

Opportunity for forty businesses to get help to be more efficient and sustainable

Forty businesses across Northern Ireland are being given the opportunity to make the most of their resources and become more sustainable by getting involved in ARENA Network's newly launched ***Sustainability meets Efficiency*** programme.

Funded by the Department of the Environment's Rethink Waste Campaign, this unique programme will engage SMEs throughout Northern Ireland to become more sustainable by using innovative and proven tools of engagement to develop their environmental management.

ARENA Network's Keelin Hamill, Programme Manager explains: "Sustainability Meets Efficiency" aims to help SMEs prevent, reduce, reuse and recycle waste. In addition it will involve reducing carbon (through energy efficiencies), improved resource efficiencies, and at the same time help businesses comply with environmental legislation and save money.

"With the support of Rethink Waste, we are delighted to offer participants free places on this programme, however, they are required to assign a member of staff to manage the programme on behalf of the organisation.

Practical support, solutions and advice will include:

- A series of one-to-one meetings with an expert Environmental Auditor, benefiting from specialist knowledge and experience;
- An environmental audit report outlining tailored advice and guidance on resource efficiency and cost savings for the organisation;
- Information on environmental legislation with which the SME's must comply; and
- An environmental action plan outlining actions for environmental improvements and cost savings specific to the organisation

Environment Minister, Alex Attwood said: "Resource efficiency and using materials more effectively is simply a question of good commercial sense. I am pleased that my Department has

been able to support ARENA Network in this project to assist the business community which will help the environment and save money in these challenging economic times. I encourage businesses to apply as soon as possible.”

To participate in Sustainability meets Efficiency, please e-mail keelin.hamill@bitcni.org.uk or call (028) 9046 0606.

For more information on Business in the Community, visit our website www.bitcni.org.uk

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For further information, please contact:

Helen Bowman, Communications Manager, Business in the Community by e-mail to helen.bowman@bitcni.org.uk, or contact (028) 9046 0606/07941 782099.

Notes to Editors

- Business in the Community (BITC) stands for responsible business
- BITC is a membership organisation for successful companies committed to responsible business, encouraging them to be a force for good in society
- We have a core membership of 800+ companies throughout the UK, including 80% of the FTSE 100. Almost 240 of these companies are members in Northern Ireland
- The President of Business in the Community is HRH The Prince of Wales and the Chair of the Northern Ireland Board is Paul Rooney, Partner, PricewaterhouseCoopers. Mark Price of Waitrose is the national Chair.
- We provide advice, support and opportunities for engagement under our three core themes – PEOPLE, PLANET and PLACE
- **PLANET:** Helping to create sustainable businesses and sustainable communities.
- The Rethink Waste Fund, announced by Environment Minister Edwin Poots in September, made grants available to seven organisations who have developed projects which will boost waste prevention, reuse and recycling and also ease the burden on ratepayers.
- The Rethink Waste Fund, a resource efficiency fund, is being administered by the Department of Environment with the support of the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP).
- The DOE Rethink Waste campaign aims to raise awareness, encourage best practice and achieve behavioural change among households, the business, community and education sectors. The campaign seeks to affect a cultural shift towards better waste prevention and resource management and improved environmental quality in Northern Ireland. Log

on to <http://www.rethinkwasteni.org> or <http://www.lovefoodhatewasteni.org> for further information.



CAPTION: Waste recycler Danny Paton, DOE's Wendy Cooke and ARENA Network's Keelin Hamill launch the new Sustainability meets Efficiency programme which will provide FREE environmental business assistance to 40 small businesses across Northern Ireland. To apply, e-mail keelin.hamill@bitcni.org.uk