

Oil Spill Response

‘Reducing our carbon footprint’

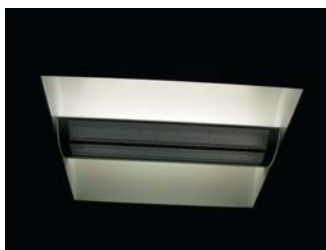
Creating an Energy and Environmental Working Group to reduce the company’s carbon footprint



Low energy lighting



Solar Film on office windows



Low energy office lighting



Condensers

Notable Features

1. A 30% reduction on our Gas usage compared to this time last year
2. Installation of Solar Film on all office windows
3. Installation of new HVAC system
4. Registered and working with the Carbon Trust to assist with our energy saving initiatives
5. Implementing a Travel to work scheme to encourage car sharing, walking or use of public transport

Setting the scene

The company, starting at board level recognised the need for the business to act in a Socially Responsible way especially in the Oil Industry where we are probably not viewed particularly environmentally friendly. It was decided that £80000 would be set aside to invest in energy saving initiatives through either more efficient systems or the use of renewable energy. With such a large fund and many ideas it was decided that an Energy and Environmental Working Group (EEG) would be set up with employees from all levels of the organisation all striving towards the same goal of a reduction in our carbon footprint.

Beating the odds

As is the case in most companies, working groups and new initiatives are often faced with barriers from employees, mainly due to failure of previous initiatives, poor communication or lack of funding to carry out planned improvements. The EEG overcame this by carrying out lunch and learn sessions where the EEG presented what the plans were and asked for feedback and any ideas that employees might have. This made them feel part of the project and that they were in fact making a difference. Regular reporting of how we were doing and savings in energy consumption including an Energy update notice board were also very well received.

Reaping the benefits

Generally around the company, people seem very focused on making sure that lights, monitors and computers are turned off when not in use. Everything that can be recycled is recycled and if people are in doubt they generally ask. Awareness has definitely been raised and people trust that if they can do their bit each day the EEG will invest wisely in the larger projects. Although we have heavily invested in new HVAC systems we are seeing a reduction in our carbon footprint together with the financial saving of 30% in energy costs compared to Budget. Our group constantly strives to seek new initiatives and when we are not sure we simply make use of the free advice from the Carbon Trust.

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