

Enterprise Trust wins credit for quality performance

Independent auditors have given the green light for Midlothian Enterprise Trust Partnership's environmental and quality management systems.

In a development hailed as 'a major milestone' for the Dalkeith-based organisation, it has been re-certified for meeting the stringent international standards ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems – EMS) and ISO9001:2008 (Quality Management Systems – QMS).

METP includes Midlothian Enterprise Trust, the Business Environment Partnership which provides free and subsidised environmental assistance for small and medium-sized businesses throughout Scotland, and Essential HR which provides a range of personnel and graduate recruitment services.

Re-certification audits are conducted every three years with annual surveillance audits in between. The Midlothian Enterprise Trust Partnership has held certificates for its QMS since 1993 and EMS since 2001.

The organisation's environmental initiatives have included installing a system which has allowed around half a tonne of food waste to be composted rather than sent for landfill.

Successful recycling initiatives have also been established for plastics, paper, cardboard, cans and ink cartridges. Initiatives to encourage staff to cycle to and from work and improvements to the office building and equipment have resulted in continual reductions in energy and CO₂ emissions. The quality system has recently introduced new purchasing controls and supplier assessment techniques.

"This was a major milestone for our management systems and a credit to all staff for implementing and maintaining them," said senior business advisor Donald Rose. "This re-certification provides independent confirmation not only of our continuing high standards but also our determination to continually improve quality and reduce our impacts on the environment."

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