Green IT Specialist Group

10 4 10

A COMMITMENT FOR 2010?

With Copenhagen high on the media agenda, we have an opportunity to act as exemplars to others and, just maybe(?) an urge to do more ourselves to reduce our Carbon footprint...

Key messages -

- *Whether we agree as to the source of global warming or not, global warming is now a fact as is that more CO_2 will not reduce but will increase warming*

- *If the developing world were to adopt the current western lifestyle, we would need at least another 2 planets to provide the resources required, so we all need to consume less and re-use more*

- *Information and communication technologies are expensive in terms of the environmental impact of their manufacture and use, but provide invaluable tools for helping to track and reduce the environmental impacts of our lives. They offer alternative lower carbon ways in which to work and live – the challenge is to learn how to adapt to using these technologies and so pay back their environmental debt*

  What follows is a digest by the SG of some of the opportunities we have with our IT devices to cut down our footprints – and a challenge to take 10 for 2010!

  Remember through our numbers we can make every little action count!

- *More information on the Green IT Specialist Group can be found @ http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=conWebDoc.24450 and on our Green IT Foundation course @ http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=nav.11516*

- *A sister Specialist Group focuses on Data centres @ http://www.bcs.org/server.php?show=ConWebDoc.7710*

  & is developing an ISEB qualification on the EU Code of Conduct for Energy Efficient Data Centres

A Merry Christmas and Carbon-free New Year!
from
BCS Green IT SG Committee
December 2009

Switch IT off

- *A computer left on 24/7 will cost about £37 in year, whereas by switching it off at night and at weekends, the charge can be reduced to about £10 a year – saves 34,900 cups of coffee*

- *A PC monitor switched off overnight saves enough energy to microwave six dinners*

- *Over 80 per cent of us turn off our computers and over 90 per cent turn off the lights when not wanted at home compared with about 66 per cent in both cases at work.*

so ..

⟹ *Activate power management facilities*

⟹ *Unplug it and don't forget to switch off the peripherals printers, screens etc*

Maintain and use IT devices efficiently

Monitors/screens

⟹ *Switch off active screen savers as they keep processor powered up when you're not using it!*

⟹ *Turn down brightness and turn up contrast*

PCs/Laptops

⟹ *Look after your laptop battery*

- *Regularly drain completely*
- *Avoid Nickel/Cadmium batteries*

⟹ *Shut laptop lid when using an external monitor*

⟹ *Use Ctrl /Alt/Del to turn off processes you don't need eg disable USB and CD/DVD drivers*

⟹ *Turn off WIFI and Bluetooth drivers if your PC is wired to router and peripherals*

Think before you print

- *To produce 1 sheet of A4 requires 10 litres of water, so...*

⟹ *Use 100% recycled, unbleached paper*

⟹ *Adopt duplex / double sided printing*

⟹ *If not available on your printer or try as well*

- *2 up ie 2 pages side by side*
- *Draft quality/ less dense font to reduce toner*

Don't replace or throw it away.. sweat the asset!

- *Over its lifecycle manufacturing an IT device is generally more energy intensive than using it,*

so..

⇒ *Re-use, Re-cycle and Reclaim*

⇒ *Extend refresh cycles eg 3 to 5 years*

Share devices

⇒ *Why use a PC and a laptop?*

⇒ *Network and/or share printers and other peripherals*

⇒ *Avoid docking stations - use external drives and share them*

⇒ *Hot desk at work where appropriate*

⇒ *Share processors*

⇒ *Create specific areas for overtime workers, switch off everywhere else*

IT's valuable so use IT more

⇒ *Take paper and post out of your daily life*

⇒ *Try audio, web or video conferencing*

- *Avoids travel cost and time*
- *Increases opportunities as to where and when you meet*

Try working from home

- *BCS /CMA study established that generally more energy efficient to work at home if you live some distance from your office than commuting and working in an office*

You can't control what you can't measure

⇒ *Understand where you consume energy at work and at home*

⇒ *Encourage yourself track your energy bills' downward path!*

⇒ *Get visibility and take responsibility for energy bills at work*