

# POTTON – Caring for the Environment

Potton Limited is one of the UK's longest established timber frame manufacturers with 40 years experience in quality timber engineering. They are market leaders in self build housing, and also work with larger developers and builders who attach a value to the Potton partnership approach and wish to achieve a joint goal of delivering an on-budget, on-time, quality build.

Potton has a long term commitment to sustainability and accessing Business Investor support was a key step in equipping them with the knowledge and structure to move into a formalised Environmental Management System (EMS).

## Training for change:

Potton's Production Manager and Business Improvement Manager attended the CIWM accredited Waste Awareness course with the aim of reducing waste going to landfill. The Business Improvement Manager went on to attend the CIEH accredited Environmental Management Certificate with the objective of enabling Potton to achieve ISO14001 accreditation.

## Towards formal EMS:

An Environmental Team was founded and outlined key priority areas for action:

- Compliance with relevant environmental legislation
- Sustainable procurement (supply chain greening)
- Waste reduction
- Reduction in electricity consumption

## Key achievements

- Formal Environmental Management System (EMS) launched with key targets for improvement identified
- Senior Management buy in achieved
- Energy saving initiatives identified through the Carbon Trust
- Staff awareness programme launched to reduce electricity consumption by 5% overall and 10% within office environments
- Formulation of action plan to support sustainable purchasing
- Chain of Custody accreditation – expected to be awarded in the next few months
- Scrap timber recycling (through third party)
- Feasibility study underway to investigate whether scrap timber could be used to create biomass pellets which can be re-used to provide heating
- visits from NISP and other local recycling contacts, and the target is to reduce waste to landfill by 10% this year

**'We have been able to get off to a great start thanks to the Business Investors and the support they provided. We now have the knowledge and structure on place to move into a formalised Environmental Management System (EMS)'**

Tina Nash, Business Improvement Manager, Potton

