



## Improving business resource efficiency



**Rising resource costs and a better understanding of climate change mean that more companies than ever are examining ways to introduce resource efficiency measures as a way of saving money as well as protecting the environment. Not an easy task for any business, but help is now on hand from the Resource Efficiency East (REE) programme.**

A new initiative managed by Renewables East, the regions renewable energy agency, REE aims to increase the productivity and competitiveness of small businesses in the East of England by delivering a measurable improvement in their resource efficiency.

The programme aims to foster long-term changes in how businesses address resource use and to actively help them reduce their use of materials, energy and water therefore, impacting positively on the financial health and sustainability of the individual business as well as the region's economy.

REE Director, Antony Gough, put this into context: "Research evidence has shown that larger companies have started to progress resource efficiency as they have the knowledge, time and resources to take advantage of the benefits available from adopting resource efficiency as a business priority. Smaller organisations, however, although aware of the potential benefits, often perceive the barriers as insurmountable. This is where REE comes in, providing that additional support and knowledge to the business."

Through the programme, regional businesses can access advice, guidance and support on how they can become more resource efficient by considering their use of energy, materials and water and introducing measures to reduce consumption and waste.


A two-day support package provides assistance to businesses from a resource efficiency specialist, starting with an onsite visit to the business to identify opportunities for resource reduction and make practical recommendations through a tailored action plan which also quantifies the potential financial and environmental benefits.

Subsequent telephone and email support helps to overcome any of the barriers the business may experience in implementing the recommendations and further access to a specially designed diagnostic tool provides direct business support.

Antony continued: “REE offers professional advice on a one-to-one basis and assists regional businesses to identify practical solutions which can help them reduce their use of water, energy and materials and in turn realise the financial benefits of doing so.

We are currently developing new services and programmes of work that will help businesses with additional issues such as the adoption of an environmental management system and supply chain management.”

The whole project will be delivered over a three-year period with and a £599,970 contribution from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) will further assist 315 businesses to identify opportunities to reduce resource use and implement a successful solution.

Priority Axis 3			
<b>Funding:</b>	Total Project Cost: £2.1m ERDF: £599,970		
<b>Solution for Business Product:</b>	Improving Your Resource Efficiency		
<b>Scope:</b>	East of England	<b>Project Duration:</b>	July 2008–March 2011
<b>More Information:</b>	The Resource Efficiency East Team: info@resourceefficiencyeast.org.uk or +44 (0) 1733 294524		
<b>ERDF Details:</b>	<p>The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is a seven-year investment programme part financed by the European Union. Its objective is ‘towards low carbon economic growth’ in the East of England and €110.9 million has been allocated to our region.</p> <p>The fund aims to help small and medium size enterprises respond to the challenges of climate change and the huge commercial potential behind a low carbon economy.</p> <p>For more information visit w:  <a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/regeneration/regenerationfunding/europeanregionaldevelopment/eastengland/">http://www.communities.gov.uk/regeneration/regenerationfunding/europeanregionaldevelopment/eastengland/</a> </p> 