

## National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP)

The National Industrial Symbiosis Programme (NISP) is a business opportunity programme that identifies and develops mutually profitable links between companies across all industrial sectors so that resources such as energy, water and materials from one company can be recovered or reprocessed and re-used by others.



NISP is a nationally-coordinated programme with a network of 12 regional offices. The South East office, incorporating Kent, has a team of six specially trained industrial symbiosis practitioners who provide free help, advice and support to companies of all sizes and from every sector.

NISP is funded by the Government through its Business Resource Efficiency and Waste Programme and therefore doesn't charge companies to participate. Between April 2005 and December 2007 NISP members generated just over £120 million in new sales and made savings in excess of £97 million as a direct result of their involvement in NISP. At the same time, the synergies generated between NISP's member companies have reduced the UK's carbon emissions by 2.8 million tonnes and diverted more than 2.8 million tonnes of business waste from landfill.

In the south east, member companies come from a range of sectors including food and drink, construction, marine, steel, and cosmetics. NISP South East members include Aylesford Newsprint, Compact & Bale Ltd,

Countryside Properties, Countrystyle Recycling, Hillreed Homes, Lafarge Cement UK, Land Securities, Magnox Electric Ltd, M-real New Thames Ltd, Solvent Resource Management Ltd and Thamesteel Ltd.

"It's all about bringing companies together, both big and small," explains Robert Spencer, Regional-Coordinator for NISP South East.

"In some cases it's clear where the saving can be made, or where the opportunity is, in others it's less obvious.

"This is where our expertise really benefits the companies we work with. NISP doesn't merely provide advice; it offers ongoing practical support that enables companies to turn opportunities into cash. As well as identifying ways to reuse previously discarded materials, we assist companies in securing grants to improve infrastructure and expand operations or help them obtain funding to carry out research and development."

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