

Groundwork NorthWest

Project: ENWORKS - Resource Efficiency Programme

Funding: ERDF under Priority 1 – Business and Ideas

Good Practice themes demonstrated: Sustainable Development and ICT

What does the project do?

The objective of this award winning pan-regional project is to increase the competitiveness and environmental awareness of small and medium sized businesses in the North West.

Working through a network of five regional partnerships, the project aims to reduce a company's waste and improve its operational efficiency. Not only does this have a direct impact on the environment (e.g. less waste to landfill), but the results are also having a direct impact on the bottom line of over 3,000 businesses in the region.

Companies are able to produce more with the same amount of raw materials, making them more competitive, safeguarding jobs, retaining and expanding market share in the region. Evidence from the project to date indicates that on average companies can save £1,000 a year per employee by adopting resource efficiency activities.

How are the savings identified?

Using scoping audits developed by the **Carbon Trust** and **Envirowise**, trained advisors work with companies' employees, training them in resource efficiency techniques. Once the training is complete the advisors provide technical support to staff as and when required.



What is innovative about this project?

- From Workington to Widnes, businesses from across the North West are being provided with a consistently high quality of service and support to become more competitive, secure and environmentally responsible.
- ENWORKS has developed a groundbreaking online toolkit located on a secure website that enables individual companies' progress to be monitored and support provided if required.
- The toolkit produces status reports covering savings, lets the company know about resource efficiency opportunities, what actions need to be undertaken and what the pay back periods will be.
- Ongoing guidance is provided on average costs and rules of thumb to help in decision-making.

Project Beneficiary: Simmonds NW Ltd

Simmonds NW is a family run construction firm that offers complete contracting services for both public and private sector clients throughout the North West. The challenge was to improve the resource efficiency of the company to ensure that the impact on the environment was at a minimum. This was achieved by carrying out a waste audit that led to:

1. Various recycling initiatives;
2. The placement of a student within the company to implement Site Waste Management Plans;
3. A company environmental policy that has started the development of an Environmental Management System.

Additionally, training has raised awareness of environmental issues amongst the staff.

Jane Hurn, Business Development Manager, Simmonds NW said *"Through Groundwork's support we have accessed invaluable detailed support to investigate waste opportunities that we would not otherwise have had the ability to implement, saving us time and money"*

What have Simmonds saved?

The key benefit of this work has been the safeguarding of existing contracts worth £500k in addition to securing new ones worth £500k - £1m in total.

Further Information:

If you want to find out more about ENWORKS and their activities they are based at Fourways House, 57 Hilton Street, Manchester and can be contacted on Tel: **0161 236 6348**.

website: www.enworks.com