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www.ashfordbestplaced.co.uk

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Recycling not a waste of time say businesses

Local businesses are finding the benefits of going green thanks to a handy toolkit, which provides practical help and advice on recycling.

The free 'Business Recycling Toolkit' provides businesses with step by step resources to help them identify their different waste streams, find alternative routes to landfill for their waste and potentially reduce costs.

By highlighting current waste and recycling practices through using the toolkit, businesses are able to identify areas and waste streams that can be reduced or disposed of differently and by using local recycling companies the businesses may also be able to reduce costs.

Companies using the toolkit have been impressed with the results. Shaun Windle from Scotland and Bates said: "The new toolkit has given me some really good ideas on ways to make my company 'greener'.

"As a result of using the action plan I have started recycling both our office waste as well as waste arising from our operations as a Coach Company. I have become an 'environmental champion' for my company."

The toolkit contains a Business Recycling Directory, a '5 Practical Steps for Reducing Waste' guide, a Business Waste Action Planner, a Waste Audit checklist and a list of useful contacts and websites.

"This initiative is part of a project to raise awareness in waste and recycling to businesses in Ashford, explains Andrew Kent, Project Manager for Remade South East.

"The aim is to help businesses to view their waste as a resource by providing details of simple practical changes they can make in their daily business lives to improve environmental performance, gain green credentials and reduce waste disposal costs."

-ENDS-

Notes to Editors:

About the 'toolkit'

Companies seeking to use the 'Business Recycling Toolkit' can find it on www.remade-southeast.co.uk/Ashford

Alternatively printed copies can be obtained by contacting Remade South East on 01732 876617 or by emailing l.hill@remade-southeast.co.uk



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The 'Business Recycling Toolkit' can be obtained from the website (link below) which also provides waste advice through downloadable leaflets and case studies aimed at the construction industry.

<http://www.remade-southeast.co.uk/rse/docs/Projects/ashford/index.cfm>

Businesses in the UK currently produce 68 million tonnes of waste each year with around 50% being sent to landfill.

A recent report from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural affairs (DEFRA) estimated that businesses could save £6.4 billion a year through low cost or no cost resource efficiency measures.

Using the toolkit will allow Ashford businesses to take the first steps to achieving these savings.

About Remade South East

Remade South East is a not-for-profit company which aims to expand upon the successful waste market development activities carried out across the whole of the South East of England.

The Programme creates and sustains new markets for waste resources in order to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and to minimise CO₂ emissions through the re-use and recycling of materials. Remade South East is delivering a number of waste awareness initiatives on behalf of Ashford's Future.

About Ashford's Future

Ashford has been identified by the Government as one of the key growth areas in the South East and is now the fastest growing town between London and the Continent. It is set to double in size by 2031, creating 28,000 extra jobs and 31,000 new homes.

Ashford's Future is a delivery company supporting the partnership of government and private sector bodies working to deliver the regeneration and growth of Ashford.

Ashford's Future partners comprise Ashford Borough Council, Kent County Council, SEEDA (South East England Development Agency), Homes and Communities Agency, Environment Agency, Learning and Skills Council, and the Highways Agency.

Ashford's Future is a company influenced by Ashford Borough Council and Kent County Council. Unless otherwise stated, the views in this communication are those of the Ashford Future Company Limited.

Key aspects of Ashford's £2.5 billion investment programme include:

- 2 million sq ft of planned commercial development.
- Improvements to the international station to complement the new 37 minute high-speed rail services to London (previews launched July 09, full service Dec 09), and existing Eurostar services to Lille (57mins), Brussels (90mins) and Paris (120mins).
- A £65m extension of existing County Square Shopping Centre opened April 2008.



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- Development of large-scale residential neighbourhoods at Chilmington, Cheeseman's Green and Waterbook.
- Major new town centre developments, including a new commercial quarter and the 6.65acre mixed use Elwick Place site.
- £24m investment to improve water supplies.
- Transformation of the Ashford ring road (completed Nov 2008) and creation of UK's first Shared Space.
- Future widening improvements to M20 / J10, a new J10a and three Park and Ride sites.
- £31m Government funding for improvements to M20 / J9 and Drovers roundabout, including a new foot/cycle bridge, and creation of Victoria Way link road and urban avenue in south Ashford.
- Some of the best leisure and sports facilities in the South East, including a multi-million-pound redeveloped leisure centre and international standard athletics stadium.

For further information on Ashford's Future contact:

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