business's energy saving or energy generation over 2011/12, such as by measuring how much money and energy has been saved, your business will be eligible to enter the **Dudley Energy Hero Awards** in the springtime of 2012.

This annual awards scheme recognises, rewards and showcases the great work carried out by businesses across Dudley Borough to reduce their energy use.

For further inspiration and ideas, see www.dudleyisp.org, or contact Helen Swift, Sustainable Development Officer at Dudley MBC, email helen.swift@dudley.gov.uk.

Legislation Highlights

REACH

ECHA (The European Chemicals Agency) has recommended that a further 13 Substances of Very High Concern should not be used in future without authorisation. For further information see www.hse.gov.uk/reach

WEEE Directive

The WEEE Directive has been recast - changes include higher targets for WEEE collection and recycling. See www.bis.gov.uk/weee for further information.

Controlled Waste Regulations

The consultation on the Controlled Waste Regulations closed on January 14 2012 and new Controlled Waste Regulations are expected to come into force in April 2012. See www.environment-agency.gov.uk.

Meet the EBS Consultants



Here to help.

Groundwork West Midlands Environmental Business Services Environmental Consultants (Left to right) Lauren Darby, Nigel Matthews, Dipvandana Shah, and Charmaine Morrell.

Did you Know.....

Groundwork West Midlands provides a range of *apprenticeship opportunities*, including retail, horticulture, cleaning, warehousing and storage, painting and decorating and environmental conservation. For more information about apprenticeships contact Jennifer Davies

Tel: 0121 530 5500.

Email: Jennifer.Davies@groundwork.org.uk.

Funded Support

Emergency Preparedness, Spillage Response Training and Site Review.

FREE onsite support and training is available to businesses in the West Midlands to raise awareness of potential environmental emergency situations on site, and actions to take in the event of a spillage. Open Courses are available at Tipton on 15th February and Stoke on 21st February and in house courses can also be arranged. This support is funded by the Environment Agency. For further information, contact Groundwork West Midlands (see contact details below).



Manufacturing Advisory Service— Funding Update

A new national Manufacturing Advisory Service has been launched to help the country's small and medium sized manufacturers grow, providing practical support for all aspects of manufacturing. The new service will be delivered by the Manufacturing Advisory Consortium (MAC) and will drive business growth through strategic and technical support; enable business improvement with manufacturers operating in global supply chains; and linking SMEs with apprenticeship programmes. Funding for improvement projects (such as EMS implementation) may be available of up to 50%, provided eligibility and business benefit criteria are met. For further information, see www.mymas.org or contact Groundwork West Midlands (see contact details below).

Events

- **Workshop: A Rough Guide to Travel Planning.**
West Midlands Travelwise. Monday 6th February 2012, 9.15am–1pm. Copthorne Hotel Brierley Hill. For further information, see www.smarterworkingwm.co.uk. To register, please email your relevant details to travelwise@dudley.gov.uk or telephone 01384 815406.
- **Workshop: Weathering the Storm—Extreme Weather Events and Business Continuity Planning.**
Sustainability West Midlands in association with: Environment Agency, DEFRA and UKCIP. Wednesday 22nd February 2012, 9.45am–1pm. Environment Agency Offices, Solihull. For further information, see www.sustainabilitywestmidlands.org.uk or contact Sian Thomas at sian.thomas@swm.org.uk.
- **Seminar: Successful Environmental Auditing: Assessing and Improving Your Business Performance**
BISNES and Groundwork West Midlands. Tuesday 27th March 2012, Bethel Convention Centre (B7D 7JW), 4.35pm for a 5pm start–6.45pm. Contact Groundwork West Midlands for further information.

Website: www.groundworkwmebs.co.uk

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