

Welcome to the ELS environmental newsletter Christmas edition!



The ELS environment group held their second meeting on the 5th November.

We are really pleased with the progress that we have all made and thank all the ELS team for their help and support. There is still more to do but here are some of the successes so far. If anyone has any ideas for reducing our carbon footprint or further suggestions please do let us know.



We are linking with Harwell Campus to learn from others and be a 'green friend' to all our neighbours and associates.



Our ISO14001 accreditation meeting has been postponed by a couple of weeks but we are looking forward to sharing our progress with the inspectors and benefit from their expertise on how we can:

- demonstrate our green credentials,
- reduce costs, overheads and wastage,
- further our reputation,
- understand the legislation and what's needed for compliance,
- win more business.

We now have recycling boxes for almost everything, including the extensive range of materials that Oxfordshire County Council recycles, like pens, crisp packets and batteries.

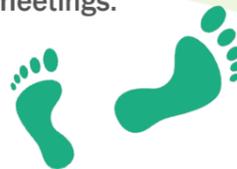


We are changing the products we use in ELS (excluding those included in our cleaning contract) to refills so please keep all empty washing up bottles and soap dispensers and we will get them 'topped up' when The Hive pop-up is next 'in town'.



ELS has launched a new website, and are proud to use a new host, Kulao, which uses 100% renewable energy. Their global operations are powered entirely by renewable energy and their UK data centre use 100% green sourced power as specified by E.ON and regulated by Ofgem.

We now use caterers that have reusable packaging for all our food requirements including courses and meetings.



Work is continuing on reducing our paper use in our learners packs especially as a few InVals have suggested we are using too much paper. Where possible we have introduced workbooks rather than including a copy of all the slides and we are investigating how we could use tablets alongside our fabulous new Prowise screen in the training room.

ELS hosts a monthly pop-up event presented by The Hive, a local clean living company.



These successful events celebrate eco living with home cleaning refills and an eco shop with goodies such as soaps, bamboo and coconut products for washing and cleaning, plus an array of hair care products.

Bring your empty plastic bottles from home to be refilled with the scrumptious products on offer. For more information go to www.thehiveonlinestore.com

Environmentally friendly festive fun!

Sadly, a lot of standard decorations, including tinsel and glitter, are made from plastic, often PVC. They're hardly environmentally friendly. If you're using fairy lights, make sure you get LED ones as they're the most energy efficient. So why not recycle or make your own Christmas decorations? Foraging for pine cones and holly is the perfect excuse to enjoy the great outdoors and keep kids busy!

Decorations can be green too!

Be the envy of the office

Be the envy of the office (or gym) with this beautiful ocean-themed steel bottle by Ion8. Healthy oceans are crucial for a healthy thriving planet so Ion8 are donating 25% profits of sales from this reusable bottle to support Friends of the Earth's campaign to end plastic pollution.



www.friendsoftheearth.uk



Most of us love a bit of fancy wrapping, and who doesn't like getting Christmas cards? But research suggests that the paper waste over the Christmas period is equivalent to nearly 12 million litres of biofuel... enough to power a bus to go to the moon 20 times! Lots of wrapping paper contains plastic. Opt for the understated elegance of brown parcel paper tied up with string, adding natural decorations like spruce or holly.

The next environment meeting will focus on establishing some KPIs for our environmental work.

ELS would like to wish you all a very happy and green Christmas!



Buying your Christmas tree

A real Christmas tree seems a more natural choice, but up to eight million of them are bought every December in the UK alone. That's a lot of intensive production, and potentially a lot of waste.



If you do opt for a real tree and want to be assured your tree has been grown sustainably, look for the FSC certification logo. If you want a tree that's certified as organic and pesticide-free, get one that is approved by the Soil Association. Make sure you find out where your local tree recycling scheme is so the tree can be recycled into mulch or compost.

If you already have a fake tree, keep using it and make it last as long as possible!

Look into more environmentally sound options when it eventually comes to replacing it.

Go to news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/recycling-after-christmas-tree-recycling-locations-across-oxfordshire/