



Support for business adaptation to
climate change

Contact: Jennifer Sibley

Direct line: 020 7934 9829

Email: jennifer.sibley@londoncouncils.gov.uk

Date: 16 January 2014

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your letter dated 25 November 2014 on support Boroughs can provide to businesses on climate change adaptation.

London Boroughs are well-placed to support local businesses with climate change adaptation, with their multiple interactions and local knowledge of business priorities and needs. We believe that environmental services in particular could be in a position to support businesses as part of their regular environmental health work, as these officers visit premises and will be able to assess physical risks. On-going borough work on employability and skills with businesses could mean boroughs are already able to identify the skills gaps in their local economies and work with businesses, colleges and apprenticeship providers to address this. We believe this will be transferable to industries affected by climate change, and industries that will be vital in ensuring that London can adapt to climate change.

London Councils contacted Boroughs asking for examples of where they provide support to businesses in adapting to climate change. Some of these examples are summarised with more information in Appendix A to this letter. Separately Boroughs are also active in encouraging businesses to become more sustainable and reduce their impact on their environment, as this makes financial sense as well.

London Boroughs are experiencing financial significant constraints, and the support that boroughs can provide to their businesses will always be dependent on having the resources and expertise to do so. However, where they can, Boroughs are committed to helping their business community adapt and prepare for climate change.

If London Councils can be of further assistance to the Economy Committee's investigation, please do get in touch. We are happy to pass on to the Committee any further examples of borough work in this area, as we are made aware of them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Claire Kober".

Cllr Claire Kober
Portfolio Holder for Infrastructure and Regeneration

Appendix A – Examples of boroughs undertaking work with businesses to help them adapt to climate change

LBs of **Enfield, Waltham Forest, Lewisham and Haringey** are delivering Retrofit London, a project that will support small businesses specialising in green building products, construction and property management to become more efficient and more able to win contracts by gaining accreditation, developing supply-chains and getting more information on contract opportunities.

The **City of London** adopted a climate change adaptation strategy in 2007, identifying the risks to its businesses of climate change, and ways to mitigate these. It provides a climate change adaptation checklist for major infrastructure projects, and has run a series of seminars for the last 10 years for businesses on supply chain impacts and resilience. The City has produced guidance and case studies for businesses on flood risk and encourages the creation of green roofs and walls in its planning policies. Together with Zyen Ltd it provides open source reports and analysis on climate change.

LB **Islington** has an Islington Sustainable Energy Partnership (formerly the Islington Climate Change Partnership) which supports businesses that want to reduce their energy use, improve their environmental performance and support their local community. The Partnership is led by businesses and has won awards for its approach. Since 2008 partnership members have reduced their carbon emissions by over 19% and have saved £2.6m. Small businesses can receive support through the Green Light North London project.

In **LB Barking & Dagenham**, the Greening Business Programme provides free advice and support to small and medium- sized businesses or voluntary organisations who want to save money or go green. It is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and supported by the London boroughs of Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond, Kensington & Chelsea and Barking & Dagenham. Businesses are paired with a Relationship Manager who can identify aspects of the business that can become more sustainable.

The Fit for Legacy team at Barking & Dagenham also offer support to businesses in securing tenders, by helping businesses create strong environmental policies that are needed to be competitive and win contracts.

LB **Redbridge** has run a Green Business Redbridge Scheme since 2012 which aims to raise environmental awareness and promote sustainable business practices. The Environment Team helps businesses to write environmental policies and provides free energy use surveys. Businesses can apply for bronze, silver and gold level certification.

Case Study: Fit for Legacy helps Anchor Green create an environmental policy and action plan that secures them a new contract win and a business award!

Anchor Green Limited is one of the UK's fastest growing environmental services companies specialising in the recycling of municipal, commercial, and industrial waste, with a huge presence in metal recycling. Founder and Director, King Chukwuedo was referred to Fit for Legacy (FfL) from the business support team at the London Borough of Barking and Dagenham, as King wanted to learn more about accessing contract opportunities to support his business growth strategy and improve his chances of winning bids.

The team at FfL conducted an in-depth business needs analysis and recognised that they needed to work closely with Anchor Green to ensure they better understood the increasingly exacting requirements and steps of tendering.

The key focus was on ensuring King had all relevant business policies and supporting documentation in place, and that this was fully understood right across Anchor Green. King attended a training session on "Procurement and How to Win Contracts" as well as various environmental and other key policy workshops. As a company with a stated commitment to the sustainability of the environment, it was paramount that Anchor Green had a comprehensive and robust environmental policy in place, which demonstrated its own internal values as well as its commitment to its customers. FfL worked closely with King to ensure that this was his strongest asset, and to allow him to increase his competitive edge in the marketplace.

As a consequence of being able to demonstrate to a new buyer that they now had in place an environmental policy and operational action plan which was vastly superior to any of their competitors, Anchor Green were able to secure a large contract win, which also meant they were able to create a new local job to help them fulfil that contract. Anchor Green also won the prestigious 'Green Business of the Year' award at the 2014 London Borough of Barking and Dagenham Business awards.

"We knew we had to grow the business and create new revenue streams. We also wanted to be in a better position to compete for contracts. FfL made the steps of tendering clearer and, with these new policies in place, we are now taken more seriously as a business supplier when we go for contract opportunities".

King Chukwuedo – Director of Anchor Green Ltd



ANCHOR GREEN Limited

...creating a brand new world



Prontaprint Barking (Barking & Dagenham)

Barking business shows how printing can sometimes be green



Sominder Panesar, Director, and his staff at Prontaprint's new office

One of the latest organisations to benefit from our Greening Business programme is **Prontaprint Barking**. Prontaprint is a family-run printing service, covering every aspect of design and print.

Through the services of Business Relationship Managers Project provided by London Borough of Barking and Dagenham the need to focus on the sustainability aspects of the business was identified. This was suggested to achieve cost savings, increase profitability, competitiveness and the profile of the business.

Prontaprint was signposted to Greening Business Project because they were about to move premises and wanted to make sure that their new business unit was set up and managed in an environmentally friendly way.

The Greening Business Adviser carried out an assessment of Prontaprint's premises and identified several issues specific to the printing business which would make the business more sustainable. In addition, the Adviser carried out a review of the building site of the new premises to make sure that environmental improvements could be planned at an early stage.

Firstly, she suggested a better way of securing hazardous waste – all the printer ink etc. The waste had previously just been left outside, but the Adviser recommended that it be clearly labelled and locked in a cabinet before it was collected. Paper waste was already minimised and embedded in staff culture, but the Adviser supported the business to do the same with its packaging. It now offers an ECO range using less packaging as well as recycled paper.

Changes relevant to other types of business were also implemented, for example, replacing the water cooler with its disposable plastic containers and cups with a

plumbed-in system of filtered water to the tap. The use of LED lighting and presence detectors was also recommended and subsequently implemented in the toilets and corridors, along with other energy-saving devices to minimise electricity, heating and water waste.

The Adviser then helped Prontaprint develop an Environmental Policy, which would demonstrate their environmental commitment to their staff, customers, suppliers and sub-contractors. It is hoped that this commitment will encourage others to follow Prontaprint's good environmental example, as well as increasing the number of their customers.



Sominder with his Greening Business certificate

Sominder Panesar, Director of Prontaprint Barking, said of Greening Business:

“Sustainability is a core value in my business style and Prontaprint Barking has embedded energy efficiency and environmental protection into the organizational culture. I believe that, even if you are already environmentally aware, receiving support from a qualified adviser can always lead to further improvement. Our participation in the Greening Business programme has led to a reduction in energy costs and by recycling our waste paper we are awarded financially for the waste paper off-cuts. We have invested in eco-solvent machines which use non-aggressive solvents and do not spread any harmful VOCs in the working environment as well as being friendly to the external environment.”

For more information, please see <http://www.prontaprintbarking.com>

The Greening Business Programme:

The Greening Business programme provides free advice and support to small and medium-sized businesses or voluntary organisations who want to save money or go green. It is part-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2007-2013 and supported by

the London boroughs of Merton, Wandsworth, Richmond, Kensington & Chelsea and Barking & Dagenham.

Your business could also benefit from the project like Prontaprint, if it's based in the Borough FREE of charge.

For further enquiries, kindly contact our business relationship manager on 020 8724 8295 and karthik.durgaprasad@lbbd.gov.uk