

CUTTING COSTS AT THE SAME TIME AS HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT IS THE THRUST OF A NEW £9.8 MILLION PROGRAMME TO DRIVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN THE REGION. *INFORM* REPORTS

REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE, RAISE REVENUE.



Optimising resource and energy use is always important in business. But knowing where to start to access the potentially huge savings can be difficult. Where do I go for advice? How much can I save? Can anyone help with a grant or a loan?

But help is at hand, and with the potential for businesses in Yorkshire and Humber to save a massive £553m on energy, water and waste, it's worth discovering more.

Angela Todd, Yorkshire Forward's sustainable development manager, sets the scene for this renewed focus on resource efficiency: "We are entering a new era of business support and Improving your Resource Efficiency is one of the new, crucial Solutions for Business as companies aim to save money and we as a region reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

"With the double hit of the credit crunch and climate change, businesses are demanding practical support that helps reduce costs as well as energy, waste and water use. So, Yorkshire Forward and the European Regional Development Fund have committed £9.8m of funding over the next three years to help our businesses in this way, building on the national support that exists."

Yorkshire Forward has already been helping businesses by diverting waste away from landfill and saving companies money. The new funding builds on this, placing more emphasis on earlier

stages of the business process, reducing resource consumption to minimise waste in the first place. The lead organisation for this is Resource Efficiency Yorkshire (REY), established by Yorkshire Forward to connect businesses with the help and support that is available.

Andrew Hartley, programme director for REY, gives the background: "REY is working with national and local partners to help businesses to improve their resource efficiency and bring down costs. The new funding will ensure that businesses can access resource efficiency advice and enables us to offer a range of support to companies, from on-site energy audits, interest-free loans and small grant schemes, local green business clubs to learn how other companies have adopted good practice and on-line waste exchanges to donate waste to someone who can use it."

The £9.8m total breaks down as follows:

- Research and evaluation £0.6m
- Capacity and partnership building (particularly Business Link) £1.2m
- Support to businesses to implement resource efficiency improvements £2.9m

THESE PRACTICAL INTERVENTIONS HELP DELIVER COST SAVINGS TO BUSINESSES AND ALSO HELP OUR REGIONAL COMMITMENT TO CUTTING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS BY 20 PER CENT

Specialist support to grow the capacity of environmental sector businesses £5.1m

The programme will support around 1,400 businesses. Hartley adds: "These practical interventions will help deliver cost savings to businesses and also help our regional commitment to cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 20 per cent." Saving resources does not necessarily mean parting with that most precious resource – cash – in the first place either. There's a wealth of opportunities to implement low- or no-cost measures that are repaid within a year.

Hartley concludes: "The route to access this support is via Business Link Yorkshire. It can provide your company with information about practical actions to reduce your energy, waste and water use. It can also help you to get more specialist support if this is appropriate.

"Companies should remember that the cost of energy, waste and water will continue to rise, but we shouldn't let it grow to cost us the earth."

www.businesslink.gov.uk/yorkshire

EVENTS

How to thrive and survive in a recession

Tuesday 3 February, Leeds
A workshop for people who want to find the real opportunities for their business within the current climate.
www.leedschamber.co.uk

BioNordic Yorkshire

Wednesday 4 & Thursday 5 February, York
Showcasing the region's world class capabilities in biomedical research and healthcare technologies to companies and institutions from Scandinavia.
www.bionordicyorkshire.co.uk

Food & Drink Passport to Export

Tuesday 10 February, Leeds
Providing new and inexperienced exporters in the food and drink sector with training and ongoing support to succeed overseas.
www.tradeyorkshire.co.uk

Venturefest Yorkshire 2009

Wednesday 10 February, York
Professional support, advice and funding for early-stage and fast growth businesses, including those seeking investment opportunities, new businesses looking for money and advice, or people wanting to commercialise their innovative ideas.
www.venturefest.co.uk

MEA Trade Mission to Libya

Saturday 14 February
With UKTI, the Middle East Association is running a multi-sector trade mission to Libya offering vast opportunities for a wide range of sectors.
www.tradeyorkshire.co.uk

Yorkshire Science and Technology Network (YSTN) event

Thursday 19 February, Leeds
Meet and share experiences and ideas with like-minded, innovative companies and hand-picked academic experts.
www.ystn.co.uk

Innovator/09 Awards

Thursday 5 March, Leeds
The Yorkshire and Humber Innovation Awards, celebrating the remarkable innovation and creativity in our region's businesses and universities.
www.yorkshire-forward.com/innovator09

Yorkshire Women in Business Conference

Friday 6 March, Harrogate
An excellent speaker line-up combining inspiration, education and entertainment.
www.ywibc.biz

Enterprising Women's Day

Wednesday 18 March
In partnership with Business Link, Hull, this offers multiple workshops in everything you need to know about starting a new business or taking your business to the next level.
www.forwardladies.com

Enterprise Shows 2009

Saturday 14 & Sunday 15 March, York. Saturday 28 & Sunday 29 March, Leeds. Saturday 18 & Sunday 19 March, Hull
Offering professional advice on both starting and developing your own business.
www.theenterpriseshows.com

Going Global Awards

Wednesday 25 March, Leeds
Organised by Yorkshire Forward and UKTI, the awards celebrate regional companies who have made their business a success by exporting and collaborating with organisations overseas.
www.tradeyorkshire.com

European Joint Conferences on Theory and Practice of Software (ETAPS)

Sunday 29 March, York
The primary European forum for academic and industrial researchers working on topics relating to Software Science.
www.etaps.org

Yorkshire Forward Creating Better Futures Awards 2009

Thursday 16 April, Leeds
The awards highlight the successful partnerships between the private sector and voluntary, community and faith organisations (VCF).
www.yorkshire-forward.com/cbfawards