



Huddersfield Town Centre Green Business Awards Review of the 2008 awards

Summary

The Green Business Awards awards grew out of Huddersfield Town Centre Partnership existing Tidy Trader awards through a partnership between Huddersfield Town Centre Partnership, Kirklees Council, and the Green Business Network (GBN).

The awards aimed to celebrate environmental best practice and to encourage businesses in Huddersfield Town Centre to adopt even more measures to reduce their environmental impact and to save them money through reduced energy, water, transport and waste disposal costs.

Help for this comes from the GBN which has developed **free environmental toolkits** for businesses in the hospitality, retail, office and manufacturing sectors. The toolkits have many suggestions to help businesses reduce their environmental impact and save money. They also include a list of the current environmental legislation relevant to each sector and a list of local recyclers for different waste streams. The GBN is also able to offer **free environmental audits** to businesses in the town centre, and throughout Kirklees.

Applications in 2008

Town centre businesses were asked to fill in a questionnaire which asked what they had done to:

- reduce energy use, pollution, waste, water consumption and transport
- adopt sustainable purchasing, and staff training policies.

Many businesses entered the awards, the majority from the retail, office and hospitality sectors, but entrants also included businesses as diverse as Huddersfield Train Station and the Huddersfield Parish Church. The entries highlighted some of the many ways that Huddersfield businesses are trying to reduce their environmental impact. Examples are given below.

Benefits to Business

Pollution prevention

Pollution incidents can put human health at risk, and devastate wildlife habitats. Some good examples of how Huddersfield businesses have avoided these risks include:

- Half Moon Healthfoods, who use eco-friendly cleaning materials, and ask delivery drivers to switch off their engines when making deliveries.
- Beaverbrooks who use recyclable packaging.

Waste reduction

Some of the businesses who entered the awards did some form of recycling, although others did not realise that there are recycling companies who visit town centre businesses to collect waste materials and packaging. Among the most impressive were:

- Half Moon Healthfoods who not only recycle paper, cardboard and glass, but also re-use cardboard boxes, and compost food waste; and
- Beaverbrooks who recycle all of their electrical waste.

Energy reduction

Energy is one of the larger variable costs associated with running a business which can be influenced by active management. The Carbon Trust estimate that heating and hot water account, on average, for 60% of an businesses energy costs, and most could save up to 30% by implementing simple low cost measures. Huddersfield Town Centre businesses provided some good examples on reducing energy and cutting CO2 emissions:

- The Piazza Centre have put in a new lighting system in their service basement, which had reduced lighting costs by 50%. Most of the companies had put in energy efficient bulbs, which can save up to 60% on lighting costs.
- Huddersfield Central Lodge has installed Thermostatic Radiator Valves.
- Lucas and Partners has installed an energy efficient condensing boiler as well as fitting roof insulation.

Water saving

Businesses that have not previously tried to save water can typically cut water and effluent bills by 20% for little or no cost, using some of the measures carried out by Huddersfield Town Centre businesses:

- The Piazza Centre and Huddersfield Train Station had fitted 'Hippos' or other similar devices to their toilet cisterns. These save about 15% on every flush. In addition the train station is installing push button taps, which can reduce water use by up to 50%.

Transport

Huddersfield town centre businesses have come up with several innovative ways to reduce their transport costs:

- Term Time Wear started flexible working to accommodate bus times.
- Voluntary Action Kirklees encourage staff to car share or to use public transport to go to meetings.

Purchasing

Consumers are increasingly demanding goods from ethical sources. Several town centre businesses are tapping into this new market:

- Huddersfield Parish Church purchase Fair Trade goods where possible.
- Huddersfield Central Lodge use locally sourced organic food.
- Kirkwood Hospice now provide Bags for Life for their customers.

Training

Getting staff involved with reducing your environmental impacts can be very effective. A number of town centre businesses benefited from staff training:

- Huddersfield Central Lodge advise staff on good environmental practice.
- Huddersfield Train Station provides induction training to all employees on environmental awareness.

The 2008 winners

The 2008 winners of the Green and Tidy Business Award were:

- First:** Half Moon Healthfoods - £250
Second: Huddersfield Train Station - £150
Third: Voluntary Action Kirklees - £100

The 2009 Green and Tidy Awards

We are hoping that in 2009 even more businesses will enter the awards and showcase their environmental best practice. The awards also give Huddersfield town centre businesses the chance of winning money towards environmental improvements, and will help the businesses save money through the spread of environmental best practice throughout Huddersfield town centre. If you would like to know more please contact Jim Porter at the GBN on 01422 316661 or jim.porter@kirklees.gov.uk