

Friday 12th May 2006



GREEN BLUE TRAINING EVENT

The first Green Blue environmental training event was held recently at Chichester Yacht Club. Over 35 delegates from local marinas, marine businesses and sailing clubs attended the event. John Davis, Chichester Harbour Master, introduced speakers from the Environment Agency, the BMF and the Harbour Conservancy. Case studies were presented by UKSA who have successfully minimised their waste, reduced energy consumption and saved money too. MDL, who sponsor the Green Blue along with the Crown Estate, discussed environmental issues within a large marina business.

To help companies develop an environmental strategy Chichester Harbour Conservancy and The Green Blue offered eight free environmental audits to local marine business. The audits will be carried out by the Environment Centre covering waste storage and disposal, recycling, energy and water consumption and legislative compliance. Reports with recommendations on how to reduce environmental impact of participating business with a follow up survey six months later conclude the audits. Sources of free advice and grants available for environmental improvements were flagged up by AONB Officer Alison Fowler, including support from Conservancy through its Sustainable Development Fund.

John Davis, Chichester Harbour Conservancy Manager and Harbour Master commented:

'We were delighted with local support for this flagship event. The Green Blue offers a wealth of information on environmental initiatives, cost saving ideas and regional funding. Future generations depend on our environmental awareness to protect their marine heritage'.

The Environment Agency, Chichester Harbour Conservancy, Visit Chichester and the Chichester Bedroom Company sponsored the event. Several more training seminars are planned around the UK throughout the year. For more information on these or the Green Blue contact Anna Wyse on tel 023 8060 4273 or email annawyse@thegreenblue.org.uk.

Ends

12th May 2006

Notes to editors

1. The British Marine Federation is the trade body for the UK marine industry and represents the industry both domestically and abroad. It has over 1,500 members, many of which are small businesses and works to promote boating and the boating industry to the public, government and other stakeholders.
2. The RYA is the national body for all forms of recreational and competitive boating, with 100,000 members and 1,500 affiliated sports clubs. It represents dinghy and yacht racing, motor and sail cruising, RIBs and sportsboats, powerboat racing, windsurfing, inland cruising and personal watercraft.

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3. The Green Blue is a recipient of an award from Defra's Environmental Action Fund. The EAF helps non-profit groups further the Government's sustainable development objectives within England. Grants are awarded to projects that contribute to the sustainable consumption agenda identified in the Government's Sustainable Consumption and Production (SCP) Framework, and that are focused on changing people's behaviours: finding ways of making sustainable living attractive to consumers, and sustainable processes attractive to producers. The EAF grant can only be released when match funding from the private sector is secured. For more information on the EAF, contact Susanne Baker on 020 7238 5391.
4. The Crown Estate's Marine Stewardship Fund was established in 1999 to provide grant-aid to practical projects and programmes which contribute to the development of best practice, and make a significant contribution to the environmental management and stewardship of the marine estate. The Crown Estate is supporting the Green Blue by providing both core funding and funding for the Home Countries. For information on The Crown Estate, contact Giles French on 020 7210 4823.
5. The Green Blue is also delighted to be supported by Marina Developments Ltd (MDL).