

Green travel helps Chequers clean up at business awards



Chequers enlisted the help of Enterprise 'A New Way to Work', a free travel planning advice and support service to achieve:

- **reduced carbon emissions with an increase of 15% in the number of staff cycling or walking to work**
- **fleet fuel cost savings of £300 per month through eco-driving training and the use of hybrid vehicles**
- **reduced car parking pressure through a 29% reduction in the number of staff driving to work**
- **enhanced environmental credentials**

Chequers are a family run cleaning contract services business established in 1987. With both ISO 9001 and 14001 accreditation, Chequers has a strong commitment to responsible business practices and green initiatives.

When car parking demand started to exceed capacity on a daily basis at their Croydon site, Director Kate Ward saw an opportunity to promote more sustainable travel options via a workplace travel plan, available for free via Enterprise – A New Way to Work.

'Alongside reducing car parking pressures and promoting sustainable travel options to our staff, we wanted to introduce an effective business travel policy and review our fleet performance,' explains Kate.

An expert Enterprise travel planner worked with Chequers to gain an understanding of their business and employee travel requirements, in order to provide a tailor-made travel plan for the company.



Chequers receiving the Best Business for Sustainability award at the RBS South London Business Awards, May 2009.

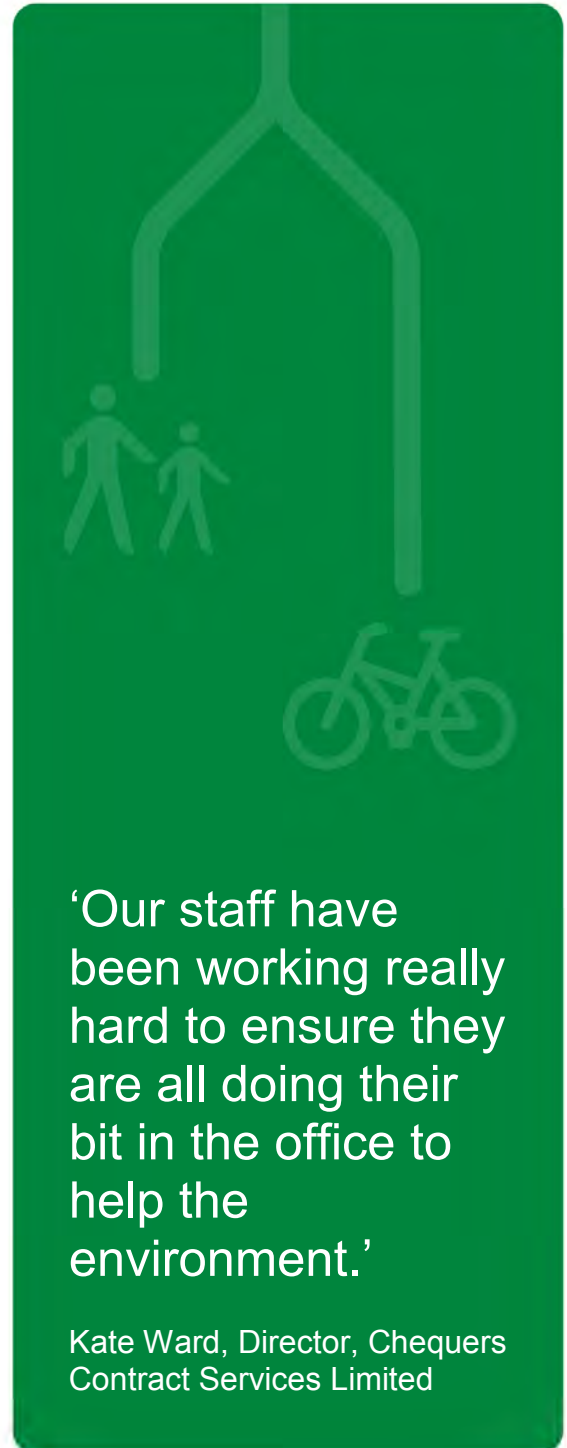
'Through Enterprise we've introduced integrated walking, cycling and public transport maps specifically for our site. We've also distributed promotional items to staff to help them change their commute like umbrellas, rucksacks and posters,' explains Kate. 'In addition, we've worked hard to ensure our fleet drivers are fuel efficient, and have introduced five new hybrid vehicles to our fleet saving us £300 per month in fleet fuel costs,' she adds.

These travel plan measures have resulted in increases in walking, cycling, bus and rail use and an impressive 29% reduction in car use. Thanks to match-funding by Enterprise, Chequers also now provides laptops to staff to enable them to work from home, further relieving car parking pressure.

Not only has Chequers reduced costs through improved environmental performance, but 'going green' has given Chequers a competitive edge, putting them in the running for more contract tenders, and being recognised as a 'green' business. Incorporating their travel plan with the rest of their environmental initiatives, Chequers was awarded Best Business for Sustainability crown in the RBS South London Business Awards 2009.

This award follows a great run of success for Chequers, who have also been recognised by Croydon Council as the Best in Borough for Corporate and Social Responsibility, and recently received their Gold Award from local environmental business support scheme, Envibe.

'We were delighted to have our commitment to sustainability recognised,' Kate says. 'All the staff have been working really hard to ensure they are doing their bit in the office to help the environment and the results have been fantastic,' she adds.



'Our staff have been working really hard to ensure they are all doing their bit in the office to help the environment.'

Kate Ward, Director, Chequers Contract Services Limited

Where can I find out more?



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