

LINCOLN ENVIRONMENTAL INSTITUTE ENCOURAGE COUNTY BUSINESSES TO GO GREEN

A Lincoln-based environmental body is encouraging Lincolnshire businesses to sign up to its Acorn Scheme to reduce their environmental impact and further increase their business opportunities.

The IEMA (Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment), a “not for profit” organisation whose headquarters are located on Newport in Lincoln, is the UK’s largest membership body dedicated to the promotion of sustainable development and to the development of environmental professionals, now with over 11,000 members worldwide.

Companies who can prove they have a green supply chain and the appropriate environmental awareness are becoming ever more popular with clients as environmental issues are at the fore of politics and the media. The IEMA believe that the Acorn Scheme can be of immense benefit to the thousands of diverse Lincolnshire businesses as the format of Acorn can be easily tailored to companies of every size and concern to help them demonstrate their environmentally sound operations to customers, potential future clients and competitors alike.

The IEMA Acorn Scheme, an officially recognised environmental management system (EMS) standard recommended by the Government, offers accredited recognition for organisations evaluating and improving their environmental performance through the phased implementation of an EMS. Acorn focuses on environmental improvements that are linked to business competitiveness and is flexible so that all types of organisation, whatever their size, can participate. The scheme provides a practical, manageable and pragmatic approach whereby tangible results can be seen early on in the process.

Participation in the IEMA Acorn Scheme offers participants the following benefits and more;

- EMS implementation broken down into a series of logical, convenient, manageable phases using the British Standard BS 8555 (the British Standard for EMS)
- Clearly defined route plan to ISO14001 (the International standard for environmental management systems) certification and/or EMAS registration, with UKAS accredited recognition along the way
- Self-determined time frame for implementation – you decide how fast and how far you want to progress
- Environmental performance improvement which can lead to reduced costs and improved business efficiency
- Opportunities to engage supply chain partners in environmental performance improvement
- A flexible approach that provides UKAS accredited recognition for participants
- Improved legal compliance
- New customers and increased satisfaction of existing ones
- Reduced pollution
- Improved public image

Russell Foster, Chief Executive of the IEMA says of the project “*I truly believe this is a crucial time for businesses, irrespective of their size, to demonstrate their commitment to the environment - the key to this being a robust environmental management system.*”

“*Our Acorn scheme, with its Government endorsement, allows companies to achieve this outcome, painlessly and relatively cheaply. The immense success of our scheme, since its launch in September 2005, echoes these sentiments and I would urge all companies to follow suit*” he concluded.

This encouragement follows a £200,000 funding award from the European Regional Development Fund and Lincolnshire Enterprise to White Young Green (WYG) - a close associate of the IEMA. This funding will help 70 businesses towards gaining official environmental accreditation. The IEMA are able to help and guide many more organisations through the stages of “greening” their operations. And as Lincoln is home to the IEMA, what better place to offer this unique support system?

*for more information please contact;
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For more information on the IEMA and the Acorn Scheme, visit www.iema.net/acorn or contact Richard Meddings on 01522 560069.