

Press Release

8 April 2010

Local accountancy firm gains silver award for eco 'future vision'

Local accountancy firm Armstrong Watson has been presented with a silver award for its Future Vision programme. This follows the bronze award gained by the firm in July 2008. The award is recognised by Cumbria Business Environment Network (CBEN), which is a programme operated by Cumbria Rural Enterprise Agency (CREA).

Future Vision was launched in 2008 by Armstrong Watson to implement awareness and commitment towards environmental improvement throughout its 14 offices, seven of which are located in Cumbria. The CBEN award celebrates the initial sustainable practices the company has developed for its offices in Cumbria.

To help endorse and create understanding for the programme, Armstrong Watson has appointed 'future champions' in each office who have implemented 'green' changes in their work environments.

Prior to being awarded the bronze award in 2008 the team had already helped to introduce a 100 per cent recycled copier paper into their offices and develop a bespoke letterhead which is 100 per cent recycled.

They also negotiated a set office temperature with all colleagues which is maintained at a standard temperature, as recommended by The Carbon Trust, helping to reduce the carbon footprint of the company. Power-save technologies were fitted to all 330 employees' PCs across the group to reduce electricity consumption.

Armstrong Watson continues to implement these procedures and give advice to its employees on different ways to save energy and contribute to environmental improvement.

Aidan Taylor, managing partner at Armstrong Watson said: "It's testament to Armstrong Watson's continued commitment to the Future Vision programme that we have been awarded a silver award with CREA to add to the bronze award we were awarded in 2008.

"This is another step we have taken towards achieving a wholly economical and responsible accountancy practice and we are working with CREA to achieve gold certification, and ultimately see our vision come to fruition.

"We want to spearhead the need for 'greener' working environments and practises in Cumbria and across all our offices in southern Scotland and Yorkshire, leading by example rather than following others."

Unlike many other environmental policies, Armstrong Watson has allocated specific time and resources to support the structures behind its green reforms. The firm has secured 100 per cent buy-in from employees across the group and continues to view the scheme as a long-term commitment that encourages employees' participation rather than police them to do so.

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