

## Straight Talking

By **PHIL GREEN** CBS



### **Waste Not, Want Not**

In business, we are constantly being urged to address the issue of climate change by becoming more energy efficient and minimising waste. Increasingly driven by legislation, compliance more importantly makes good business sense, with energy supply costs continuing to rise and more and more clients focusing on the green credentials of their suppliers.

Whilst recognising that taking individual action is important however, how far can you actually go as a business in responding to the challenge?

For all the 'greentalk', it is important for businesses to be realistic and to decide what is feasible. The emphasis needs to be first and foremost on what is economically possible, both now and in the future, for the size of the company.

For any company, there are a few simple measures which can be implemented immediately. For example, switching off computers every evening and turning out lights when rooms are unoccupied. More sophisticated measures such as PIR lighting, advanced air conditioning systems with heat recovery

capabilities and energy monitoring solutions may only be practical for larger enterprises.

One area where all companies can make a real difference is by minimising waste through recycling. This extends beyond production and process waste to office equipment and furniture - which frequently ends up as landfill when companies relocate or reconfigure their business operations.

As part of our corporate and social responsibilities, CBS recognised an opportunity to assist charitable organisations in the resourcing of facilities and to recycle furniture surplus to requirements. With the help of Connect Reading, we have been able to establish partnerships with our clients to place surplus items such as office desking, seating and storage cabinets with charities in need of equipment, giving the furniture a new lease of life.

With financial support for charities under threat in the current climate, it is more important than ever for businesses to do what they can to help local causes. Donating unwanted office furniture is a relatively simple, low cost option and also helps to meet regional waste reduction targets. Engaging with the community in this way has positive business benefits, raising your profile and widening your network of business connections.

If you feel you can assist with this venture, please contact me at CBS on 01344 891010 or email [phil@cbs-plc.co.uk](mailto:phil@cbs-plc.co.uk). For more details of Connect Reading's activities, visit their web site at [www.connectreading.co.uk](http://www.connectreading.co.uk).

**CBS specialises in office interior design, spaceplanning, refurbishment, relocation and supply of office furniture and seating.**

