

PRESS RELEASE

Event Helps with Cutting Energy Costs in Leicester Businesses

An event in Leicester city centre has helped local businesses with reducing their energy costs and carbon emissions.

The Leicester Energy Agency (Leicester City Council) helped to arrange the event, which was hosted by the Future Factory project from Nottingham Trent University on Wednesday 8th June 2011, at the Leicester Creative Business Depot in Leicester.

The event was supported by the European Regional Development Fund and has been free for businesses to attend.

With energy costs continuing to rise the event has given valuable help to local small/medium businesses. The event has:

- given help with managing utility costs,
- given information on monitoring technology (automatic intelligent metering) to help with managing energy/water costs,
- given details of available grants and funding support to reduce energy consumption and reduce carbon emissions.

Speakers were from leading chartered energy managers EnvirUP, Nottingham Trent University and the Leicester Energy Agency. Attendees were able to discuss energy issues with the speakers and were helped to become more confident in managing their utility costs.

If you would like more information please contact us on tel. 0116 299 5153 or email webbp900@leicester.gov.uk .

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Cut Your Business Energy Costs
Pay less for energy, recover overcharges & find energy saving grants

We all take electricity and gas for granted, but suppliers provide little guidance on what you actually get for your money. Where do you go for helpful guidance?

This unique seminar is designed to give organisations:-

- The confidence to manage their utility costs.
- Learn about new technology to help manage energy/water costs.
- Introduce grants and financial support to reduce energy use.

This interactive seminar is presented by Future Factory with speakers from EnvirUP, leading chartered energy managers, and the Leicester Energy Agency from Leicester City Council).

Event details:
Wed 8th June, LCB Depot, 31 Rutland Street, Leicester, LE1 1RE.

Seminar content:-

- Price Trends for Electricity & Gas for 2011
- Utilities Contract Structures and invoices explained
- Buying Energy / Gas Contracts
- Utilities Overcharges
- Consumption management
- Managing energy using intelligent metering
- Climate Change - What's Your Plan
- Low Carbon Grants and Financial support
- Networking lunch

This event has been especially devised for owners/managers of Small and Medium organisations in Leicester that spend around £10,000 on energy per year.

You are encouraged to bring your latest Gas, Electricity and Water bills with you as a reference for the seminar.
To book your place call Angela on 0115 948 8678 or email: futurefactory@ntu.ac.uk or call Peter on 0116 299 5153 or email: webbp900@leicester.gov.uk

Future Factory is an ERDF funded programme, which aims to support small and medium sized companies improve their sustainability record. Find more information at: www.ntu.ac.uk/futurefactory







Notes to Editors

About the Leicester Energy Agency

The Leicester Energy Agency aims to help make Leicester a leading authority in the energy sector. Our role is to help individuals, businesses and organisations realise the potential effects of climate change and rising energy prices on their work and help them reduce their energy consumption.

The Leicester Energy Agency can provide a range of support for businesses in the Leicester area with managing energy costs, including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and automatic energy monitoring (intelligent metering).

The LEA is part of Leicester City Council and works with many different partner agencies to implement energy saving activities with the UK and beyond.

More information about the Leicester Energy Agency is available at www.energyagency.co.uk or by phoning 0116 299 5122.

About ERDF nationally

The ERDF Programme aims to strengthen economic and social cohesion in the European Union by supporting regional economic development.

The ERDF objectives for England are:

- Promoting innovation and knowledge transfer
- Stimulating enterprise and supporting successful business
- Ensuring sustainable development, production and consumption
- Building sustainable communities
- Improving accessibility and connectivity (for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly only – as part of their Convergence Programme).

A Programme Monitoring Committee consisting of regional stakeholders such as Government Offices, RDAs, Regional Assemblies, Local Authorities, Sub-regional Partnerships, Higher Education Institutions, Trade Unions, and the private and voluntary sectors will monitor and oversee programme implementation in each region.

About ERDF in the East Midlands

The East Midlands is eligible for €268.5m (approximately £210m at current exchange rates) between 2007 and 2013, which when combined with match funding, provides a programme value of approximately £420m – a significant investment in the economic development of the region.

The East Midlands qualifies as a competitiveness and employment region under the EU's Cohesion Policy, which aims to meet the EU Lisbon objective to become 'the most competitive and dynamic knowledge based economy in the world, capable of sustainable economic growth with more and better jobs and greater social inclusion.'

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is responsible for the programme management and delivery of the region's 2007-13 ERDF Competitiveness Programme. The responsibility for ERDF programme management was transferred from the Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) to *emda* following a decision by the UK

Government to seek greater alignment between ERDF and regional strategies and funding streams. The 2007-13 ERDF Programme is therefore set firmly within the framework of the Regional Economic Strategy.

A Programme Monitoring Committee, chaired by the Regional Director of Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM), has guided the strategic direction of the programme and works closely with *emda*.

To find out more about ERDF, the region's strategy for delivering the funds, how to apply for funding and how the programme is managed, please visit www.eastmidlandserdf.org.uk

About *emda*

East Midlands Development Agency (*emda*) is one of nine Regional Development Agencies in England, set up in 1999 to bring a regional focus to economic development.

Working in partnership with public, private and voluntary organisations, the aim has been to deliver the 2006 Regional Economic Strategy (RES) A Flourishing Region, which sets out regional priorities until 2020.

The RES, co-ordinated by *emda*, highlights the themes of productivity, sustainability and equality and builds on the previous two strategies; Prosperity Through People and Destination 2010.

In early 2007 the National Audit Office announced that *emda* had received the highest possible grade of 'performing strongly' in an independent assessment of our work – scoring 22 out of 24.

For more details visit www.emda.org.uk