



NEWS RELEASE

Business Park is first to back countywide environment-friendly campaign

A South Oxfordshire business park has become the first in the county to support a new campaign to promote waste reduction and recycling among businesses. Monument Park at Chalgrove is working with the Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network to promote the offer of free waste audits to its 75 tenant businesses.

The campaign aims to build on the success of last year's countywide programme to offer free waste audits to business. In 2007/8, 485 Oxfordshire businesses took part, making tremendous savings:

- Together the businesses that had a free waste audit could cut a huge £597,836 from their commercial waste bills - that's an average of more than £1,200 per business each year!
- If the recommendations made were taken up, savings totalling 3,414 tonnes of commercial waste could be made - that's the equivalent of more than 30,000 full 240-litre wheelie bins.

The audits, which look at the commercial waste produced by a business and recommend ways to cut costs and recycle more, are funded by Oxfordshire County Council and carried out by specialists from the Environmental Information Exchange (EiE) at Oxford Brookes University.

Jennings, who run Monument Park at Chalgrove, have sent details of the savings made by businesses in the county who've already taken up free waste audits, to their tenants. Oxfordshire County Council's Sustainable Business Officer, Dan Dempsey (pictured, right, with Paul Mabbutt of Jennings), took part in an open day at the Park to give its tenants the opportunity to ask questions and to book their free waste audit. Dan says: "We piloted the waste audits with some of the Monument tenants last year and the results have been excellent. As well as diverting waste from landfill businesses have reduced their disposal costs. This year we're hoping even more businesses will get involved. Any business wishing to save money and improve their environmental performance should get in touch to receive a free onsite waste audit."

Paul Mabbutt of Jennings says: "The waste audits fit in well with our recycling scheme, which has been established on our business parks for some time now. Businesses need to be more conscious of their impact on the environment and this is a great way of not only reducing our waste but also saving money in the process".

And a number of Monument Park tenants have talked about the benefits to their business of having a waste audit. Debbie Warland of The Picnic Hamper, said: "Since Oxfordshire County Council did our waste audit we've started recycling our plastic and cardboard. This has reduced the amount of landfill bins we put out so we've saved some money too. And we're not stopping there – we're now looking to supply all our customers' sandwiches in fully recyclable packaging."

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David Bottomley of toy maker Trends UK Ltd, said: "Since our waste audit recycling has really taken off at the office. As the UK's leading supplier of scientific toys, being green is really important to our brand. That's why we strive to make sure we minimise the amount of packaging that comes with our products. We have also launched the first of what will be a range of eco-toys, a torch that's friction rather than battery powered."

Oxfordshire businesses who would like a free waste audit should visit www.otcn.co.uk for more details or contact EiE by calling 01865 483299 or email eiewaste@brookes.ac.uk

The Oxfordshire Town Chambers Network (www.otcn.co.uk) is a communications network for town chambers and similar business groups. It covers 20 business groups with 1,400+ member businesses between them plus eight events networks. Monument Park is home to more than 75 companies employing 500 people between them.

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