Green Impact Team – Human Resources

GOLD AWARD Winners 2013

Newsletter – Christmas Recycling Special

December 2013, no.10
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GREEN HEROES!...

Outgoing & Incoming Green Impact Team Members

The HR Green Impact Team has seen a few changes. We are delighted that we continue to have a spread of people from across HR. Many thanks to Maddy, who is stepping down from the team, but will of course continue with her purchase and recycling procedures plus data collection on printer/copier use which now well established in the department. Maddy, your efforts made a big difference to achievement of the Gold Award and we know we will always have your support. Welcome to Adriana who will be our new member, and will encourage us on the journey towards a paperless office!

And thanks to Debbie for volunteering to lead us on our quest in 2014!

SO…welcome back Debbie it seems as if you have never been away!

and thanks to Maddy your Git work and continued offer of support is much appreciated

Project Focus for 2014

The HR Green Impact team have agreed with Central Green Impact that this year, instead of completing the bronze, silver and gold workbooks, a project will be undertaken instead. The team is keen to pick up the Registry Courtyard project again as a focus that could also involve other interested staff within the Registry and, as part of the project, would also prepare a report on how HR is maintaining Gold through the involvement of those beyond the core team, particularly highlighting initiatives such as the bin project, composting, communications, and supporting charities, as well as other green activities.

Keith Mander, Denise Everitt, Jon Pink and Estates have all agreed with the plan to focus on the Registry Courtyard. The question of budget is yet to be resolved but is being pursued on our behalf by Central Green Impact and this will, of course, affect the scope of the overall project but the team is excited by the opportunity to continue to make a difference that will benefit us all.

Cindy

The timing for the project will be:

The week beginning the 10th of February: Submission of Project Plan

The week beginning the 9th of June: Submission of a Case Study report

The week beginning the 15th of September: Submission of a Final Report

www.kent.ac.uk/human-resources/green-impact/

Fundraising Coffee Morning …

The Macmillan Cancer Support

Coffee Morning raised £200

Thank you for your support

…and thanks Lou for organising the event!

…and the HR Bake-Off raised £178

for Battersea Dogs & Cats Home

Thanks to June for organising this!

The Battersea Dogs and Cats Home sponsor a kennel/sponsor a kabin scheme would make a truly awesome birthday present for anyone who loves animals. A one off £5 donation, you can sponsor a kennel or kabin for a whole month. For £20, you can sponsor a kennel or kabin for those animals who really need it all through the winter, giving them the shelter and love they need and deserve until they are found the best home possible for them. On average, dogs stay for 35 days before they find a new home, and cats stay for 27 days.
Composting Update

Caroline has been regularly taking away our office compost collections since 2011. Here is her commentary on the benefits of compost recycling ...

Nature’s way of recycling

by Caroline Montgomery

Every week I take home the green recycle bin from the Registry kitchen. It contains all our used tea bags, banana skins and apple cores. I tip it into one of my four 300 litre compost bins and make compost.

Composting is nature’s way of recycling. It is a biological process of breaking up organic waste such as food waste, leaves, grass trimmings, shredded paper etc. into an extremely useful humus-like material. Waste is converted into compost in two ways, firstly by microscopic bacteria present in soil, which I add to the compost bin and then by non-burrowing earthworms who eat their way through the organic matter from the bottom of the bin to the top, producing compost as they go. I know when the composting process is complete because I can see all the worms on the top.

I use a mix of Carbon rich material such as shredded twigs, hedge clippings and straw (known as ‘brown’ stuff) and Nitrogen rich material such as fruit & vegetable scraps and grass clippings (‘green’ stuff). There needs to be a good balance of these two materials to form good quality compost. Too much of either one will result in poor compost.

The finished compost is dry, crumbly and does not smell. The compost contain many nutrients which are beneficial for plants meaning I can be 100% organic, it improves the structure of soil so I don’t need to use peat (peat extraction is very bad for the environment) and it helps the soil to retain water, so I don’t need to use the hosepipe in the summer. I make as much compost as I can and I dig it into the soil in the Spring and in Autumn.

Thanks to the compost, I have been able to turn a dry and barren border into a lush green area in just 1 year.

Caroline