

News Release

November 2008

My Week – Clare Watters

Monday – Today I head out to the plains of South Lincolnshire, to speak to 2 separate fruit&veg distributors (who supply the likes of Waitrose, Tescos etc) about continuing to work with us. With large supermarkets putting increasing pressure on their suppliers to reduce environmental impacts, and increasing costs for energy and waste disposal, companies like these are making up an increasing proportion of our clientele. Both companies are interested in finding out more about the new membership packages that we're now offering that can support them in their goals of putting in a strong environmental management system and eventually achieving ISO14001.

Tuesday – Today is all about business planning, and I work with our new marketing assistant Kalai, who we've employed to help us really get under the skin of what businesses want from us. We're in the process of upgrading our service to a variety of different packages, to support different client needs. Some, such as Kier Eastern or Norwich and Peterborough Building Society, are ahead of the game in environmental management, but still want to be kept up-to-date with new information and technology. Others, like McCains or Peterborough City Council just need a helping hand and/or training. And others need much more intensive support, as their staff resources are stretched to breaking point! As part of the process we're re-branding ourselves from "BeMS" to "Business envestors." We discuss putting together a membership start-up pack, with all the necessary templates to kick-start an EMS, plus fun "green" freebies. We then consider our training, and decide that we will continue to offer tried and tested favourites in environmental management and waste management, and also put together a calendar of morning seminars, that we are going to offer free of charge to new businesses, to offer a "taster" into the "green" business world!

Wednesday – We are currently working with Queensgate shopping centre and its retailers, because they want to reduce the waste that they produce. Currently the centre and their retailers produce over 13 tonnes of waste per week!! To put that in perspective, the average 4-person household would take 7 years to produce that much waste! Queensgate have already improved recycling rates so that over 50% of this is recycled, but they are still keen to do more. As part of the work we are doing with them, I am conducting reviews of 3 retailers. Today the retailer I review seems to be doing very well, and only contribute a very small amount to the waste produced. However, there is always room for improvement, and after being taken around their site, I work from home writing up a report of recommendations that should reduce their waste production even further, as well as some ideas for reducing their energy and water consumption. Some suggestions are tried and tested, others are ideas I had after the review and perhaps a little zany!

Thursday – I have a fairly boring day today, doing the necessary but dull admin jobs my post requires, including budget management, replying to e-mail queries and completing paperwork for one of the funded projects that we run. It's also a chance for the Business Envestors team to ask me for advice with anything they need help with.

Friday – I head out to visit one of my clients today, someone that we have been working with for years, and they have done a terrific job of reducing their environmental impacts. They are looking to get ISO14001 in the future, and want to get prepared early, so I talk them through what they would need to do to get there. I head home, trying to work out a cheaper way that he can get rid of 1 ½ tonnes of coloured paper offcuts. At the moment it's recycled, but at a cost to the company. I have a brain-wave, but it needs a little research. It will have to wait until next week, because for now it's the weekend!

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Notes to Editor

1. **Peterborough Environment City Trust (PECT)** is a charity set up following Peterborough's designation as a UK Environment City. PECT carries out research and implements practical projects to protect and improve the environment. Our mission at PECT is to lead and support the city in delivering growth and regeneration in a truly environmentally sustainable way. As a successful charity we work with a wide variety of stakeholders to make a difference for our environment – through innovation, enterprise and commitment to action on the ground. PECT has a strong track record of delivering projects of regional and national significance. It has a staff of 29 working on initiatives from green spaces to business environmental management to sustainable communities and lifestyles.

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