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Type	Business
Sector	Financial & Professional
Business size	50-250
Area of expertise	Renewables
Website	www.mlm.uk.com
Contact	Contact this case study

Short description

MLM is a UK-based consultancy providing advice on all elements of planning, development and design, including: structural, civil and mechanical engineering; environmental, sustainability and health and safety consultancy; and building control approved inspection. We have over 40 years experience in supporting major developments, from schools and hospitals to bridges and chemical works.

Environmental highlights

One of the key areas of influence is with our clients; examples include the Wine Society warehouse, Hertfordshire (innovative wall construction using Hemcrete), the G.E. Sworders building, Stansted (largest straw bale building in Europe), and Chelmer Valley Park & Ride (use of renewables including wind, solar and air-source heat pumps)

Green credentials

Working towards ISO14001, Suffolk Carbon Charter Bronze Award, a number of Chartered Environmentalists in-house

A summary of environmental achievements

Driving sustainability forward is the use of in-house "environmental champions" - an individual from each of the offices that takes responsibility for reducing waste, reducing energy use and motivating the staff. This has been combined with selecting and pursuing a method of carbon accounting (in our case the 10:10 initiative) to, in the first instance, measure and then reduce our carbon use. We are also in the fortunate position of being driven to identify new technologies to reduce carbon use by our clients, and often have the opportunity to trial these in our own buildings (for example the use of PIR sensors on kitchen and bathroom lighting in the Ipswich office).

Personal testimony

In a consultancy business, where the client is always the priority, getting commitment to improving sustainability is always challenging. I am fortunate that MLM has the board level commitment to sustainability and push me to identify new and innovative ways to improve our performance. It is early days for us, but the recognition of the Suffolk Carbon

Charter will, I am sure, help motivate us to keep working to improve our sustainability. The key challenge is to make sure that consideration of the environment is part of every decision that we make as a business.

Key lessons

For me, it has been essential to use external standards (such as the 10:10 initiative and the Suffolk Carbon Charter) to assess and benchmark our performance against others. Without this it would have been difficult to know where to start and to motivate the wider staff.

Where did I get my advice

Groundwork East of England have provided valuable support