

Green Accord – Case Study

Schooling Building Contractors



Schooling Building Contractor is a family run Construction Company, based in Teignmouth and now in it's 31st trading year. The introduction just over 18 months ago of their Environment System, ISO:14001, has seen the business save money in areas such as fuel, energy and largely Waste. Over two years the company has cut its waste to landfill not just saving valuable land space, but saving the Company on average £40 a tonne in landfill tax alone.

Crucial to the implementation of the Environment System has been manager Emma Favas and the team of 7 directly employed staff. Emma says "One key area we wanted to focus on was decreasing our waste to landfill. Through continuous recycling and sorting of waste, along with supplying local community groups with valuable free materials, we managed to reduce our landfill waste by 50% this year, and we are on target to decrease by another 30%."

When asked what the Green Accord means to Schooling, Emma said "The Green Accord is a valuable tool in assessing our Environmental Standards and it gave us the inspiration to achieve an EMS. Having achieved ISO:4001, we were determined to gain the highest level of Green Accord Accreditation, Premier status. We have been successful in doing that, although we discovered just because we have an ISO:4001 this didn't automatically give us all the credentials to achieve this level, the Green Accord is very much about practical actions."

Schooling are keen to start introducing Environmental Values within the business, which working mainly with the Public Sector, is very important. Already Schooling's environmental practices are over and above that of its competitors and they hope to receive recognition for this. Emma said that "We had the option of either starting a Quality System or Environment System at first. We choose Environment as we felt that some form of Quality System formulates amongst the creation of an EMS, which it has. We are now building our QMS which will eventually combine with the EMS."

Emma concluded that Schooling's biggest savings are in Construction Waste. In our first year of running an EMS we joined WRAP's 'Halving Waste to Landfill Campaign', and did just that, reducing general landfill waste from 90 tonnes to 45 tonnes. We continue to monitor and decrease our Waste from site, and recycle and reclaim more than ever. We have also made savings on fuel costs, through planning and vehicle sharing. Our team has supported the EMS from the start, and continue to do so by sorting waste, conserving energy and water and sharing transport.

What's more Schooling introduced specific initiatives such as selling on eBay. Emma said "you would be surprised what people will buy!" In addition, vehicle checks are carried out more frequently with more onus on the drivers to check tyre pressures etc. All areas such as Waste, Energy, fuel are monitored and recorded every month, we can then alert team to make more of an effort if any area starts to increase. So many changes have taken place to improve the Companies Environmental Values, but overall we have decreased areas such as energy and fuel use, waste to landfill and a lot of this couldn't have been done without the continuing support of our team."

Schooling Building Contractors won the Constructing Excellence and the Chartered Institute of Building Award 2011 for Small to Medium Enterprise (SME) in the South West Built Environment. Their winning factor is the commitment they showed to the judges in the running of their Environment system for such a small company.



To find out more about Schooling, the company has a dedicated Environment page on its website, www.schooling-build.co.uk this alone attracts on average 5000 hits per month.