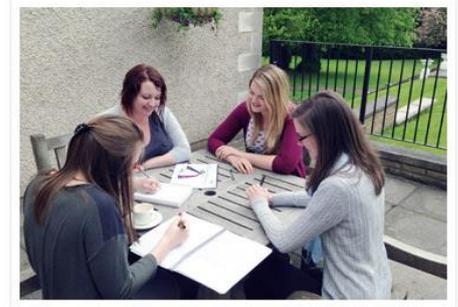




Setting up a Green Team

Introduction

Developing a Green Team can support a company of any size to manage their environmental impact and implement resource efficiency improvements.



Benefits of a Green Team

- Cost savings – reducing costs associated with waste, energy, and water.
- Changing Behaviour – involving staff and students.
- Regulatory compliance – staying ahead of legislation.
- Aligning practices with values – walking the talk.

Forming your Green Team

Successful Green Teams should include:

- A cross section of staff in order to gather ideas from everyone, increase general awareness and provide a means of implementing recommendations (up to 12 members for effectiveness).
- Continuity is possible by sharing the responsibility across a range of staff and departments.
- The individuals chosen to be in the team should be prepared/available to meet up regularly as a team to discuss the environmental issues in meetings where minutes should be formally taken.
- A chairperson who can be the appointed environmental co-ordinator, ideally they should be staff members who are likely to still be here in the future as coherence as a team is important (i.e. not seasonal/placement staff).

Green Team Responsibilities and Targets

Your Green Team should be responsible for:

- Engaging with other employees to improve awareness and inform them of why it is important to manage environmental impact and the benefits of doing so.
- Taking ownership of particular areas e.g. energy, waste.
- Setting up a suggestion scheme to gather ideas suggested by management or employees.
- Collating ideas suggested by management or employees and implementing where possible.

- Involving students in awareness raising campaigns and showing them the importance of becoming green.

Example Actions:

- Developing an Environmental Policy or statement of commitment.
- Running campaigns
 - Switch off, recycling, sustainable travel (cycling & bus).
- Sorting of waste for recycling e.g. paper, plastic, metal, glass, food.
- Monitoring & Measuring – energy, waste, water.
- Reusing paper.
- Printing double-sided.
- Report or fix dripping taps.
- Create a 'Green File'.
- Setting up a Green Procurement Policy.

It is important that the Green Team's efforts be targeted to specific areas which have been highlighted. The targets should be SMART (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely). The goals of all initiatives should be monitored to track performance, identify further opportunities and flag areas of concern.

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