

27th March 2007

PUTTING YOUR BUSINESS ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL FAST TRACK

ISO 14001: it's not the catchiest of titles. But this small collection of letters and numbers could be more important to your company's future than you can imagine, in terms of business success and sustainable management. Normally it takes two years to achieve but Fast-Track-14, from the South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE), is a fast-track programme set to help construction companies and their supply chains reach ISO 14001 standards in six months. SECBE is expecting big demand from construction companies for the programme.

ISO 14001 offers clear commercial benefits. First, it helps improve use of energy, and resources generally, thus reducing costs. Next, it can help make sure your company complies with what is likely to become a surge of new environmental legislation, lessening risk of penalties and litigation. Lastly, it can transform the culture of your company - by opening up new business opportunities with an increasing number of environmentally conscious clients.

FT-14 extends environmental management to supply chains rather than single companies as these are integral to business success. And by focusing on supply chain leaders, and showing them the benefits inherent in both adopting an Environmental Management System (EMS) and rolling it out through the supply chain, results can be achieved much more quickly.

/more

2/”Putting your Business on the Environmental Fast Track”

SECBE’s FT-14 Project Manager, Laura Bramley, speaking at an event hosted by Willmott Dixon, builders of Marks and Spencer’s first ‘green’ store says: “Once I’d explained why there are substantial business benefits for both clients and supply chains, everyone seemed really enthusiastic about the idea of setting up an EMS – with Willmott Dixon keen to push ahead quickly.”

David Patterson, WD’s Supply Chain Manager, agreed: We’re committed to a holistic approach to supply chain management. If companies want to get into our top, partner tier, an environmental management system is now mandatory. They don’t have to use FT-14, but we like it because it’s a good collaborative route for subcontractors. When everyone’s spurring each other on, it’s a really good motivator.”

“We’re delighted that SECBE are rolling this out in the South East, and that they continue to make companies aware of what’s in it for them,” says Gary Holland, Technical Director at ISYS, whose company developed FT-14. “With the peer support you get from FT-14’s group approach and a proven online ISO 14001 toolkit, companies are getting there faster, more efficiently and realising the benefits sooner.”

For details of FT-14, visit www.secbe.org.uk/planet or call Laura Bramley on 0118 9207 203. ENDS

For further information, please contact Ruth de Mierre on 01444 453399 (mobile: 07870 267344)

SECBE - South East Centre for the Built Environment

The South East Centre for the Built Environment (SECBE) is a consortium of business leaders that exists to inform policy and drive business-to-business learning and networking. They take regional strategies and industry issues and develop action plans to improve business performance throughout the sector. SECBE is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee - owned and driven by its business members. SECBE aims to help businesses operating across the South East – Oxon, Bucks, Berks, Hants, Surrey, Sussex and Kent to create a sustainable built environment through better business.