

Envirolink

INVESTING IN
englandsnorthwest

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Envirenergy North West 2009 unveiled

Envirolink Northwest to run Envirenergy North West

Envirolink Northwest, has taken over the delivery and management of Envirenergy North West, the Northwest's annual environmental exhibition and conference.

Chief Executive of Envirolink Northwest, Nick Storer, made the announcement, saying, "Our position as the development organisation for the Northwest's energy and environmental technology and services (ETS) sector, gives us the unique ability to deliver environmental events that truly reflect the latest issues that affect our sector."

"I'm delighted Envirolink Northwest will deliver this premier environmental event in our region."

— Nick Storer,
Chief Executive of
Envirolink Northwest,

Next year's Envirenergy2009, will take place on 25th June 2009 at the Manchester United Old Trafford Stadium.

Nick Storer continued, "With growing concerns over yet another fuel price hike this winter the prosperity of the Northwest economy is dependant on our ability to adapt and survive in difficult economic conditions. Insecurities regarding the credit crunch, rising inflation and fuel costs are making industries and



local authorities reassess their energy consumption, energy efficiency and sourcing activities. The Envirenergy North West 2009 event will provide our regional community with a base of energy efficient solutions and sources of alternative energy generation and supply."

He added, "We want Envirenergy North West to continue the debate on fuel security and efficiency issues that will affect the Northwest for some time to come. We all have to accept

that we will never enjoy fuel prices of the 1990s again and have to alter our perceptions and behaviours with regards to consumption."

Envirenergy North West 2009 will showcase environmental, energy generation, energy from waste and energy efficiency solution providers from the Northwest. Manchester United is the host venue partner.

For further details please visit
www.envirenergynorthwest.co.uk.

Trio of events for the land sector



Fifty five delegates drawn from the region's land remediation sector attended a Contaminated Land Remediation in the Northwest event in September at the Lancaster Environment Centre.

The event was aimed at site and project managers, contaminated land officers and consultants within the sector, who wish to increase their knowledge of the technologies and services available.

In October the North West Brownfield Regeneration Forum held a 'New Developments in the Contaminated Land Exposure Assessment (CLEA) model' event at the University of Manchester, which was attended by over 120 delegates. Ian Martin, Principal Scientist in the Human Health Science Team at the Environment Agency gave a presentation on understanding human exposure to soil contaminants.

The Forum's next event will be held on November 11th at The Centre, Birchwood Park in Warrington and will cover 'Statistical Analysis of Sampling Data'. Dr Mary Harris, will discuss the fundamental issues and avoid the common pitfalls of the new 'Guidance on Comparing Soil Contamination Data with a Critical Concentration'. Dr Harris led the expert working group, which culminated in the joint new guidance by CL:AIRE and CIEH on the use of statistical techniques in the assessment of land contamination data.

For further information on the North West Brownfield Regeneration Forum and its event programme email: NWBRForum@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

Web reduces construction waste

New website lets construction sites exchange surplus material with those who need it

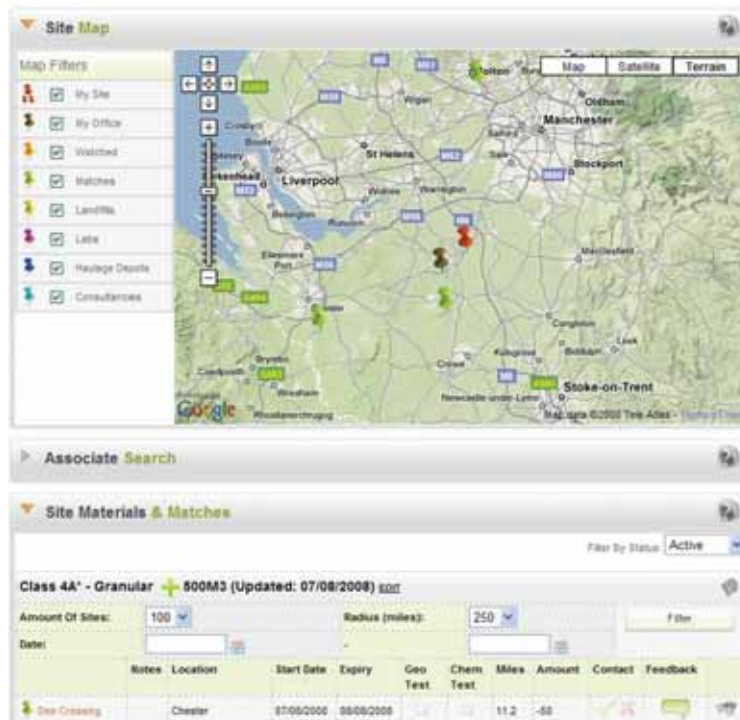
The enormous amount of construction waste sent to landfill each year could be drastically reduced following the launch of a new secure website that lets construction sites exchange surplus material with those who have a requirement to import such materials.

The on-line application has been launched by Buy Recycled Code member Earth Exchange Limited to enable construction companies to significantly reduce their waste disposal volumes and massively reduce their costs.

The construction industry is the UK's largest consumer of natural resources. It generates over 110 million tonnes of waste a year.

Called Earth Exchange™ (www.earthexchange.com) the website uses real time accurate mapping to help construction companies, house builders and other developers find local sites that have material surpluses and deficits – all to suit individual and combined construction programmes. The resulting exchanges save money, time and reduce the environmental impact of construction.

The website, which launched in July 2008, has been developed by drawing on industrial expertise



Screen Shot of Earth Exchange

in the fields of geo-environmental engineering, waste management, civil engineering, demolition and earthworks.

The launch coincides with a wave of environmental legislation, government guidance and incentives for the construction sector. The Site Waste Management Plans Regulations, which came into force on the 1st July, require construction companies running projects to design out and reduce waste as well as find ways of re-using waste arisings. Landfill Tax exemptions

will be phased out from 1st December 2008 for certain construction wastes, as announced in the Chancellor's last budget.

Alex Albon, Operations Director of Earth Exchange Limited said: "The construction industry is the UK's largest consumer of natural resources and generates over 110 million tonnes of waste per year. As such, it is facing a raft of new challenges as part of the Government's Sustainable Construction Strategy which aims to reduce construction waste going

to landfill by 50% by 2012.

The industry can make major strides towards achieving this target with the help of Earth Exchange™.

"The construction industry is the UK's biggest waste producer and generates more than one-third of the UK's waste arisings, a large proportion of this waste material could be reused and recycled if the industry actually had the tool to easily find suitable sites to exchange surplus materials with material shortfalls."

Earth Exchange™ works by using real-time accurate mapping of actual (and even future) construction sites – the locations where construction wastes are actually generated and where such wastes can be re-used. Site operators can state what and when materials will be available at each site and additionally state what and when materials are required on their sites. This enables more strategic procurement and re-use of soils, aggregates and other building materials at the local and regional scale.

Members of the website are able to request and offer a wide range of materials including soil, crushed aggregate, topsoil, subsoil and many other construction products such as surplus bricks, blocks, paving and pipe. Members can even be alerted 'off-line' when material matching their requirements becomes available.

For further information on Earth Exchange™ contact Alex Albon at Earth Exchange Limited on 0845 000 4321, or visit www.earthexchange.com

Peel Power competes for CCS

Company pre-qualifies for UK Government's carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration competition

The four bidders that have pre-qualified in the UK Government's carbon capture and storage (CCS) demonstration competition have been named by Business Secretary John Hutton - BP Alternative Energy International Limited, EON UK Plc, Northwest based Peel Power Limited and Scottish Power Generation Limited. He also announced the publication of a consultation on the legislative framework for CCS, including carbon capture readiness.

Proposals in the consultation document on carbon capture readiness are designed to create a more consistent understanding of what this means across the EU. The proposals



mean that the carbon capture readiness of new combustion power stations will have to be addressed by developers in the design process and will be taken into account by the

Government when deciding whether or not to consent to such stations.

CCS has the potential to capture up to 90% of damaging carbon emissions from coal-fired power stations. This is part of a wider strategy to reduce emissions from electricity generation - which includes the expansion of renewable energy, allowing investment in nuclear new build and capping emissions from the power sector.

Discussions in the next phase of the competition between the Government and the four bidders will cover technical, commercial, contractual and financial issues. The project will be operational

by 2014 - making the UK one of the first countries in the world to demonstrate CCS on a commercial-scale.

Energy Secretary John Hutton said: "Alongside nuclear, renewables and gas, coal is and will continue to be, a feature of the UK's electricity mix. The progress we are making with the CCS demonstration competition and on developing a sound legislative and regulatory framework will help to deliver our ambition to see CCS ready for commercial deployment by 2020."

Peel Energy, part of Peel Holdings, recently exhibited on the Envirolink Northwest stand at BWEA30 as part of its expansion into the renewable energy sector.

Ballpark Technology ready for trials

Company builds mobile waste separator/compactor to take to prospective customers

Packaging waste from the food and drink industry is reclaimed and reused thanks to a capital grant made to Ballpark Precision Engineering Ltd, in Barrowford by the Envirolink Northwest Technology Commercialisation team. The company has used the grant to build a mobile waste separator/compactor demonstration unit which can be taken to prospective customers.

The unit is based on a screw, which compresses the containers to a fraction of their original volume to force out liquid and semi liquid products from packaging. This is collected for further use. The containers are either disposed of or recycled.

Automatically controlled hydraulic jaws in the compactor have sensors which adjust to maintain the correct pressure throughput, ensuring the maximum amount of separation. Manufactured from stainless steel, the prototype machine has been in use for a number of years separating milk from plastic cartons, with the salvaged milk being utilised for the manufacture of cheese, powdered milk and as feed for pigs.

Aluminium cans can be emptied and compacted, whilst juices or yoghurt is

removed from waxed cartons. The cartons are compressed to less than 5% of their original volume, thus minimising the amount of packaging transported for further recycling. The feed hoppers are designed for ease of operation and can be tailored to meet the requirements of each specific application.

The company is now actively looking for food and drink producers or companies which collect food waste which would benefit from trialling the demonstrator. Ballpark can deliver the demonstrator to the site and, after evaluation by the user, build a bespoke machine to meet a business's specific requirements, to show its capabilities and see if the machine can be used for their particular requirements.

With further support from Envirolink Northwest, the demonstrator design was assessed for EU compliance testing and was given the CE mark.

For further details please contact Ian Parkington at Ballpark Precision Engineering on 01282 616 497 or email ian@ballparkengineering.co.uk



Ballpark Technology's mobile waste separator/compactor

Water conference addresses raft of issues

Conference to debate innovation in the water sector and introduce novel products and science

This is an important time for the UK water industry. Soaring energy prices, the forthcoming legislation placing additional treatment requirements on the industry and the UK commitment to GHG emission reductions of 60% by 2050 mean that water companies need to implement effective strategies that will reduce the energy needs of treatment processes and cut their overall carbon footprint whilst complying with the forthcoming Carbon Reduction Commitment.

There is a clear need for novel science and technology that will help the water industry respond to the future challenges and opportunities presented by climate change, demographic change and development of emerging economies whilst continuing to generate efficiencies for the benefit of consumers.

The development of new technologies and processes in the water sector may well span more than one investment cycle and those introducing novel products in the UK

water industry face numerous barriers to innovation, both regulatory and non-regulatory.

In response Envirolink Northwest is holding a Northern Water Conference and Exhibition on 26 November 2008 at Manchester Central, which will cover future challenges in AMP5 and beyond and will focus on innovation and sustainable solutions.

The conference is designed to debate innovation in the water sector and explore the role of new science and innovative products in meeting long-term challenges including: drinking water quality, wastewater, sludge and underground asset management.

The conference is relevant to representatives from the Government, regulators, water utilities, supply chain companies, academia, equipment providers, support bodies, funding providers and other key stakeholders in the UK water industry.

For further details please visit the events section at www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

The conference will bring together speakers and stakeholders in the water and wastewater sector from across the country to:

- outline future challenges in the UK water industry in AMP5 and beyond;
- discuss the strategies set by the Government and water companies to respond to these challenges;
- introduce novel products and science and
- discuss future actions towards managing and funding innovation in the UK water sector.

Who should attend? Water industry practitioners who are involved with:

- research and development of new techniques and processes;
- the operation of water and wastewater treatment plants;
- procurement of new products and services and
- optioneering and keeping abreast with new developments.

Two raise profile at RWM

Envirolink Northwest's Recycling and Waste team shares stand with two Northwest companies

Envirolink Northwest's Recycling and Waste team has just returned from this year's Recycling and Waste Management (RWM) exhibition at the NEC, Birmingham, having shared its stand with two Northwest companies, Recovered Commodity and Orchid Environmental.

Recovered Commodity currently reprocesses all types of plastics for higher value markets. From November the company will also provide collections for plastics, paper, card, and glass as well as providing a full range of secondary market material services to meet the needs of businesses, local authorities, waste management, recycling and end users.

Orchid Environmental has developed an effective process technology employing 'Mechanical Heat Treatment' (MHT) for the processing of 'Municipal Solid Waste' (MSW). Orchid's first plant is now



Envirolink Northwest's stand at RWM

operational and over the next year will be processing over 50,000 tonnes of Merseyside's residual waste.

Over 50 Northwest companies approached the stand to speak to Envirolink Northwest representatives. The event helped to raise the profile of both companies significantly, strengthening partnerships and developing networks.

Further details for Orchid Environmental can be found at www.orchid-environmental.co.uk

Information on the services provided by Recovered Commodity can be found at www.recoveredcommodity.com

For more information on the event, or the exhibitors, please contact Katherine Burden on k.burden@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

New biomass project launches

Envirolink Northwest is hosting a £750k NWDA funded project to increase the uptake of biomass energy systems by the region's industry.

Volatility in the energy markets has a significant impact on the Northwest which has a concentration of energy intensive industries. Not only are biomass fuel costs substantially cheaper but there is often the opportunity to incorporate organic process wastes into the fuel mix. The project will focus on companies or organisations in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme which are subject to Climate Change Agreements.

Senior Sector Development Manager Nigel Blandford is managing the project until it ends in March 2011. Assistance will be available to companies to undertake work to remove pre-development risk, including technology appraisals, detailed costings, engineering drawings and environmental assessments up to the stage where planning permission is submitted.

Nigel has worked on bioenergy projects for over 20 years both in the UK and abroad. He is on secondment from The Mersey Forest, one of England's 12 Community Forests.

Doris helps clean up

Blast cleaning system using recycled crushed glass media developed

Graffiti removal, masonry restoration, street cleaning and gas pipe surface preparation can all be undertaken in an environmentally friendly and cost effective manner, thanks to Envirolink Northwest member Doris Systems Global Limited, which has developed a less hazardous blast cleaning and surface preparation system which uses recycled crushed glass media.

Envirolink Northwest has assisted Doris Systems from an early stage of development. In 2007 Envirolink Northwest supported demonstration trials using recycled crushed glass in order for the system to be accepted for use by National Grid.

Working with Northwest glass re-processors, Envirolink Northwest sourced glass for the trials which demonstrated a 50% reduction in blast media needed, reducing cost, waste and cleanup time compared with conventional blast systems, as well as being less harmful to the environment. The system proved so successful that National Grid has specified the Doris Blast System as best practice.

Doris Systems, with Envirolink Northwest's help, has entered a partnership with Recresco, a glass re-processor in Ellesmere Port, to supply the recycled crushed glass media to be used in all systems sold. It is predicted



Doris System in action: image courtesy of May Gurney Limited

that over the first year of trading, Recresco will supply approximately 1000 tonnes of recycled crushed glass to be used in the system for National Grid alone.

Envirolink Northwest's support has led to the creation of four new jobs and the generation of a new business. The number of jobs is expected to increase significantly

throughout 2009. Doris Systems was a runner up in the Environmental Innovation category at the Northwest Business Environment Awards 2008.

Doris Systems Global is keen to explore new opportunities. For more information visit www.dsgl.info or contact Stephen Hilton on 01942 275533

Contract win at IFAT for Viridian Systems

Substantial contract for Wirral based company

Wirral based Viridian Systems, a company which manufactures pneumatic pumps for contaminated land and leachate, is celebrating after winning a substantial contract during its recent visit to IFAT Munich in May.

Viridian Systems exhibited on the Envirolink Northwest stand during a visit hosted jointly by Karl Susol, International Trade Manager at Envirolink Northwest, Advantage West Midlands and the French Chamber of Commerce.

The company was originally referred to Envirolink Northwest after an initial

enquiry made to Charles Jacobson, International Trade Advisor at UKTI. The company wanted to develop its export business and completed the UKTI's Passport to Export programme. Charles introduced Roger Dixon, Managing Director at Viridian Systems to Karl to help the company access business opportunities in overseas markets.

At the exhibition Viridian Systems was also able to appoint a distributor operating in Colombia, who has subsequently conducted some market research and identified

companies interested in sourcing its products. An order was secured within the first four months of the relationship. Following this success, Viridian Systems will have a presence at FIMAI (2008) Environment, in Brazil in November, Latin America's biggest and most popular environmental trade fair, as part of the Envirolink Northwest delegation.

Managing Director Roger Dixon says, "UKTI and Envirolink Northwest have been extremely helpful in providing us with support and advice on our international trade strategy.

As a result we have been able to develop our business overseas much faster than if we had been trying to tackle new markets alone."

For further information on Envirolink Northwest please visit www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk or call 01925 813200.

Viridian Systems can be contacted on 0151 639 8666 or visit www.viridiansystems.com.

Help on hand for the food and drink industry

Rising energy costs, the landfill tax escalator and increasingly stringent legal requirements all put a strain on a manufacturer's profitability. Every aspect of the business requires attention - including those often overlooked issues of energy efficiency, water efficiency and waste management. The ability of a business to effectively monitor, manage and resolve energy, water and waste issues can potentially make or break a business.

In response, Envirolink Northwest has published the Environmental Solutions for the Food and Drink Industry directory. The directory lists the facilities, services and technologies available throughout the Northwest region which can help manufacturers to source solutions to address their energy, water and waste issues. It contains the contact details of over 220 companies which provide everything from advice and support to recycling and recovery technologies, water and effluent treatment, energy management and resource management solutions.

Copies of the directory can be downloaded from www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

Leading Innovation, Inspiring Creativity

The 'Knowledge to Innovate' NWDA funded programme is holding a thought provoking and interactive workshop for innovation leaders in small to medium sized enterprises on 18 November 2008 at the Holiday Inn, Haydock.

It will explore how to: accelerate delivery of new products and services; spot and back more winners in the innovation race; make the most of creative resources; accelerate delivery of new products and services; obtain and lever funding for innovation and overcome barriers to innovation.

The workshop is designed for leaders and key managers in SMEs seeking to manage new product, service or process innovation more effectively. The workshop will provide delegates with examples of world class innovation and practical steps which give businesses that vital extra ounce of creative energy.

Presented by C-Tech Innovation Limited, the science, technology and knowledge management specialist, the workshop will be led by experienced leaders of creativity and innovation in industrial science and technology.

Attendance is free but places are limited. If you would like to attend please reserve a place by 7th November. Registration requests should be sent to: events@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

Could you be a mentor?



Following the launch of the young professional mentoring scheme, which will run until February 2009, Sustainability Mentoring NW is now preparing for the re-launch of the student mentoring programme.

This FREE programme will be launched mid-November and will run until the end of March. The aim of the student mentoring programme is to provide guidance to highly motivated Northwest students who are interested in a career in sustainable communities or the environmental technologies and services sector.

Recruitment for the student mentoring scheme is underway. We are looking for mentors who are working within the Northwest and have at least three years' experience. This programme has been hugely successful in previous years and has numerous benefits for both the mentors and the students.

Current mentor, Mark Sullivan, EHS Co-ordinator at OMG UK Ltd commented, 'Being involved in the Mentoring Programme for the past four years has introduced me to some very committed, capable and talented individuals. I have gained considerable personal satisfaction from helping to guide them on their transition from academia into the world of work.'

For more information and to apply online, please visit www.sustainabilitymentoringnw.co.uk or contact: Amy Glover, Project Manager a.glover@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk 01925 856231

Business Link's tools to help tackle the crunch



In the current economic climate, Northwest businesses are becoming increasingly concerned about the impact of the credit crunch.

Business Link Northwest, the information, advice and support service for businesses, has rounded up its best online resources to help businesses beat the credit crunch at www.businesslink.gov.uk/northwest/creditchunch to make support and advice quick and easy to access.

The site focuses on two main areas - managing finance and increasing efficiency. It features a wide range of advice from managing cash flow to improving a business's environmental efficiency. It provides an extensive range of resources to help businesses plan, prepare and protect themselves against a financial downturn.

Geoff Crossley, Energy and Environmental Team Leader commented, "Our Energy and Environmental team is equipped with industry knowledge and business experience and is available to meet businesses face to face to help identify and tackle any problems early on. Businesses can feel reassured help is available from Business Link and we urge all businesses to make use of this free and impartial service."

Businesses can also access further guidance by contacting Business Link Northwest on 0845 00 66 888. Brokers are on hand to help review the business performance, identify key issues and actions and signpost relevant business support.

For more information on Business Link Northwest visit www.businesslink.gov.uk/northwest or call 0845 00 66 888

Bridging the gap in brownfield regeneration skills

A dedicated voluntary body offering free seminars for brownfield practitioners within the region has been launched. The North West Brownfield Regeneration Forum (NWBRF) has been created. The NWBRF will provide free and accessible seminars on topical subjects for brownfield practitioners within the region.

A dedicated steering group is behind the launch, bringing together representatives from a wide range of stakeholder organisations including English Partnerships, Envirolink Northwest, local authorities and consultants. Collectively, they provide a wealth of knowledge and experience of brownfield regeneration.

Brownfield Technical Consultant at English Partnerships, Dr Richard Boyle, explained: "The Northwest has a disproportionately large quantity of brownfield land, some of which has very challenging problems to be overcome to bring it back into beneficial use. Although many excellent organisations are based in the Northwest, employing many creative and intelligent individuals, to regenerate such land, there are relatively few skills and training opportunities within the region. We want to address this issue with the North West Brownfield Regeneration Forum. We are presenting a very interesting schedule of topics, with some first class speakers."

Senior Sector Development Manager for Land Remediation at Envirolink Northwest, Pia Wagner, commented: "England's Northwest is a leader in urban and rural regeneration. As a post-industrial region with extensive areas of derelict land, England's Northwest has experienced, skilled operators with a world-class reputation for site clean-up and redevelopment. The Forum aims to enhance the knowledge base."

Topics will include site investigation, risk assessment and remediation, all aspects of waste, consultation and stakeholder involvement. Initial Forum meetings will be held in the evening, whilst in 2009 the programme will diversify to provide a combination of evening, half day and all day seminars.

For more information on the seminar programme and to receive regular updates about the land remediation sector in the Northwest please email your details to: NWBRForum@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

UKTI update

New to exporting? Here's how we can help . . .

Overview of services offered by UKTI

Many companies are not aware of the services offered by the UKTI. From the first time exporter to the experienced global trader, UKTI provides tailored support to further business opportunities overseas.

Passport to Export

The Passport to Export programme offers new and inexperienced exporters free capability assessments, support in visiting markets, mentoring from a local professional, action plans, customised and subsidised training, and ongoing support.

Access UKTI's market expertise

Each business and each market is unique. UKTI can help businesses through research and advice, to make those initial approaches into new markets. Two key research and contact services are provided:

Overseas Market Introduction Service (OMIS)

OMIS puts businesses directly in touch with staff in UKTI's overseas offices, who are able to provide access to the best country and sector-specific business advice, as well as offering support during visits overseas.

OMIS is available in the 99 UKTI markets overseas. It is delivered on line, providing a direct link to local experts overseas irrespective of their time zone or location with fast access to reports and advice.

Export Marketing Research Scheme (EMRS)

Successful exporters consider their entry into new markets with care, carrying out export marketing research to obtain intelligence on topics such as:

- market size and segmentation;
- regulations and legislation;
- customer needs, usage and attitudes;
- distribution channels;
- trends and
- competitor activity, strategy and performance.

UKTI provides a subsidised service for UK exporters. The British Chambers of Commerce administer EMRS on behalf of UKTI. Companies with fewer than 250 employees may be eligible for a grant of up to 50 percent of the agreed cost of market research projects.

For further information on EMRS, please contact the British Chambers of Commerce.

Breaking down barriers

Help with the linguistic and cultural aspects of doing business overseas is available from UKTI. The Export Communications Review offers companies a variety of options and advice, including cultural awareness reviews.

Visiting a market

Taking part in overseas events, trade fairs or missions is an effective way to test markets, attract customers, appoint agents or distributors and make sales. UKTI helps arrange groups of UK companies to attend tradeshow and missions worldwide.

Talk to us

UKTI operates a customer enquiry line which is staffed from 9 to 5.30 Monday to Friday. To find out more, speak to someone directly or have any questions or feedback, then please call: +44 (0)161 875 2338.

UKTI and other international events November 2008 – March 2009

Some events will be supported by Envirolink Northwest in conjunction with UKTI.

Aquatherm

25-29 November, Prague, Czech Republic

FIMAI (2008) Environment

This is considered the most important fair of the industrial environment sector in Latin America. X Simai and IIII Recycle Cempre are parallel events.

12-14 November, Expo Center Norte, Sao Paulo, Brazil

Poleco

International trade fair for environmental protection.

17-20 November, Poland

Greenbuild International Conference and Expo

An opportunity to meet green builders, industry experts and influential leaders as they share insights on the green building movement and its diverse specialties.

19-21 November, Boston

Pollutech Lyon

Providing a stage for pollution prevention and treatment technologies; for the protection of the environment and the promotion of sustainable development.

2-5 December, Eurexpo France, Lyon

World Future Energy Event

19-21 January, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi

UKTI Water Seminar Mission

19-23 January 2009, Romania

UKTI Seminar Mission, Waste Management and Contaminated Land Remediation

25 – 29 January 2009, Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania,

UKTI Water Seminar Mission

30 January – 4 February 2009, Saudi Arabia

Power-Gen Renewable Energy and Fuels 2008

19 – 21 February 2009, Las Vegas,

Middle East Waste Summit 2009,

12 -14 March 2009, Dubai, U.A.E.

If you are interested in finding out more about opportunities overseas please contact

Karl Susol on 01925 856045 or k.susol@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

For full details of these and other events visit:

www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

IFAT China identifies ETS opportunities

Envirolink Northwest visited **IFAT** in Shanghai to research opportunities for the Northwest ETS sector

A delegation from Envirolink Northwest visited IFAT in Shanghai, China between 23rd and 25th of September to research opportunities for the Northwest ETS sector. The organisers of the third international trade fair for water, sewage, refuse, recycling and natural energy sources have reported that more than 11,000 visited the Shanghai New International Expo Centre to

Whilst at IFAT China the Envirolink Northwest delegation researched business opportunities in the recycling and waste sector



Envirolink Northwest's IFAT brochure

& industrial waste arising each year, most of which is sent to landfill or incinerated.

China has a severe shortage of water and safe drinking water is a major concern for the central government. By 2010, China plans to increase the current poor treatment rate of urban sewage and industrial wastewater by 20%. Unsurprisingly water and wastewater treatment

The UK has become one of the major waste exporters to China, sending 1.9 million tonnes of waste in 2006

view the exhibition and attend the conference.

This year saw the strongest participation by Chinese exhibitors, representing 50% of the 362 exhibitors present. There were five national pavilions, including a German and a Korean pavilion. The UK pavilion hosted four companies including Envirolink Northwest and representatives from UKTI (UK Trade & Investment).

Whilst promoting the capabilities of the Northwest ETS sector, the Envirolink Northwest delegation also researched business opportunities in the recycling and waste sector, with assistance from UKTI and the China-Britain Business Council (CBBC).

The UK has become one of the major waste exporters to China, sending 1.9 million tonnes of waste in 2006, which was destined to

become raw material for manufacturing. There are clearly further opportunities to export technology and expertise, which was highlighted during a meeting with the Shanghai Environment Protection Bureau and Solid Waste Management Centre. The city needs to attract more investment in recycling and recovery facilities to deal with around 24 million tonnes of municipal and commercial

dominated the exhibition and conference programme.

Leading the delegation to IFAT China was Lynn Shaw, Head of International Trade Services for UKTI North West, Nicola Ball, Senior Market Development Manager (Recycling and Waste) for Envirolink Northwest and Karl Susol, International Trade Manager for Envirolink Northwest.

Envirolink Northwest launches Resource Saver

Scheme to divert waste sent to landfill from business by re-using, recycling or composting it

Envirolink Northwest has received additional funding from the NWDA to manage a new community re-use and recycling pilot in the region. Resource Saver Northwest aims to reduce waste sent to landfill from business by diverting it for re-use, recycling or composting by community, charitable or not-for-profit groups.

One example of the project in action has been the bike exchange between Bikeright, an East Manchester social enterprise, and two schools in disadvantaged areas of Manchester. Ten bikes from the Manchester Velodrome, but originally from Raleigh, were reconditioned by Bikeright, which delivers 'bikeability' into schools. The bikes were then donated to Webser's Primary School and Our Lady's RC Primary School in April 2008. Once Bikeright's cycle safety training was completed, the bikes were used for exercise, fitness and fun in each school.

The project aims to:

- promote re-use, recycling and composting;
- help support the community and voluntary sector to develop, by securing an increased number of contracts with an increased value;
- assist a combination of large, medium and small sized C&I businesses to divert resource materials from landfill facilitated by the Community Waste Sector (CWS) and
- raise the profile of the CWS and promote its capability.

For further information or to get involved in the project, please contact Rob O' Neill Jones at Resource Saver Northwest on: 0161 223 8200, 07870 194 172 or rob@crn.org.uk www.resourcesaver.org.uk



Bikes from the Manchester Velodrome reconditioned by Bikeright

Compost wins in great tomato taste test

Volunteer tasters prefer taste of tomatoes grown in compost amended soil

In Envirolink Northwest's first great tomato taste test, 10 plucky volunteers tasted eight groups of tomatoes including imported salad tomatoes, grown typically on rock wool using hydroponics and a series of tomatoes grown in traditional soil amended with different rates of green compost soil conditioner. The results indicate that compost amended soil improves flavour.

The hungry plants make the most of the nutrient boost from the compost, but flavour is also known to improve with enhanced soil conductivity. The addition of nutrients (potassium and phosphorous) has been shown to have a positive effect on fruit sugars and acid content (Lacatus et al. 1994, Mikkelsen, 2005).

Pinfold Nurseries, based in Scarisbrick near Ormskirk, is one of the largest traditional soil based tomato growers in the region. Using green compost supplied by WRS Composting Ltd, Pinfold Nurseries has been trialling

compost in its greenhouses this year.

Nursery owners Ian and Geoff Pye commented, 'We're obviously keen to find out whether the compost will raise overall yield and whether there is any increase in the number of trusses per plant within each trial area at the end of the season.' In addition to the boost in nutrients they noted improvements in the workability and moisture balance in the soil.

Pinfold Nurseries together with WRS Composting Ltd, RPG Herbs, Metrolite Industries and Nurturing Nature exhibited at the Southport Flower Show in August. The show is the UK's largest independent flower show, attracting over 100,000 visitors each year. The stand, hosted by Envirolink Northwest, attracted interest from the general public and, with a message of 'keep up the good work', a visit from show patron, environmental campaigner and supporter of recycled products (including Extrudawood), Professor David Bellamy.



Some of the produce on display at the Envirolink Northwest stand at the Southport Flower Show

New handbook launched on Whole Life Cycle Product Management



Delegates at the DEPUIIS workshop held at the Partnership for Learning in Speke in September heard the latest thinking on whole life cycle product management for the manufacturing and construction industries and were provided with copies of the new DEPUIIS handbook which is a quick reference guide for practitioners.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Peter Hodgson from the Sustainable Development team of the Corus Group, who gave a detailed insight into to the company's unique Life Cycle Analysis model. Expert technical inputs on international standards for communication in design and manufacturing, the European Platform for LCA impact data, reference data for a process plant throughout its life cycle and implementation of standards using web technologies were provided by Envirolink Northwest member Dr Norman Swindells of Ferroday Ltd and David Leal of Caesar Software. Dr John Whittall, Lead Technologist with the Government's Technology Strategy Board (TSB) concluded the event by providing an overview of the TSB's national technical strategy for sustainability.

The new handbook provides support for manufacturing companies, particularly SMEs to:

- use these standards for product data technology for communication, quality control and quality assurance of information;
- improve the environmental aspects of new products through the innovative use of new information standards;
- promote life cycle thinking and the IPP through the distance learning system;
- help software developers produce innovative products and services compatible with the international standards and
- promote the qualification and recognition of new skills that will enable engineers to make the right choice of software systems for improving communication and the quality of environmental data throughout the life cycle of a product.

All products cause environmental degradation in some way, whether from their manufacture, use or disposal. The EC's Integrated Product Policy (IPP) seeks to minimise these effects by examining all phases of a product's life cycle (from cradle to grave) and taking action where it is most effective. Life Cycle Thinking

The handbook comprises six chapters:

- 1 – summarises the concept of life cycle thinking;
- 2 – introduces the DEPUIIS web site as a source of information on standards for LCA and product data technology, with on-line courses for distance learning in both subject;
- 3 – summarises the methodology for life cycle assessment;
- 4 – the concept of product data technology and why standardised information models and reference dictionaries that are independent from proprietary software are so important for the whole life cycle approach. It also includes new methods for accessing data from the world wide web;
- 5 – provides a practical example of life cycle assessment and gives an overview of the lessons learned and future perspectives.

(LCT) takes into account all of the resources consumed and all the environmental and health implications that are associated with the life cycle of a product.

Life Cycle Thinking is complementary to a number of other assessment techniques such as chemical risk assessment with

its focus on specific substances, or environmental management tools which focus on sites or companies. The IPP encourages manufacturers to consider the whole life of their products at the very earliest stages of the innovation process, when making changes is not as costly, in order to reduce the environmental impact of the future life of the product.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) often do not make use of international or national standards, because they are not aware of their benefits. DEPUIIS' objective is to demonstrate the intrinsic benefit of designing with an integrated approach to all product life cycle phases from the cradle to the grave using international standards for product data technology.

The knowledge base that has been produced by the ISO technical committees in the environmental management series (ISO 14000) and for product data technology (ISO TC184/SC4) is very large. It is hoped that the handbook will encourage greater use of the combination of these two methods in order to support innovation in the design of new products and to describe why this interaction is so important.

Copies of the speakers' presentations and the free DEPUIIS handbook can be found on the Envirolink Northwest website.

Wind companies make huge savings

Project designed to help companies join the wind energy supply chain

Equipping Northwest manufacturers to win a major share of the rapidly-growing wind energy supply chain business was the aim of an ambitious productivity development project that has benefited those taking part to the tune of £43.5 million.

£120,000 project commissioned by Envirolink Northwest and BERR designed to assist companies which are already within, or which could join, the wind energy supply chain



Wind turbines at Eastman Chemicals in Cumbria

Working with The Manufacturing Institute, up to 18 fully-funded days of support were offered, from initial diagnostics to pinpoint problem areas, through in-depth training for staff to practical lean projects to improve productivity.

Companies involved included HMG Paints, which supplies coatings for wind turbines; Hughes Sub Surface Engineering, which provides marine civil engineering services; James Walker, whose gaskets and profiles are widely used in the energy and wind turbines sectors; and Trelleborg Offshore, which provides polymer engineering solutions for offshore applications.

At Bendalls Engineering, which has been helping to develop the world's first large-scale tidal current turbine, a value stream mapping (VSM) exercise showed the main potential area for improvement was the personal development of key individuals. Lack of training had created disorganised workshop stores and hold-ups in the project engineering department. Training in 5S for key staff - a way of organizing

and managing the workspace and work flow to improve efficiency by eliminating waste, improving flow and reducing process inefficiency - brought dramatic changes in the stores, while VSM linked to appropriate training increased working capacity in project engineering.

Management and team leader development was introduced, while a multi-disciplinary team was trained to identify opportunities to improve

internal efficiencies and improve productivity through the elimination of identified wastes. The company's website was updated to show customers that Bendalls Engineering should be the choice for any company seeking high-quality steel fabrication work.

Bendalls Engineering received £9,000 of support work whilst the benefits from improved productivity are worth £388,000 per annum.

DECs made easy

Software to help public sector organisations meet the requirement to produce Display Energy Certificates

Since 1st October, owners of public buildings with floor areas greater than 1000m² have been required to display an energy performance certificate (EPC). Certificates are graded by performance on a scale from A-G, similar to the system used for grading white goods. There are two types for commercial buildings: asset certificates and operating certificates.

Envirolink Northwest member, i-Prophets energy services, has launched digitalenergy™, the first independent software solution to be approved for the production of

operational ratings. The software was developed to help public sector organisations meet the requirement to produce Display Energy Certificates (DECs) and Advisory Reports (ARs).

i-Prophets energy services designed the online approach as a user friendly, intuitive solution to the preparation of DECs and ARs. Completely scalable, it enables information to be collated in a common portal, enabling a co-operative approach to the production of certificates and reports. Lodgement and quality of documents remains the responsibility

of the accredited energy assessor but digitalenergy enables a simple approach for the assessor to enlist the support of others.

"In typical buildings information resides in different departments, with different people safeguarding it. Using digitalenergy as a common framework information can be collated much more quickly and assembled ready for the calculation of the operational rating," said Richard Hipkiss, Sales and Marketing Director. He continued, "The approach not only makes year one easier but it

takes a forward thinking approach to the renewal of certificates. Organisations do not need to panic again next year!"

Richard Hipkiss, Sales and Marketing Director at i-Prophets energy services will be speaking at the NWEF Annual Conference on 27th November at Manchester Central. digitalenergy is available from www.i-prophets.com or via approved partners.

Stepping up with skills

Northwest higher education sector helping companies to gain higher skill levels

It is widely accepted that the attainment of higher level skills increases the competitiveness of companies, and that there are significant opportunities for enhancing the skills levels of those in the workforce. The higher education sector in the Northwest is responding to this challenge and demonstrating considerable success.

The North West Universities Association (NWUA) was one of three pathfinder regions to receive funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England to operate HLSP (Higher Level Skills Partnership). This activity has seen 26 courses in development in direct response to industry needs (within four sectors: advanced engineering and materials; construction, creative and digital and financial and professional).

The NWDA has recently enhanced and extended this funding to include the energy and environmental technologies sector (E&ETS), food and drink and biomedical sectors. The Northwest has now an increased ability to develop higher level skills provision through universities and higher education institutions (HEIs),



further education colleges and private training providers.

The Northwest HLSP is being led by the NWUA, as the representative body of the fourteen Northwest HEIs, in partnership with Envirolink Northwest, the NWDA, Government Office North West (GONW), the Association

of Colleges (AoC), the North West Provider Network (NWP), the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), the Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) and the NW Regional Skills and Employment Board (RSEB).

Driven by demand and the encouragement of employer

investment in skills, the model is based upon brokerage (Higher Level skills aspects of the 'Train to Gain' service) and the development and delivery of new provisions which meet employer demand. In October, a call for proposals will be released to universities, FE Colleges and private training providers asking for ideas for course development taking into account employer needs.

¹ Higher Level Skills are at Level 4+ meaning HNC or Certificate of HE and above (which includes Foundation Degrees, Bachelor Degrees and Postgraduate Qualifications)

Further information about HLSP is available from www.nwua.ac.uk/pathfinder/

For information about Higher Education in the North West download a guide at www.nwua.ac.uk/docs/pdf/A_Short_Guide_to_HE1.pdf or contact Claire Lowe, Specialist Advisor for more information on 0161 234 8885 or clowe@nwua.ac.uk

Company Profile Quinn Glass

Cheshire based company strives to utilise highest recycled content possible when manufacturing bottles

Cheshire based QUINN glass, a division of the Quinn Group, manufactures glass containers for the food and beverage industry. QUINN glass joined the glass container market in 1998 and now has two glass plants in the UK, a state of the art bottling facility, and Europe's largest automated and bonded warehouse.

The addition of a filling hall and bonded warehouse at its Elton site means customers benefit from considerable cost savings and also

environmental savings through bulk importation of beverages. The company offers a 'complete package' by ensuring the process is a simple and a seamless transition through design, glass and filling trials, glass manufacture, bulk filling and bonded store.

QUINN glass has two dedicated wine lines and three carbonated beverage lines at its plant in Elton. Manufacturing glass containers on site and filling goods with bulk importations provides a number



Glass bottles manufactured by Quinn Glass

of advantages, not only is the production of glass in the UK increasing the demand for recycled cullet (the waste glass used in glass-making), it is also reducing the impact of transport as fewer shipments and road movements are required.

Recently QUINN glass has been working with the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) on the GlassRite Wine Project. Significant emission savings can be made by changing the way the UK currently imports wine. WRAP has highlighted

that the combined benefits on bulk shipping and bottling in the UK of using the lightest 300g bottle for every 75cl bottle of wine can result in a 375g CO₂ saving. QUINN glass also strives to utilise the highest recycled content possible within its bottles with an average of 90 % cullet in green glass and 50 % in flint.

For further information visit www.quinn-glass.com

Programme to REVIVE brownfield land

170 hectares within Cheshire and Warrington to be transformed into an environmental asset

Cheshire County Council has entered into a partnership with the Northwest Regional Development Agency (NWDA) to transform 170 hectares of brownfield land within Cheshire and Warrington into an environmental asset. In March 2008 both organisations signed an agreement to secure £17.3 million of NWDA funding to finance the creation of new green spaces with improved public access and enhanced provision for nature conservation on previously developed land.

The programme, known as REVIVE, currently covers 20 individual sites. Site investigation, consultation, design and implementation works are to be carried out over a period of seven years, with active management for 15 years after contract completion to ensure the benefits from the investment are sustained. This will bring the total REVIVE programme period to 22 years. The funding package will include the full costs for four additional members of staff to form the REVIVE team.

Within its Regional Economic Strategy the NWDA has identified a need to invest in the image and environment of the region. The agency placed the treatment of derelict, underused and neglected land on a list of priorities within its Corporate Plan. The aim of the NWDA funding is to improve economic prospects for the region by creating a better quality environment, an improved image and an attractive setting for



inward investment. The creation of high quality open spaces will provide opportunities for recreation, exercise and healthy lifestyles and encourage biodiversity.

The NWDA has already funded site investigations and the production of a

business plan. Cheshire County Council has been in discussion with landowners and the confirmation of regional funding will allow negotiations to be finalised. Many of the sites lie within the proposed Weaver Valley Regional Park but the programme also includes

the creation of a new cycleway between Chester and Mickle Trafford along a disused railway.

The first improvements to be delivered on the ground will be in Warrington, where the Borough Council is regenerating the former Bewsey Tip and Woolston New Cut Canal. It is hoped that site operations will commence in the autumn. At both sites this will involve the construction of a new network of footpaths, tree planting and improvements to existing water features. At Woolston the REVIVE funding will support the establishment of an Urban Ecology Park along the former canal. New habitats such as reed beds will be created as part of a new community facility.

Partners include:

Cheshire County Council; the Northwest Regional Development Agency; Cheshire and Warrington Economic Alliance; Chester City Council; Congleton Borough Council; Borough of Macclesfield; Ellesmere Port and Neston Borough Council; Vale Royal Borough Council; Warrington Borough Council; Groundwork; the Mersey Basin Campaign; Chemicals Northwest and Mersey Forest.

Events for your diary November - December 2008

For full details of these and other events visit:
www.envirolinknorthwest.co.uk

13th European Biosolids and Organic Resource Conference

10-12 November
Lancashire County Cricket Club,
Old Trafford, Manchester

Statistical Analysis of Sampling Data – North West Brownfield Regeneration Forum

11 November
The Centre, Birchwood Park,
Warrington

Water Seminar Mission – China – Shanghai, Hefei, Nanchang and Fuzhou

16-25 November

Cleantech Innovation Forum

20 November
Manchester Central

Environmental Future – Environment Agency Annual Conference

24-25 November
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre,
London

Waste and Resources Management in Construction

25 November
Hamilton House, London

Waste Management and Energy from Waste

25-29 November
Seminar mission to Seoul, Republic of Korea

Northern Water Conference and Exhibition

26 November
Manchester Central

Waste Prevention – The Way Forward

26 November
Austin Court, Birmingham

North West Energy Forum – Annual Conference

27th November
Manchester Central

Air Quality Improvement and Clean Technology Production

1-5 December
Seminar mission to Guangzhou, Shenzhen and Hong Kong

Northwest Tidal Energy Group Launch event

17th December
George Fox Building,
Lancaster University

Inside track



Nick Storer Chief Executive, Envirolink Northwest

Support for the Energy & Environmental Technologies and Services sector here in the Northwest is developing. October sees the launch of our Biomass Sector Development Project, funded by the NWDA. This 30 month project aims to support the uptake of biomass fuels for heat in process industries, and so

stimulating the biomass supply chain. We'll be telling you more about this project over the next few months.

The North West Universities Association is about to launch its Higher Level Skills Partnership project for the Energy & Environmental Technologies and Services sector; again, funded by the NWDA. This £600,000, two year project aims to support the development of new degree, post-graduate and CPD courses to be delivered by Northwest higher and further education institutions, where there is a clear indication of industry demand for courses and engagement with the institutions. If you're interested

in finding out more about this contact us or the NWUA. We need to know what your skills needs are in order to ensure this project delivers what's needed.

Looking to the future, Envirolink Northwest is currently engaged with the NWDA in developing enhanced sector support projects that will be part funded by the European Union. Some will be an enhancement of our existing projects, whilst others will be delivered by other agencies. These include a phase II of the Recycling and Waste sector support programme, enhancement of our Energy, Water and Land sector support work, development of an Eco-innovation project, a Low Carbon Technology

Productivity Improvement Project and much more.

We are also looking further afield in developing partnerships with other Energy & Environment Cluster bodies in Europe as the EU develops its Cluster Co-operation programme. The aim is to forge research, development and commercial partnerships between EU based companies to enhance the competitiveness of our sector in the global market. On a practical level this means we network at bizarre sounding events such as the EU Committee of the Regions Open Days and the Eurada InterCluster conference.

Team updates

Energy, Land & Water

Seven Northwest companies joined the Envirolink Northwest Pavilion at BWEA 30 in London. Community Windpower, Dyne Solicitors, HiDef Aerial Surveying, Hughes Sub Surface Engineering, Peel Energy, Lofrix and Rewinds & J.Windsor & Sons all used the opportunity to raise their profiles and make new contacts.

The Energy team is currently exploring a number of international opportunities. In November they will be undertaking a market visit and a trade mission to Boston, USA, to attend GreenBuild 08. The team will also be hosting a number of Northwest companies on the Envirolink Northwest pavilion at the World Future Energy Summit 09 in Abu Dhabi.

The 3rd NWEF Annual Conference will be held at Manchester Central, on 27th November 2009. Envirolink Northwest sponsors the NWEF and jointly hosts the show at which over 20 regional companies will be exhibiting.

The latest issue of Energy Efficiency NoW magazine is available, with features on motors and drives. Copies can be downloaded from the Envirolink Northwest website.

The Land team has launched its

first Land Remediation E-newsletter. The bulletin is designed to enable the team to share news, events and opportunities with Northwest companies involved in the land sector. If you would like to be added to the mailing list please email your contacts to info@envirolinknorthwest.co.uk stating your requirements.

Organising the Northern Water Conference and Exhibition is the main focus for the Water team. This free event will be held at Manchester Central in November. It is expected to attract 150 delegates and 25 exhibitors. Further details are available on the Envirolink Northwest website.

Knowledge Management

The team is preparing to launch two directories 'Environmental solutions for the food and drink industry' and the 'Energy efficiency supply chain directory'. Preparation has begun for the production of two more, the 'Recycling and waste supply chain directory' and an 'Environmental solutions for the construction industry directory' which will be published in the New Year. The Envirolink Northwest Annual Report will be published during the winter.

The Knowledge Management team

has been supporting a full events programme including local ETS sector events, a scoping visit to IFAT China, exhibiting at Aquatech in Amsterdam, and attendance at the Community of the Regions in Brussels.

The Knowledge Management team is responsible for gathering sector intelligence. New sector surveys are under development and will be sent to members in a rolling programme that will ensure Envirolink Northwest has up-to-date sector intelligence to support business development and growth.

Recycling & Waste

The R&D Active Network met on the 24th September to review progress to date and update members on available assistance and funding.

The Technology Commercialisation team has funded a new capital grant for PVC Recycling Ltd for demonstration of new polymer identification and separation technology. The team is organising a visit from the Head of Waste Policy at BERR to leading Northwest recycling and waste companies at the start of November.

The Sector Development team in partnership with Resource Efficiency

Yorkshire (REY) and Renew is commissioning a project to test the use of recycled glass as a filtration media in place of traditional sand. The study will aim to determine the attributes and specifications of using glass in a number of filtration applications, as well as assessing the size of the market in the Northwest.

Work has now begun on the 3rd edition of the 'Recycling and waste supply chain directory'. An electronic version of the questionnaire is available on Envirolink Northwest's website should any companies wish to be included.

The Market Development team exhibited at this year's Southport Flower Show with RPG Herbs, Metrolite Industries and WRS Composting. The stand was a great success, even attracting renowned conservationist David Bellamy, and generated business opportunities for all the companies sharing the stand.

The Market Development team has launched its Sustainable Procurement Consultancy Support competition. Allenbuild Northwest, United Utilities, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority will be receiving support from Action Sustainability on how to account for and embed sustainability considerations into their procurement procedures, processes and decisions.

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