

# Council launches service to help firms cut costs by going green

Edinburgh businesses are being offered free expert help to save money by going greener.

The Business Environment Partnership (BEP), which provides assistance to small and medium-sized companies throughout Scotland, will staff a support desk and run a series of workshops to help improve organisations' environmental management.

The initiative is part of the City of Edinburgh Council's 'Economic Resilience Action Plan' aimed at helping businesses tackle the recession. The plan includes targeted business support as well as measures to help safeguard jobs and stimulate new inward investment in key sectors.

Led by the City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh organisations are working together within the Economic Action Resilience Network (EARN) to support businesses and individuals through the downturn (See [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/buildingoureconomy](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/buildingoureconomy)).

Councillor Tom Buchanan, Convenor of the Economic Development Committee, commented: "The EARN campaign is helping residents and businesses weather the downturn through practical advice and support as well as promoting the city to potential investors and visitors."

Part of this Resilience initiative is the agreement with the Business Environment Partnership for delivery of environmental services.

"This agreement provides a complete one-stop 'green' shop for free advice and assistance to all businesses in Edinburgh on a wide range of environmental issues," said Aimee Weatherburn of the BEP. "Our partnership with the Council will help businesses achieve bottom line savings by making simple, low cost environmental improvements within their workplaces."

Services will range from 'phone support to one-to-one-meetings and full on-site reviews of environmental practices.

Alexandra Hammond, Responsible Business Manager of Radisson Blu Hotels, said: "The Business Environment Partnership has brought tremendous value

to the Radisson Blu hotels in Scotland and offers services that support our staff to continually improve our environmental and social responsibility programme

“Our partnership with the BEP has helped us earn the highest levels of environmental accreditation with the Green Tourism Business Scheme, and provides an excellent forum for new ideas and best practice sharing.”

Workshops will be held on 24 September and 26 November, and 26 January 2010.

More information is available from Amy Burnett of the BEP on (0131) 561 6262 or email [amy@thebep.org.uk](mailto:amy@thebep.org.uk).

**ENDS**

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