

## Oxfordshire Sustainable Business Partnership

### Annual Report 2007 – 08



*Site Waste Management Plans Event, Unipart, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008*

### **Overview**

OxSBP was launched in 2003 and has been managed through a steering group of stakeholders including: The Environment Agency, Local Authorities, Oxfordshire Economic Partnership, Business Link, Oxford Brookes University and Envirowise. During 2006-07, the Steering Group was joined by additional participants from the business world, including a representative from Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network (OTCN), a self employed Marketing Consultant and a self employed Environmental Consultant.

OxSBP aims to help local businesses save money, become more efficient and increase profitability by using less energy, less water and producing less waste. OxSBP works in partnership with other organisations to provide a one-stop-shop gateway for information and advice for businesses that are developing (or want to develop) sustainable business practices such as resource efficiency projects.

### **Progress and Achievements April 2007 – March 2008**

The new style newsletter was launched spring 2007 and has been very well received. It was designed to encourage visits to the website and encourage visitors to explore further information contained on the website. From March 2007 – April 2008, 7 editions of the e-newsletter were circulated. The e-mailing list has increased tenfold to 539 business contacts. Some contacts in turn forward it through their mailing list, which means that the information has been reaching over 2,000 companies with each edition.

From April 2007 – March 2008 there have been 2,225 visits to the website, each visitor on average viewing 3.9 pages per visit or 8,672 page views over all. During the previous financial year, there had been 866 visitors to the website with 4,110 page views.

Links with District Councils were strengthened and all assisted with marketing the events that were held during the year. Marketing was also assisted by Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network, who ensured that local town chambers had information on their websites; some events were also marketed by the Federation of Small Businesses.

### **Resource Efficiency Clubs (REC)**

The Milton Park REC ceased due to lack of funding but spurred on by its success, Cherwell REC was formed and funded by Cherwell District Council.

Twelve companies attended the meetings at Banbury Museum, mainly from the Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington areas; all completed the 5 session programme.

A representative from the Milton Park REC came and gave a very good presentation to the Cherwell Club, which proved motivational.

These companies have requested an annual or bi-annual meeting in order to encourage each other and celebrate their successes. Cherwell District Council has agreed to fund these additional meetings.

Additional companies that are already engaging with resource efficiency have shown an interest in joining Cherwell for the additional meetings; it is my understanding that they will be invited to any follow-up meetings.

## **Events**

### **Simple Utility Management Seminars (SUMS)**

The two SUMS events were a requirement of the SEEDA Grant Framework Agreement (GFA). The objective of this project was to design and deliver two SUMS events for organisations based in Oxfordshire at which free advice on methods of reducing environmental impact and saving money would be given. Attendees would also be contacted following the workshop and be offered further sustainability advice and to explore what work the business had undertaken to reduce their costs.

The events were one full day each and held in two different locations – South Oxfordshire District council Chamber in Wallingford; and St John’s Ambulance HQ in Kidlington. Each event ran from 9am to 5pm.

Apart from the information and practical exercises designed to get businesses to save resources and money, OxSBP gave away free low energy light bulbs, water savers and hard copy information.

Attendance figures were disappointing – the SEEDA target had been a minimum of 10 businesses per event. Whilst 10 did register for each event, only 6 showed up at Wallingford and 9 to Kidlington; some did notify at the last minute but there were also no-shows.

Feedback was positive and included: *“I went away from the event with some immediately applicable actions which will provide economic benefits for my businesses whilst helping environmental improvements”*. – Keith Slater, Caprese Ltd., Burford.

*“No rocket science or rocketing costs involved, most of the ideas and processes are simple, efficient and above all cost effective and good common business sense.”* – Andrew Ibbotson, Best Western Sudbury House Hotel, Faringdon.

Follow up contact was made by the consultant at a later date, in order to establish what actions had been taken since the workshop and what savings had been made.

For the 15 businesses that participated, a collective total of 376,373 kWh; 104.0T Co<sub>2</sub> and £15,073 have already been saved.

### **Construction Site Waste Management Plans, 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008**

This event was originally conceived as a modest OxSBP Oxfordshire only event, but its scope was extended to cover the whole of the South East. I was designed to bring delegates up to date with the proposed Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) legislation which became effective from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. After a meeting with the SEEDA IDM South East, it was decided to make this a regional event, with additional funding from SEEDA to pay for the venue and delegate costs. As the construction sector was the target for this event, it was decided to provide breakfast as well as lunch to cater for those travelling a long distance.

Unipart was selected as the venue, due to its good all weather parking, catering facilities and access from the M40.

There were a total of 76 registrations, of which 67 turned up; 9 exhibitors and presenters were also in attendance. 35 companies were represented, including Shanks Waste Management, Oxford City Homes, Purcell Miller Tritton and Enterprise Plc. Representatives were also present from architect and design companies.

The event drew business representatives from Oxfordshire, Chesham, Surrey, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Dorset.

Feedback was positive. Delegates felt the focus on practical application of the SWMP regulations was very effective, and appreciated the opportunity for networking and gathering additional information. Envirowise reported receiving 13 completed action plans requesting follow up. SECBE made some positive comments about participants feeling well prepared.

The event was an excellent example of partnership working. Due to the nature of SWMP, we have not been able to calculate how much potential waste could be diverted from landfill, but it is possible that collectively the principal contractors could make potential savings in excess of £600k pa.

### **How Green is My Office – Banbury Museum 20<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

This was the 5<sup>th</sup> event on this topic held at various locations across Oxfordshire during the last 2 years. Attendance in Banbury exceeded the previous events; there were 24 registrations (from 22 organisations) of which 21 turned up. All registrants were from Oxfordshire, 13 from the Banbury area.

Delegates covered a broad spectrum of sectors: manufacturing, logistics/distribution, recruitment, consultancy, accountancy and business centre/venue.

The event was partnered by Cherwell District Council, who paid for the venue, refreshments and lunches and also assisted with marketing.

Feedback on the event was very positive, delegates were very happy with the material presented, although some of the more experienced participants would have appreciated additional material on topics such as carbon foot printing, sustainability index and green travel. The focus of the workshop had been to attract and engage the businesses, who were not yet engaging with the sustainability agenda.

Follow up was provided by the consultant in order to establish if lessons learnt had been implemented. As this was done only 5 weeks post event, it was too early to report reliable actual savings, nevertheless there was a high degree of enthusiasm for 'switch off' campaigns and the provision of recycling facilities and mains water filters to avoid purchasing bottled water.

For the 19 businesses that participated in this event, there are estimated collective potential savings of: **Energy** – 1,186,560 kWh pa £59,328 pa  
**Waste** – 1,115 tonnes pa £33,372 pa; **Water** – 4,944 m<sup>3</sup> pa £9,888 pa;  
**Consumables** - £21,012 pa, **making a grand total of potential monetary savings pa of £123,600**

### **Energy Reviews**

As part of the SEEDA GFA, OxSBP was required to deliver 20 audits with follow up. Due to the contracted consultant having a serious car accident in December 2007, only 18 were completed by the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 cut off point.

The reviews were limited to companies that had an energy spend of less than £50k pa, as businesses with a larger energy spend would qualify for a free Carbon Trust audit. Organisations applying for a free review were offered a half day on-site visit from an energy consultant to discuss bills and energy prices and to review practices that were wasteful of energy. The objective of the assessments was to identify and prioritise actions that could be taken by the site to save money and carbon emissions.

A further half day was then completed by the Consultant to calculate opportunities to save energy and compile a report which was sent to the business and copied to OxSBP

For the companies visited, there is a collective potential to save £85,182 and 331 tonnes of Co<sub>2</sub>.

In the main, energy was being wasted by equipment (lighting, computers, plant, air conditioning) when people were not there to use it. Totals from the follow up with the companies show savings of 497,016 kWh, £21,183 and 134.7 tonnes of Co<sub>2</sub> if the measures continue over the next year.

### **Oxfordshire Business Awards – Sustainability Category**

OxSBP sponsored the Sustainability Category of the Oxfordshire Business Awards, and received 14 entries which converted into 11 full applications. All 11 businesses received a judging visit from 2 judges. Ice energy Heat Pumps

from Eynsham won the category; runners up were Grundon Waste Management Ltd of Wallingford and Easy Peasy Nappies of Kidlington.

All entrants were offered follow up feedback on how to improve their resource efficiency and future entries to the Business Awards; this was taken up by 9 of the businesses and has encouraged them to enter again.

	<b>2007-08</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
No. of businesses and organisations on newsletter distribution list	541	301
No of attendees participating at training events	103	79
No of visitors to OxSBP website	2,225 visits with 8,672 page views	866 with 4,110 page views
No of OBA full applications received	11	11
Potential savings for businesses	£135,718.88	Figures not available
Actual Savings achieved	£39,175.44	£25,915
Energy savings achieved	1,642,832 kWh/ pa	351,781 kWh/ pa
Water savings achieved	2,016 m3	Figures not available
No of new case studies produced	1	0
Best Practice Programme Collaborations	South East wide Site Waste Management Plans event	Cherwell Resource Efficiency Club

Due to a number of reasons, including the growing number of private organisations providing similar services and a budget deficit, the decision has been taken to wind up OxSBP as of July 4<sup>th</sup> 2008. OxSBP has made a difference, and as the above table demonstrates, local companies have already saved money and have the potential to save more. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the representatives on the Steering Group for their time, energy, commitment and direction.



Our grateful thanks to:

