

“Greening” is good business sense

The Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority Building Projects Officer Andrew Muskett delivered a presentation entitled ‘Greening is good business sense’ to the Promoting Pembrokeshire event for local tourism operators, including hotel and holiday property sites, on May 15th 2012.

Andrew introduced the topic with sound examples of green building projects carried out in the Park Authority, before presenting current evidence of climate change and global warming trends as well as the future energy gap.

The current legislation in these areas was outlined, which sets binding targets to reduce CO² emissions resulting in tougher regulation and policy for the construction and building sector.

The Government’s response has been a combination of the carrot and stick – the stick being stricter guidelines, legislation and policies and the carrot by incentive schemes such as the Renewable Heat Incentive, Feed-in Tariffs and the Green Deal scheme.

Andrew then outlined how to heighten awareness of energy consumption issues, and how to engage staff starting off with simple cost-effective changes that show immediate results, carrying out several of these small improvements on average cut approx 10% off energy bills.

He stressed the importance of auditing energy use rather than relying on estimating, including electricity, oil, gas, LPG, water use, boilers and larger appliances that potentially use large amounts of energy.

Examples of payback models and cost comparison charts can be useful to businesses in looking at financial planning in relation to energy-saving implementation were explained.

The presentation concluded with the top ten “quick wins” businesses can do which included actions around lamp replacement, insulation, effective boiler & thermostat use and water efficiency.

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