

# Edinburgh | green business

As consumers begin to seek out greener and more ethical goods, now is the time for businesses to realise how crucial their role in the environmental, social and economic success of this country is not just for today, but of future generations worldwide too.



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## The Business Environment Partnership

In today's highly competitive business market, companies are beginning to realise that they can gain real competitive advantages through sustainable development. Not only can they meet high consumer expectations, but they can also begin to compete in supply chains that demand high environmental standards.

### *But what is sustainable development?*

Businesses interact with people and the environment in many different ways. Businesses rely on the environment for natural resources, raw materials and energy – but in return create waste, generate pollution and use up non-renewable resources. Businesses contribute to the prosperity of the economy, but in return generate traffic, noise and air pollution within their local communities. So, businesses, the environment and communities all closely interlink and make an impact on one another. Sustainability is about looking at these links and assessing where the negative impacts can be reduced, to leave a better world for future generations.

### *Where can businesses find help?*

With climate change and carbon footprints now high on the agenda and with pressures to comply with the latest legislation changes, companies can understandably find it

a struggle to keep up with the changes. Fortunately, the Business Environment Partnership is on hand to help with any environmental issues businesses have.

The Business Environment Partnership is a publicly funded source of advice in helping companies to improve their environmental performance. By taking advantage of free specialised environmental assistance, Scottish companies realise cost savings, reduce commercial risks and achieve a competitive advantage. See how the Edinburgh International Conference Centre used The BEP to improve their environmental policies (page 39).

The Business Environment Partnership offer a number of services, many of which are free:

- Free waste, energy and water audits.
- An Environmental Placement Programme.
- ISO 14001 Programme.
- Assistance in attaining the Green Tourism Business Scheme accreditation.
- A Business and Biodiversity initiative.
- Advice and support on environmental legislation.
- Information and advice regarding renewable technologies.

Business Environment Partnership on 0131 561 6262 or email [enquiries@thebep.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@thebep.org.uk).